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**UNITY HOUSE RECEIVES GRANT FROM KEYBANK FOUNDATION**

*Monies provide new job training technology*



Auburn, New York – Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. has been awarded a \$4,100 workforce development grant from the KeyBank Foundation. The funds will enhance Unity House’s supported employment training program for adults with disabilities.

The Unity Employment Services (UES) program serves approximately 90 adults with disabilities living in Cayuga County. These grant funds will enable the agency to create a state-of-the-art training lab for these individuals, ultimately improving job placements in the region and thereby reducing the unemployment rate in central New York. The monies will specifically be used to purchase technology equipment for an IT and job skills training room at the site on Corporate Drive in Auburn.

“Technology skills are increasingly the competitive edge that can help land an interview – area employers are more cognizant of training costs and are becoming more selective in this job market,” said Sue Morley, director of mental health residential services and Unity Employment Services. “This grant will support individuals with disabilities in obtaining jobs and reducing the unemployment rate, which is good for the entire region.”

The training room gives consumers the ability to conduct online research to help identify their personal career goals, navigate the job search process, and develop resumes and cover letters. UES staff supports them throughout the hire process and provides a continuum of intensive and extended service for long-term success, economic self-sufficiency, and quality of life.

“KeyBank believes in giving back to its communities by assisting those agencies and organizations who make a difference in the lives of many,” said Jeffrey Eades, vice president and senior relationship manager at Key. “Unity House of Cayuga County has been a great community partner and Key is proud to assist in sponsoring their job development and training program.”

KeyBank Foundation, through its civic programs, corporate contributions, and volunteerism, supports organizations that foster economic self-sufficiency, principally where KeyBank operates. As a corporate neighbor, the nonprofit charitable foundation advances economic self-sufficiency through its funding priorities, which help communities and individuals prosper: financial education, workforce development, and diversity. The KeyBank Foundation made total contributions of \$18.1 million in 2007.

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](mailto:kbuck@unityhouse.com). Additional information about Unity House may be found at [www.unityhouse.com](http://www.unityhouse.com) and KeyBank at <https://www.key.com/html/key-foundation-philanthropy-banking.html>.

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*