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## **Unity House Receives United Way of Cayuga County 2007 Silver Level Contributor Award**



Michele Leonello, Pamala O'Conner

**AUBURN** – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. received a 2007 Silver Level Contributor Award from the United Way of Cayuga County at that organization’s annual fundraising dinner held December 6, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Auburn, NY.

The award recognized Unity House and its employees who participated in this year’s United Way campaign either by making a one-time contribution to United Way’s annual Cayuga County fundraising campaign or by designating a specific amount from their earnings for the United Way effort. Employees in 2007 directed their contributions and designations to a variety of United Way agencies including the Cayuga County chapter of the Red

Cross, Hospice of the Finger Lakes, and Cayuga Counseling Services, in addition to Unity House.

“We were thrilled to be able to recognize Unity House this year at our annual dinner and we are especially grateful for Unity House employees increasing their contributions in 2007 by 30% over what they contributed in our 2006 campaign,” said United Way Executive Director Gail Homick. “The Silver Award represents recognition by us of a participating agency raising by 25% or more contributions for one year from a previous year. Unity House and its participating employees should be proud of this great contribution to the welfare of our community.”

Homick observed that Unity House and other county contributors helped United Way surpass its 2007 fundraising goal of \$1.375 million by \$125,000.

Unity House employees participating in this year’s campaign were M. Catherine Becker, Darlene Podolak, Jessica Williams, AnnaMae Becker, Kimberly Maywalt, Joyce Williams, Tina Digraci, Mary Jo Norfolk, Mary Fishlock, Elizabeth Werner, Michele Leonello, Pamala O’Conner, Steven Stark, Valarie Becker, Robert Dickson, and Susan Sloan.

Unity House G.R.A.C.E. House Director Michele Leonello, Unity House’s 2007 United Way campaign coordinator, and G.R.A.C.E. House Program Director Pam O’Conner received the award at the dinner, attended by about 225 United Way supporters and community members.

## Unity House Deputy Executive Director Elected to Board of Directors of Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce



Unity House Deputy Exec Dir. Liz Werner

**AUBURN** – The Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce has elected Elizabeth Werner, Deputy Executive Director of Unity House of Cayuga County, to serve as a member of the Chamber’s Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2008.

“I really look forward to serving as a Chamber Board Member in 2008 and to contributing what I can to its goals for the year and thereafter,” said Werner, upon learning of her election. “I’m honored to have been nominated and elected.”

Werner’s election followed her nomination for Board membership by Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams, who sits on the Chamber’s nominating committee. That body assembled and forwarded its nominations to the Chamber’s executive committee for consideration. That committee reviewed those nominations before sending them on to the Chamber’s current Board and Board membership for approval, said Chamber Executive Director Terri Bridenbecker.

“We had a great slate for 2008 that included Liz,” said Bridenbecker, referring to Werner and her nomination. “There weren’t any petitions by current Board members or the membership for Board members for 2008 in addition to the nominating committee’s slate, which was ultimately approved.”

“We nominated Liz because we think her outstanding leadership skills and successful experience in a variety of key positions will benefit the Chamber and its mission,” said Williams. “We’re thrilled she was elected. She’ll be a great representative of the Chamber’s purpose and values to the community as well as an effective conduit from the community to the Chamber.”

Werner, who also has served as Unity House’s Director of Quality Assurance and in case management capacities, will join other new Board members Dr. Daniel Larson, President of Cayuga Community College; Scott Berlucchi, Chief Executive Officer of Auburn Memorial Hospital; J.D. Pabis, Superintendent of the Auburn Enlarged City School District; and Kelly Tehan, Communications Director at Wells College.