

Workforce development in action: Kevin Knudsen profile



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The BHA collaborated with the Mayor's office and Brockton Workforce Investment Board (BAWIB) in 2010 on the Mayor's Summer Youth Jobs Program. This program for disadvantaged, at-risk youth was bridged with our summer resident hiring program to provide real experience for the participants.

One of our participants was Kevin Knudsen, a dedicated young man who worked in the Maintenance Department and showed real enthusiasm in keeping the grounds of our developments clean of trash and debris.

Kevin impressed us with his performance and work ethic. He performed so well that Mayor Linda M. Balzotti and BAWIB presented him with the work ethic award, which is given annually to the program's outstanding participant.

Reflecting on his summer work, Kevin found a value beyond the work experience and resume building. "You learn to be respectful," he said, "and you learn to work as a team and interact with others."

Kevin recently received his GED and is now enrolled at Massasoit Community College in the school's Criminal Justice program. "My goal is to work on a police department's SWAT team," he said.

We saw tremendous value in Kevin over the course of the summer and hired him for an ongoing part-time position with funding from HUD's Section 3 program. Through collaborative programs such as the Summer Jobs Program and other programs, the BHA encourages and promotes self-sufficiency and workforce development that ultimately helps create a better quality of life in Brockton.

We hired Kevin for a permanent part-time position with our Maintenance team.