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Unity House Director of Finance Nominated for CFO of the Year Award



Unity House Director of Finance
Max Haines

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. Director of Finance Maxwell Haines has been nominated for a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Year award co-sponsored by the Syracuse, NY-based Bonadio Group and M & T Bank.

To be announced at a May 29, 2008 luncheon at the Oncenter in Syracuse, the recently inaugurated CFO of the Year honor is intended to recognize the many contributions CFOs make to their organizations as well as better educate the public about the financial aspects of those organizations, according to Bonadio Group administrative assistant Jennifer LaRose.

“The Bonadio Group, which is a top 100 upstate New York firm specializing in accounting, payroll, and financial consultation programs and services with offices also in Buffalo, Rochester, Perry, and Geneva, NY, collaborated with M & T Bank to create the award,” she explained. “We’ve done so because we think the roles financial executives play have grown in scope and complexity and their responsibilities have expanded greatly, and that it is important for people to be educated about this.”

LaRose said the organization had received 30 nominees from all types and sizes of Central New York industries and businesses for this year’s award. She added that the common denominator for all the nominees was their value as top financial strategists who advise, take calculated risks with organization resources to realize organizational visions, and act within organizations in leading employees towards their common fiscal goals.

Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams nominated Haines after learning about the award and its purpose.

“Max is very, very good at his job,” she said. “He sincerely appreciates what Unity House does in helping individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies. That appreciation and his knowledge and abilities in financial matters have had a huge positive impact on our agency.”

Williams’s nomination of Haines pointed out how during his 12-year tenure at Unity House the agency’s annual budget has nearly quadrupled and that he played an important role helping guide, steer, and advise the organization on all financial matters through that growth. She also praised Haines’s supportive leadership style, participation on many agency committees, and respect among peers and his five-person staff in nominating him for the award.

“It has been truly pleasurable to have Max associate with this agency,” she declared. “His skills are superior and he is some one who truly cares for others and helps make their lives better. He should be considered and hopefully will be selected for this CFO of the Year Award.”