



## Unity House

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*Transitional Living ~ Permanent Housing ~ Rehabilitative Services ~ Employment Services*

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**Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. Opens  
New Independent Residential Alternative (IRA)  
on Sheffield Road in Tompkins County**



AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of housing and rehabilitative services and programs to individuals with developmental disabilities in Tompkins County, announced today it had obtained approval from the Bureau of Program Certification (BPC) of the NY State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to open its new Independent Residential Alternative (IRA) site for six (6) consumers with developmental disabilities on Sheffield Road in the Town of Enfield.

“We are very happy to be able to move into this literally brand new Residential Alternative (IRA) location six very deserving consumers and our staff that will work with and care for them,” she said. “Our Sheffield Road site offers our consumers superior accommodations that will help empower them even more and enhance their progress toward their goals.”

The consumers had been receiving services and programs from roughly the year 2000 up to October 2006 at an IRA location on Nelson Road in Ithaca rented by Unity House, when the agency and six consumers decided together they would be best served through actual home ownership. Realizing that goal involved temporarily relocating the consumers, Williams said.

## *2 – Unity House Opens New Residence for Individuals With Developmental Disabilities*

“We obtained OMRDD approval to temporarily increase the capacities of two of our other services, our supportive apartment program in Dryden and another IRA in Ithaca, and placed our consumers in them,” Williams said. “Since then, we have been working on opening the Sheffield Road IRA for them.”

Williams added that the entire process represented an atypical situation for Unity House and OMRDD, in that it involved moving consumers out of one location, settling them into a temporary living environment, and then moving them into the Sheffield Road IRA. That Unity House moved to buy the Sheffield Road property complicated the process because of the more intricate requirements tied to owning an IRA site versus renting one, she said.

“We completed the Certificate of Need, Prior Property Approval, and other requirements related to purchase and certification of an IRA site,” she said. “Besides OMRDD in Albany and every one associated with the financial aspects of opening our Sheffield Road IRA, we also have been helped very much by the cooperation and support we have received from the Town of Enfield Board of Supervisors and the wonderful staff at the Broome County-based Development Services Office of OMRDD, which oversees services and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities in Tompkins County.”

Williams said Amy Carioggia, Unity House’s director of Tompkins County residential services and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, would oversee the consumers’ move to, and implementation of services and programs at, the Sheffield Road site.

Unity House provides Community Residence, Supervised Apartment, Supportive Apartment, Day Habilitation, Residential Habilitation, and Case Management services and programs to individuals with developmental disabilities in Tompkins County, in addition to its Independent Residential Alternative services and programs. It cares for about 60 consumers a

day in its residential settings, 60 in its Day Programs, and 90 via its Case Management services, Williams said.