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Unity House Respite Service Brochure and Referral Packet Now Available

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 produced and made available via its website a Respite Service brochure and information and referral packet outlining the service and including eligibility and admissions criteria.

The agency's Respite Service features 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week supervision and oversight by trained, caring staff. A component of Unity House's overall MRDD services and programs, the service offers temporary placement on a planned or emergent basis to primarily but not solely Cayuga County MRDD consumers.

Located at the agency's 62 South Street Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) residence in Auburn, NY, the service includes a fully furnished apartment with a living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and handicap-accessible bedroom. It gives consumers and their caregiver an opportunity to take reprieves as needed and also is used as an interim setting for consumers without housing.

"In addition to providing consumers with an ideal environment that prepares them to progress to independent living, our Respite Service is structured to allow consumers accessing it to simultaneously participate fully in their community-based programs," emphasized Suzanne McMaster, manager of the service. "Being in our Respite Service in no way restricts consumers from also following their daily program regimens."

Stays at the service are limited to 30 consecutive days, not to exceed 42 days annually. Respite Service trial visits are limited to seven days total over any six-month period, notes McMaster.

To download the agency's Respite Service brochure and/or information and referral packet, go to www.unityhouse.com, click on **MRDD Services**, and click on the Respite Service Brochure and Referral Packet link on that page's left-hand margin. Questions about the service or for more information about it can be directed to McMaster and her staff at 315-282-0109 or via e-mail to smcmaster@unityhouse.com, as well as to Unity House's director for MRDD residential services in Cayuga County, Darlene Podolak, at dpodolak@unityhouse.com.