



Main Story 9.13.07

Auburn MRDD Consumers, Staff Head to Camp



MRDD staff and consumers at 2007 Camp Casawasco Lu'Au

AUBURN - Arts and crafts...hayrides... bonfires with everyone's favorite, S'mores...campfires and songs...swimming, canoeing, ice cream socials...sound like fun? For Unity House's Auburn MRDD consumers and staff, it was that and much more for three full days August 27-30 at Camp Casawasco, on the southwest shores of Owasco Lake about ten miles south of Auburn.

Consumers who attended the camp paid a fee that covered their housing and food costs. They rented rooms at the largest camp cabin, which includes a full-service kitchen, bath and restroom facilities, and a large central meeting and lounge room. Camp staff prepared and served three meals a day to the consumers.

The camp also provided lifeguarding services to allow consumers to swim in and canoe and boat to and from designated areas. MRDD Residential and Day Hab staff and managers assisted at the camp 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, with each program's overnight staff staying and residing at the camp, as well. Auburn MRDD Department program managers planned three days of activities for consumers who attended. An evening Luau featuring staff and consumers dressed in South Pacific-style costumes and dancing to traditional Luau music highlighted this year's recreational events.

Annually an experience MRDD consumers especially savor, program managers' and staffs' commitment to making it unique for all involved are why this particular Unity House consumer activity is so successful, said MRDD Residential and Day Hab Director Darlene Podolak.

Unity House Participates in 2007 TomatoFest



MH Support Services Dir. Sue Sloan(L), MH Residential Services and UES Dir. Sue Morley (R) at Unity House's 2007 TomatoFest booth

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. joined scores of other human service providers and commercial vendors at the 22nd annual Central New York TomatoFest held September 8 and 9, 2007 at Emerson Park on Owasco Lake in Auburn, New York.

The festival, dedicated to creating a two-day opportunity for organizations to raise community awareness and funds, is organized by a volunteer Board of Directors and is supported by businesses and individuals who donate time, money, and resources to it. A portion of TomatoFest's proceeds are donated to local food agencies and pantries

“We’re always thrilled to be able to be a part of this community event and to continue our efforts to educate and inform the community about Unity House and the wonderful individuals and families we help and care for,” said Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams. “The event always provides us with a forum to help dissolve all the misconceptions and outright myths about disabilities, mental health illnesses, and chemical dependencies. Like the other TomatoFest’s we’ve displayed at, we also had a lot of fun at this year’s event.”

Funds raised at the event from an agency baked goods sale will be used for consumer holiday presents, Williams said.