



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITY HOUSE RECEIVES GRANT FROM VERIZON

Funds to provide life skills training for consumers with mental illness

Auburn, New York – Paul Joslyn, deputy executive director of Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc., has announced that Unity House has been awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation. The funds will be used to provide enhanced wellness curriculum for program consumers, and were secured with the support Verizon’s Government and External Affairs Vice President Sam Caldwell.

“We are deeply grateful that Verizon has partnered with Unity House in granting these funds,” said Joslyn. “This award is a testament to the value of our services and unwavering commitment to deliver education and training to our consumers to help them realize the skills they need to live and work as independently as possible. Such programming will greatly benefit our consumers, who, with the help of their direct care professionals, will be able to develop decision making and critical thinking skills that allow them to safely use the Internet, access other resources, and make the life choices that many of us take for granted.”

Unity House’s Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitative Treatment (IPRT) program provides services for those with mental illness. Under the direction of Director Susan Sloan, IPRT will use the Verizon funds to enhance existing curriculum developed by the New York State Office of Mental Health entitled “Wellness Self-Management.” The current curriculum focuses on work and life skills; this grant will allow Unity House to improve the program by adding special emphasis on computer-based learning, conducting job searches, online banking and financial management, avoiding Internet fraud, making wise energy choices, increasing marketplace awareness, and more.

A special check presentation will be made on Friday, December 4 at Unity House’s administrative offices, 34 Wright Avenue, Auburn. Mr. Caldwell will be present from Albany to present the funds to Executive Director Elizabeth Werner at 12:30 p.m.

“Verizon plays an important role in the communities where our customers and employees live,” said Mr. Caldwell. “Our leading edge networks and technologies provide people with enhanced services and value, and enable organizations like Unity House to provide greater care and guidance in helping their clients safely use the Internet.”

For more information about this grant, 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. Verizon is online at www.verizonfoundation.org.

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