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HASC Center Hosts Employee Reception

HASC Center hosted an employee recognition reception in honor of Gavriel Sienov, the recipient of ANCOR's (the American Network of Community Options and Resources) New York State 2010 Direct Support Professional of the Year award. Gavriel Sienov works at HASC Center's Ditmas Avenue residence. This honor is a reflection of Gavriel's "commitment, dedication and total selflessness as well as the quality services provided by HASC Center," said Shmiel Kahn, executive director. Dr. Chaim Wakslak, clinical director, thanked all of HASC Center's dedicated support professionals on behalf of the entire agency.

At the reception, Surie England, director of day services, recognized all of HASC Center's nominees for this award representing many of the diverse programs offered by HASC Center for adults with disabilities. The nominees for this award were Sol Elfassy, Flatbush Day Program; Dovid Fohrman, Day Program Without Walls; Yoeli Friedman, Williamsburg Day Program; Rimmah Gorenbukh, Avenue H Residence; Yuti Kluger, 50th Street Residence; Sara

Nathan, East 35th Street Residence; Linda Spira, Young Women's Chayeinu Day Program and Dovid Bloom, Young Men's Yeshiva Day Program. Surie England spoke about each nominee's kindness, professionalism and total devotion to the individuals they serve.

Direct support professionals often referred to as caregivers, personal assistants, and direct care workers; provide daily support services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Thanks to these professionals, people with disabilities are able to live fulfilling and independent lives and be active participants in their communities.

"It is important to recognize the vital services provided by Mr. Sienov and direct support professionals throughout the country," said Peter Kowalski, president of ANCOR. "They make an incredibly important contribution to the social and economic fabric of our communities. Mr. Sienov represents the highest caliber of direct support professional."

"ANCOR evaluated 231 nominations of highly qualified DSPs in selecting the national and state winners," said ANCOR CEO Renee Pietrangelo. "Mr. Sienov's indefatigable commitment to improving people's access to and participation in the community-at-large is worthy of public recognition as well as our utmost regard and respect."

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Touro Graduation

Touro College recognized 682 candidates for graduation at its 36th annual commencement exercises, held on May 30 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall.

At the ceremonies, 578 baccalaureate and 104 associate degrees were awarded graduates from five of Touro's schools dedicated to preserving and enhancing Jewish heritage: Lander College of Arts and Sciences in Flatbush, Lander College for Men in Queens, Lander College for Women-The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School in Manhattan, the School for Lifelong Education, and Machon L'Parnasa-Institute for Professional Studies. Taken together, the schools educate close to 2,000 students.

Touro's president, Dr. Alan Kadish, reminded the graduates that they face immense challenges, citing high unemployment, stagnant wages, ethical scandals, and continued anti-Semitism. The president encouraged the new graduates to remain optimistic and to "retain a commitment to the purpose of our existence," adding their purpose is not "individual self-improvement, but rather the need to build a moral and superior society. You have been given the tools to help do this. As you move toward the future, always be aware of the past - the past of the great Jewish ethical, moral and scholarly traditions."

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