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Peabody-Based Torigian Family YMCA Recognized in Washington

“The “Y” among 70 U.S. business leaders recognized for employing people with mental illness.

Peabody—The Torigian Family YMCA of Peabody was among 70 U.S. corporate and non-profit companies recognized at the Capitol in Washington DC for the companies’ commitment to employing people with mental illness. Congressman John Tierney presented the award in November.

Locally, the Torigian Family YMCA, with locations in Lynn and Saugus, employs members of Pioneer House, a clubhouse located in downtown Peabody. Pioneer House is a day program for people with various and chronic mental illness from Essex County. As well as receiving socialization, a hot lunch and recreational opportunities, members of the Pioneer House receive employment training and community-based job opportunities.

Since 2006, the Torigian Family YMCA has been among the local North Shore businesses that have employed members of the Pioneer House.

“This award brings to life the good that’s being done for people with mental illness,” said Greg Griffin, Director of Operations for Peabody YMCA.

Other employers who were recognized include CVS/Pharmacy, Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation, the TJX Companies, Inc., as well as a number of hospitals. Awardees hail from

Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

“Employment is a very important part of our members’ self-confidence, independence, and their psychological and physical well-being,” says Larry Marshall, director of Peabody’s Pioneer House. “We are grateful to employers like the Torigian YMCA who provide such valuable opportunities for our members.”