



**Main Story / 08.19.08**

**Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. To Hold  
Drop-In Center Open House 6 p.m.-9 p.m. August 20, 2008**



New Drop In Center office and  
rec space

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 chemical dependencies in six Central New York counties, will hold an Open House from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. August 20 at its recently relocated Drop-In Center at 90 Franklin Street in Auburn (formerly Fellowship Hall, Calvary Presbyterian Church, at the point of Franklin and Capitol Streets).

“Our Open House will allow our community to better acquaint itself with the Drop-In Center’s new space partnership with the Calvary Food Pantry of CNY and to learn about the service we provide the community,” said Unity House Director of Mental Health Support Services Susan Sloan, who oversees the Drop-In Center’s operation. “As a true peer-run program with a community focus, our Drop-In Center offers help for individuals with mental illnesses gain the necessary skills, support, and resources they need to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. The 15 to 17 individuals a day we serve three times a week truly benefit, and our Open House gives us the chance to inform and educate our community about that process.”

Started in 1992 and housed previously at the agency’s Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation Treatment Program (IPRT) mental health support service at 38 E. Genesee St. in Auburn, the Drop-In Center is considered a vital part of Unity House’s focus on supporting and rehabilitating individuals with mental illnesses.

Effective May 29, 2008, the Drop-In Center has occupied its 90 Franklin Street space as a result of a space-sharing partnership forged with the Calvary Food Pantry of Central New York. The Drop-In Center service and the Food Pantry realized each of its efforts emphasize outreach and that working side-by-side would offer many benefits to the individuals each serves.

The Drop-In Center is recognized by the N.Y. State Office of Mental Health (OMH) as a viable self-help program. It is funded via N.Y. State Reinvestment monies distributed to it by the Cayuga County Department of Mental Health. Its hours of operation are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. In conjunction with the Cayuga County Mental Health Department’s Social Club, which is run from the Department’s mental health clinic Continuing Day Treatment space on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, the Drop-In Center ensures that community residents in need will have seven-day-a-week access to this necessary support.

The Drop-In Center offers consumers a safe and nurturing environment where they learn social interaction skills, engage in scheduled activities, consume daily meals, and gain staff

advocacy essential to their well-being. Individuals access the Center via its links to the therapeutic community and by word-of-mouth. The new space shared with the Calvary Food Pantry includes a fully equipped kitchen (cupboards, sink, countertops, appliances).

For more information about the event and services provided, call (315) 282-0297 extension 107 or 315-252-1039.