

Mize Recognized with State-wide Award

Adam Mize recently received a Direct Support Professional Award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. A Horizon House Employee for nine years, Mize is a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in the day services program. He provides support to people in the areas of recreation, social and personal skills, vocational development and education. His supervisor, Tina Stiles, nominated him for a statewide Direct Support Professional Award because she felt he met the criteria of making significant and unique contributions in enriching the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

In addition to receiving this recognition, Mize received a \$100 check and a copy of the permanent entry of his name on the U.S. Congressional Record. When asked what he thought when he found out he received this recognition he said, “It was a surprise. It is really nice to be recognized. It makes me feel like I am making a difference.” About working at Horizon House, Mize said, “I have developed friendships and tight bonds with the people I work with. This isn’t just a job, it is a passion. My co-workers are great. They are very dedicated to the people we serve and it shows in the



Award winner Adam Mize and his supervisor, Tina Stiles

accomplishments we witness.” He continued, “The absolute best thing about my job is when you see someone overcome an obstacle. It is great!”

In her nomination letter Stiles wrote “Adam’s initiative and creativity makes the services provided in Day Services better. He consistently shows enthusiasm for the activities that are offered.” During the past year he has become involved in a project that focuses on teaching people to stand up for their rights. Stiles continued, “He has embraced this role. Adam has been involved in the production of two training videos on the topics of dignity and respect. The results are being seen on a regular basis at bi-weekly payday meetings.” At these meetings people are asked if they have any problems or concerns. According to Stiles she is seeing

a change. “We have seen people speaking up. When asked if there is anything they need or want, again there is feedback.”

Everyone seems to respond to his humor—staff and the people receiving services. Horizon House is lucky to have Adam as a member of the staff. “Adam is creative, dependable, outgoing and a true team player. We can count on him to get the job done,” Stiles said.

Horizon House is proud to have an employee of this caliber. “Our staff are our greatest asset. They work very hard to empower people with disabilities to have the lives they want.” Jim Monterastelli, CEO commented. “This is the third time we have had an employee receive statewide recognition,” he said. Both Mary Alimi and Mary Bowie have been recognized.”