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UNITY HOUSE RECEIVES GRANT FROM WOMEN'S FUND OF CNY
Grant provides educational funds for Grace House residents



Auburn, New York – Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. has been awarded a \$4,250 educational grant from the Women's Fund of Central New York, a donor-advised fund overseen by the Central New York Community Foundation of Syracuse. The funds will be used to offset tuition costs at

Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES.

Unity House offers two living options in Auburn, New York for those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction: GRACE House (Growing Recovering Addict Caring Environment) and a supportive living and children's program, designed to assist parents with a chemical dependency to integrate back into society with their families. The goal is to build skills, independence, and self-esteem while supporting residents' recovery and assisting them to become contributing members of their communities.

At GRACE House, each woman's structured treatment program contains a mandated educational/vocational element. These grant funds will allow two or three GRACE House residents to earn certification from Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES in either the Certified Nurse Aid or Office Support Specialist program.

"These women recognize that in order to acquire a good job that pays a living wage, an excellent first step is earning certification through BOCES," said GRACE House Program Director Michele Leonello. "They are committed to pursuing their educations, but sometimes, the situation is a 'Catch-22' – most cannot afford tuition, yet without these certifications, they are unable to get meaningful, well-paying jobs. This grant offers them the chance to pursue a certificate at BOCES, which opens a world of future opportunity to them. We are deeply grateful for this support."

The Women's Fund of Central New York is a permanent endowment, established through the Central New York Community Foundation, to fund programs and projects that support women and girls. There are several specific goals, but the overall aim of the Fund is to enable women to become economically self-sufficient and achieve their full potential as members of the

community. More information is available online; go to www.cnycf.org and click on the Affiliates tab.

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.

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