

A Year Like None Other

Reflections By: David Gadaire, President and CEO

As March 13th came, we realized we had been in virtual world for a full year. It has been a year like no other. It has been impossible to go to experts to figure how to do this as no one has. It has been an amazing year, filled with fear, pain, poverty, loss, isolation, break downs in relationships and families. On the other hand, it has been a year filled with family, learning, expanded capabilities, growth, survival and resilience. I want to honor the painful part of this year, especially those that have lost family or friends. It is pain at its worst. Or those who have lost jobs and businesses. It was all overwhelming and beyond sad. At the same time, I want to thank and show respect for those that have taken the opportunity to make themselves and those around them better and even more connected. I believe the participants of MassHire Holyoke (customers, staff, Board, founders and funders) have done just that. I share this pride for a team that has grown our services, found new ways to help and meet the needs of our customers, while keeping good care of themselves and each other. We have supported the community with food distribution, fiscal donation, time donation and general support for those struggling. We have actually grown some programs and added staff (including on-boarding virtually), grown some programs in scope of service and resource. And taken time out to laugh, cry and otherwise respect the MHH family. We have been challenged, knocked down a few times, but keep coming back for more with even more determination. I find this team to be both motivating and inspirational. I am proud to work side by side with this amazing team/family. I often say that I love what I/we do, where we do it, who we do it for and who we do it with. This year has captured that more than any other. Looking forward to seeing all our staff and customers in person again in the future, but for now, we will remain safe, remain vigilant about our customers and keep finding ways to support our community.

With respect, love, equity and Peace!
David Gadaire

