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Unity House Participates in Direct Support Professional Week



AUBURN - On July 14, 2008, the United States Senate passed a resolution designating the week beginning September 8, 2008, as "*National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*." This was further supported with a proclamation by N.Y. State Governor David Paterson who declared **September 8th –12th, 2008** as **Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week in the Empire State**.

Recognizing its direct support professional staffs and promoting the vital role they play in the lives of consumers and families, Unity House engaged in several activities for the week. These included service and program directors delivering cookie trays and handwritten acknowledgements to staffs for their invaluable contributions to consumer achievement and success, and recognizing direct worker staffs in a full-page ad shared with three peer agencies that appeared in the September 9, 2008 Auburn **CITIZEN** (at left).

“This week provides an opportunity to shine light on our devoted professionals who dedicate their lives to those they serve,” observed Unity House executive director Joyce Williams in a direct worker staff memo that accompanied the directors’ and their cookie trays. “Unity House direct support professionals embrace the philosophy of commitment to individualization, independence, inclusion and productivity in living, learning, working and socializing for developmentally disabled individuals, those struggling with mental illness, and those in recovery from alcoholism and chemical dependency.

“Supporting, guiding, and ensuring necessary protective oversight is provided, direct support professionals allow those they serve to realize their full potential and live productive and meaningful lives,” she continued. “Our remarkable consumers and their achievements are a direct result of the hard work and diligence of our direct support professionals. The week’s activities are the least we can do to thank them for the wonderful job they do.”