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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CEO and Employee Relations Council host Annual Employee Recognition Banquet virtually this year

EAGLE LAKE, Maine (Dec. 29, 2020) – Due to the ongoing pandemic, Northern Maine General CEO Michelle Raymond and the agency’s Employee Relations Council hosted its Annual Employee Recognition Banquet virtually this year. Employees were given a cash gift card earlier this month in lieu of the annual holiday meal, and were invited to view the pre-recorded event which was posted on the NMG website on Dec. 12 when the party would have otherwise taken place.

The event included pre-recorded welcoming statements by John Labrie, ERC President; opening remarks by Michelle Raymond, CEO; a holiday slideshow with images of employees and clients; 20 Door Prize drawings for \$50; a grand prize Door Prize drawing for \$250; a Healthy Rewards drawing for \$150; and closing remarks by Labrie.

Employees receiving service awards this year included the following:

- Sue Violette, 35 years
- Elizabeth Smart, 30 years
- Theresa Marquis, 25 years
- Lauri Raymond, 25 years
- Missy Boutot, 20 years
- Christine Leslie, 15 years
- Pamela Michaud, 10 years
- Betsy Nadeau, 5 years
- Carissa Michaud, 5 years

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- Melanie Sturtevant, 5 years
- Ashley Case, 5 years, and
- Glenn Smart, 5 years.

Raymond spoke about each employee; the following week, she presented them with their plaques.

“Each day, and especially today, I want each of you to recognize and take pride in the work that you do, no matter what that work is,” Raymond said in her opening remarks. “Each task, and every job and title, is as important as the other, and we are all contributing to our consumers’ quality of life ... It takes every one of us in every position to make that happen.”

Raymond also thanked the Northern Maine General Board of Trustees, who, together, have a total of 158 years of service and experience dedicated to NMG, its consumers and employees. They are President Norman Fournier, 38 years; John Martin, 55 years; Arnold Devoe, 34 years; Frances LaBrie, 16 years; and Joan Sylvain, 15 years. She also thanked the agency’s six-member Service Advisory Council.

All together, the ERC pulled names for \$1,250 in cash Door Prizes. The money comes from an account that many employees contribute to throughout the year, in order to be able to provide sentiments to one another, such as Sympathy Cards, donations during employee hardships, etc. Winner of the Grand Door Prize of \$250 was Michelle Alvarado. Each winning a \$50 door prize were John Michaud, Jonny Labbe, Danny Bouchard, Jacques Redmond, Lucy Dube, Patrick Michaud, Andrew Parks, Beatrice Nadeau, Marina Koloamatangi, Anthony Saucier, Alex Bouchard, Carissa Michaud, Donna Pelletier, Kayla Pinette, Randy Ouellette, Sabrina Cameron, Sierra Haggenmiller, Lisa Devoe, Samantha Pelletier, and Vicki Corriveau.

Winner of the annual Healthy Rewards drawing, open to those employees who completed at least two of the ERC health challenges in 2020, was Tessie Dubois. Thirty employees qualified this year for the drawing. Dubois will receive \$150 reimbursement toward any health-related purchase, such as massage or healthy foods.

Both Raymond and Labrie spoke of the impact of the pandemic on employees this past year.

“I am proud of how Northern Maine General’s team has rallied,” said Raymond. “When asked, you delivered; and in many cases made personal sacrifices to ensure we can carry out our mission during this pandemic.”

Labrie ended the “evening” by stating, in part, “We need to think positive and know we will get through this.”

#

Northern Maine General is a nonprofit social services organization serving Aroostook County, with business offices in Eagle Lake and Caribou. Founded in 1907, NMG provides long-term care, rehabilitation, home and community supports, behavioral health services, case management, and consultation services and resources. Contracted services include subsidized apartments.