



Unity House

Transitional Living ~ Permanent Housing ~ Rehabilitative Services ~ Employment Services

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

UNITY HOUSE HONORS LOCAL BUSINESSES and 20-YEAR EMPLOYEES AT ITS 2007 ANNUAL DINNER; AUBURN MAYOR RECOGNIZES AGENCY AT EVENT



Unity House 2007 elected officers (l to r) Jeannette Baird, Secretary; Fred Atkins, Treasurer; Karen Merritt, President; Betsy Sterling, Vice President

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services and programs in six Central New York counties to individuals with

developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those

recovering from alcoholism and other chemical dependencies, honored Key Bank, the East Hill Family Medical practice of Auburn, and two Unity House employees with over 20 years of continuous service each at the organization’s 2007 Annual Dinner held April 30, 2007 in the main ballroom of the Case Mansion, site of Unity House’s Cayuga County administrative offices and Community Residence Program, at 108 South Street in Auburn.

In presenting certificates of appreciation to Key Bank Business Banking Relationship Manager Richard Berman and East Hill Family Medical principal Dr. Carmen Federico, Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams praised the providers of financial services and medical care, respectively, for their outstanding concern for and care of Unity House consumers.

“Key Bank and East Hill Family Medical are two shining examples of enterprises that truly go above and beyond when it comes to serving and helping Unity House and our

consumer population,” she said. “Their participation with us and our consumers succeeds so well because they truly understand our collective needs and wants, and sincerely care for our welfares. We are delighted to present them with these certificates of appreciation for all they have done for us and our consumers over the many years they have served us.”

“I’m fairly new to my position and I know I am luck to be inheriting the relationship between Key Bank and Unity House built by my predecessors and Unity House,” said Berman, in acknowledging the honor. “We’ll do our best to maintain and expand it.”

In accepting East Hill Family Medical’s award, Federico observed how being honored and recognized for patient concern and care is a plus for a medical practice in the current health care climate.

“Most of what everybody hears about is bad, so this is a very good thing and we thank Unity House for the honor,” he said.

In addition, at the event City of Auburn Mayor Timothy C. Lattimore presented Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. Executive Director Joyce Williams and Board of Directors President Karen Merritt with a City of Auburn Plaque and Key award honoring the agency for its 30 years of providing housing, rehabilitative, and employment services to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies.

“The City of Auburn wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. for its significant contribution of enhancing the quality of lives in our community of Auburn, in Cayuga County, and in the communities of our surrounding counties,” said Mayor Lattimore, in declaring the city’s recognition of Unity House’s thirty years of operation effective the start of 2007. “All of us, and not just the individuals Unity House has served, are very fortunate to have benefited from the many, many outstanding services and programs Unity House provides. We look forward to

another thirty years of their dedication and commitment and to experiencing the value they add to our lives.”

Unity House also recognized Judy Fisher, program manager of the agency’s Independent Housing Program, and Timothy Laird, case manager for that same service, for their 20-plus continuous years of commitment, dedication, and value to Unity House.

“Judy and Tim are role models for all of us to emulate as we carry out our individual responsibilities daily,” Williams said, in presenting the two lifelong employees with certificates of appreciation. “Neither Unity House nor the consumers Judy and Tim have served would be where we are today without their compassion, perseverance, and experience.”

Following the dinner’s recognition ceremony, Unity House consumer and featured event speaker Chuck Kellogg related to the 80 event attendees how the Unity House programs and services he has accessed have benefited him. His presentation and the ceremony were preceded by the agency’s public annual meeting business, including the term renewals, and Board acceptance of same, of five current Board Directors; the Board’s acceptance of its acts of 2006; and the Board’s election of its officers for 2007.

The slate of officers elected for 2007 includes Karen Merritt, Board President; Betsy Sterling, Vice President; Fred Atkins, Treasurer; and Jeannette Baird, Secretary. They join fellow directors David T. Corey, Jr., Anthony DeCaro, Joyce Gover, Joan Holden, Andrea LeBaron, Karen Quest, Cynthia Mott, James Vivencio, and Donald White on the agency’s 2007 Board of Directors.

The two and one-half hour event was catered by Premier Catering of Auburn, NY.