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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Michaud named DSP Mentor of Year

**EAGLE LAKE, Maine (Sept. 11, 2023)** – John Michaud, a Direct Support Professional with Northern Maine General since 2008, has received NMG’s Mentor of the Year designation for his ability to mentor and inspire other front-line colleagues in the agency’s Home & Community Supports Division.

Program Manager Lauri Raymond made the announcement this morning, noting that Michaud will receive a monetary award for his selection among six DSPs nominated by their peers.

Also nominated were Karen Bouchard (last year’s Mentor of the Year), Chris Parent, Jeff Labbe, Ashley Case and Jason Gillis. (Case and Gillis were nominated from the Rehabilitative and Community Support Program, based out of Caribou, by their colleagues there who also specialize in the direct support of children).

From his peers, Michaud received these comments:

- “He taught me that certain things that are hard can still be done, even if we do not see the results right away;
- “Always volunteers to do extra tasks with a positive attitude and smile;
- “He offers positive feedback and suggests solutions to (improve) difficult situations;
- “Is dependable and double-checks peers’ work with friendly reminders, ensuring that the tasks are completed well; and
- “Treats people with respect, shows patience and recognizes co-worker’s individual routines.”

“It’s always nice to see employees nominating each other, and recognizing the strengths that each person brings to their team,” said CEO Michelle Raymond. “I’m proud of the DSP team, including the children’s team, and all our supervisors and affiliated staff for both programs, and I’m happy to see John recognized as this year’s Mentor, as he is deserving of that title.”

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*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, home and community supports, behavioral health services, case management, and consultation services and resources. Contracted services include subsidized apartments.*

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