



**Main Story / 02.29.08**

## **Cayuga County Mental Health Awards Unity House's Independent Housing Program Additional \$22,555**

**AUBURN** - The Cayuga County Department of Mental Health has granted Unity House's Independent Housing program (also known as Permanent Supported Housing) an additional \$22,555 in 2008 funding that will be used to assist three individuals secure or sustain permanent housing in Cayuga County. The funding may be utilized for home furnishings, stipends towards utility bills and case management services, based on the needs of the individual. The services provided by the Independent Housing program have a positive impact on preventing homelessness in Cayuga County.

The award, granted in February 2008, will double (from three to six) the number of individuals whose program participation is directly funded by the Cayuga County Mental Health Department. It also will expand the total number of program participants from 55 to 58.

"We appreciate very much our county mental health department's recognition of this invaluable service that we provide our Cayuga County consumers," said Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams. "The department's additional support will help afford the housing and attending support services for three more deserving consumers in their quest for rehabilitation and greater independence."

Unity House's Independent Housing program is managed by Judy Fisher and directed by Sue Morley, RN, director of the agency's mental health services.

---

## **Unity House's G.R.A.C.E. House Receives One-Time OASAS Funding Award**

**AUBURN** – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc.'s G.R.A.C.E. House, a chemical dependency community residence dedicated to the recovery of men and women afflicted with alcoholism and other chemical dependencies, was notified on January 22, 2008 that it had been selected to receive a one-time funding award of \$5,811 from the program's licensing authority, the N.Y. State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

The award is the second that Unity House's G.R.A.C.E. House program, which includes a supported living component that encompasses apartment living settings and a variety of adjunctive treatment, pre-vocational, employment, and related services, has received in the past eight weeks. At the end of December 2007, OASAS granted the program \$20,417 in additional aid to refurbish its community residence at 56 Osborne Street in Auburn.

The \$5,811 award is from a \$1.875 million initiative for treatment providers serving individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Funding was awarded to Intensive Residential and/or Community Residence programs that reported at least 51 percent of total

admissions as having a criminal justice history at the time of admission, for the period October 2006 through September 2007). According to G.R.A.C.E. House Director Michele Leonello, the agency's program in the designated period had "well over 51 percent of admissions with criminal justice histories."

Central New York OASAS Field Office Program Specialist Tom Davis said OASAS-licensed programs and services that received awards from this particular pool of money would be expected to allocate the one-time award on behalf of their consumers. To that end, G.R.A.C.E. House will use the \$5,811 to further improve its facility and program services.