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May Institute Named Nonprofit Excellence Award Finalist

Randolph, MA (April 30, 2018) The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) is pleased to announce that the May Institute has been selected as a finalist for the 2018 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Collaboration. The Excellence Awards will be presented at MNN's annual celebration of [Nonprofit Awareness Day: A Celebration of Nonprofit Excellence](#) presented by [Citizens Bank](#), a statewide holiday that highlights the work of the nonprofit sector and raises awareness of causes throughout Massachusetts presented by Citizens Bank, at the Massachusetts State House on Monday, June 4.

"The Nonprofit Excellence Awards honor the important work being done by nonprofits in every subsector and region of Massachusetts," said Jim Klocke, CEO of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. "We are excited to celebrate the effectiveness and diversity of these impressive finalists and the dedication and impact of the 33,000 nonprofits and more than half a million nonprofit employees in Massachusetts."

The Excellence Award in Collaboration recognizes an organization which has partnered with another entity to address a compelling problem that could not have been solved as effectively by any one organization on its own. Founded in 1955, May Institute's mission is to promote independence, choice, dignity, and respect for the individuals they serve across the lifespan with autism and other special needs. The May Institute's National Autism Center partnered with Boston-based Work, Inc. to launch the Meaningful Jobs Initiative (MJl). MJl aims to bridge the employment gap by connecting adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to jobs in the fast-growing security industry. During the first 10 months of operation, 20 individuals participated in training and six individuals were hired into jobs in the security industry.

"We would like to thank the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network," said Bob Putnam, Executive Vice President of PBIS at the May Institute, "The May Institute and Work, Inc. have partnered over the years

to combine our expertise provide employment opportunities for individuals with ASD. It is exciting that these efforts are being recognized.”

This year, MNN’s independent panel of nonprofit and business leaders reviewed over 150 Excellence Award nominations that highlighted the incredible work of nonprofits across the state. The finalists range from large education providers to small arts organizations. These 27 nonprofits and individuals are improving communities across the Commonwealth, representing every region of Massachusetts from the Berkshires to the Cape. One finalist from each category (Advocacy, Collaboration, Innovation, Leadership, Small Nonprofit, and Young Professionals) will be announced as a winner during the [Nonprofit Awareness Day: A Celebration of Nonprofit Excellence](#) event presented by [Citizens Bank](#) on Monday, June 4.

Nonprofits across the state will also be engaging in a social media campaign on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram leading up to June 4 using hashtag #MAkingadifference to highlight their unique contributions to their communities.

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About the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) is the voice of the nonprofit sector and the only statewide organization that brings together all parts of the nonprofit ecosystem—nonprofits, funders, community and business leaders, and elected officials—to strengthen nonprofits and raise the sector’s voice on critical issues. MNN understands that strong nonprofits build strong communities. It is MNN’s mission to strengthen the nonprofit community through advocacy, public awareness, and capacity building. MNN has more than 700 nonprofit members and over 125 for-profit affiliate members. For more information or to become a member, visit www.massnonprofitnet.org.