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UNITY HOUSE COMPLETES SALE OF ITHACA PROPERTY

Agency sells mansion on East State Street; anticipates move to Lansing



408 E State St, Ithaca, NY

Auburn, New York – Elizabeth Werner, executive director of Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc., recently announced that Unity House has sold its property at 408 East State Street, Ithaca. The parcel was purchased by local businessman Mr. Avi Smith, who plans to renovate the building and turn it into a 15 – 20 room inn.

“The sale of 408 East State Street is the next logical step in a series of strategically planned moves,” said Werner. “Unity House is making purposeful decisions about the type, size, and condition of the many properties it owns. We had outgrown this particular facility, and a number of costly repairs were necessary. I am delighted that the buyer has a vision that seems to fit with the Ithaca community. Mr. Smith is committed to restoring the building and I am looking forward to seeing the end result.”

Unity House owned the mansion, also known as the McCormick-Cowdery House, for 12 years. The historic structure, located at the bottom of State Street hill near the Commons, is the former home of the Duncan Hines Institute, begun in the 1950s by eminent Ithaca businessman Roy H. Park and food pioneer Duncan Hines. Hines is famous for his book *Adventures in Good Eating* (1935) and for the line of food products that bear his name.

As a Unity House facility, the building housed about 30 employees and served nearly 50 consumers daily in its day habilitation program. Administrative offices may still be reached at 607.272.1741. A permanent move to new office and day hab space is anticipated in early 2010, when Unity House will move into Lansing Village Place at 15 Catherwood Road in Lansing.

“This advantageous location will offer easy accessibility to multiple venues of interest to our consumers – the YMCA, restaurants, Pyramid Mall, and more,” said Werner.

“The bright new space also features plenty of free parking, beautiful office suites, is on the public bus line, and best of all, offers day habilitation space that is five times larger than our former downtown facility. Renovations at Catherwood Road are underway, and as soon as our new facilities are ready for us, we will begin the move to Lansing.”

For more information about Unity House’s move in Ithaca, please contact Director of Marketing and Development Kelly Buck at 315.253.6227 x 313 or kbuck@unityhouse.com. Additional information about Unity House may be found at www.unityhouse.com.

Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. provides transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services for individuals with mental health illnesses, developmental disabilities, and/or chemical dependencies from which they are recovering. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Unity House partners with these individuals to develop their personal skills and potential, enabling them to live more full and independent lives. The agency serves more than 700 consumers a day in six central New York counties. Unity House is committed to freeing our communities of misconceptions associated with disabilities through innovation, education, and advocacy.

Unity House ~ Empowering Lives, Securing Futures