



Main Story / 07.15.08

Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. Stages Successful Fundraiser



Auburn Individualized Residential Alternative staff and consumers at Unity House's July 13, 2008 BBQ, bake sale, car wash fundraiser

AUBURN - Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services and programs to more than 700 individuals a day with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies, held a combined chicken barbecue / bake sale / car wash fundraiser Sunday, July 13, 2008 at the Union Springs Volunteer Fire Department that generated proceeds of over \$1,100 to benefit consumers of the organization's Cayuga County developmental disability services and programs.

The 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, hosted at the Union Springs Volunteer Fire Department on Cayuga Street (Rte. 90) in Union Springs and sponsored in part by that department and TOPS supermarkets, Wegmans, and Johnston paper, all of Auburn, featured the sale of full chicken barbecue dinners for \$7, barbecued chicken only for \$5, homemade bake sale items for \$1, and car washes for \$3.

The agency's four Cayuga County IRA staffs and consumers made a variety of regular and blondie brownies, chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies, 7-layer bars, and Rice Krispy treats for the bake sale portion of the fundraiser. Teams of staff and consumers managed the serving of the chicken dinners, the sale of baked goods, and car washes throughout the event.

"Despite the ongoing rain and bit of a damper that put on our event, the entire affair was a huge success for us and our consumers," said Unity House assistant director for MRDD residential and day habilitation services and programs' Jessica Williams, who chaired the committee that planned the fundraiser. "Each and every member of our event committee and the staff and consumer volunteers who also contributed did a fantastic job organizing, preparing for, and working at the event. We also are most grateful to the Union Springs fire department volunteers who gave us the use of their fire house and pavilion for the day and who so generously donated their valuable time cooking our chicken with their delicious barbecue sauce, which they also donated. Without their contributions and the sponsorship of Wegmans, TOPS supermarkets, and Johnston paper, we wouldn't have realized as successful an event."

Besides Williams, fundraiser committee members included Unity House Cayuga County Supportive Apartments program manager Barb Gregg and program residential counselor Kathy Sluzar; 62 South Street, Auburn Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) manager Sue McMaster and residential counselor team leader Keri Lambertus; Oak Drive, Union Springs IRA manager Jessica Waldron and residential counselors Vicki Jones and Brian Puccino; New Life, Half Acre IRA manager Tammie Miner; and marketing director Paul Marron.