



Main Story / 09.15.08

Unity House Awarded Stardust Foundation of CNY, Schwartz Family Foundation Grants

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services and programs in Central New York to more than 700 individuals a day with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies, has been awarded \$6,000 from the Stardust Foundation of Central New York in Auburn and \$3,000 from the Schwartz Family Foundation in Pittsford, N.Y. to enhance the already superior nursing care it provides to its Cayuga and Tompkins counties’ MRDD consumers.

With the \$9,000 awarded, Unity House will purchase additional medical and information technology (IT) equipment for its nursing service to increase its equipment supply and to upgrade its capacity to teach and train staff. Consisting of N.Y. State-registered (RN) and licensed practical (LPN) nurses, the agency’s nursing service with this funding will ensure that its inventory of medical equipment is sufficient to sustain and improve the outstanding care it provides some 96 adult individuals with developmental disabilities living in 12 IRA and 22 supportive and independent apartment sites in the two-county area.

The service also will use the funding to purchase IT equipment it has needed to efficiently and effectively train its direct care staff in the appropriate provision of medical care for these consumers, including administration of their medications.

“We are pleased to be able to help Unity House’s nursing service purchase this necessary medical equipment to augment its outstanding care of its MRDD residential consumers in the two-county area,” said Guy Cosentino, Executive Director of the Stardust Foundation of Central New York. “We also appreciate the opportunity to assist the agency’s service in its effort to secure state-of-the-art information technology equipment to best train its staff in the medical care of its consumers. Both of these needs are integral to Unity House’s mission of empowering individuals to achieve their maximum potentials.”

Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams praised the foundations for their awards.

“With their generosity, the Stardust Foundation of Central New York and the Schwartz Family Foundation have allowed us to strengthen further the quality care our nursing service provides,” she said. “We cannot thank them enough for being such an important part of us continuing our mission.”