



Main Story / 9.24.07

UNITY HOUSE RESURRECTS AGENCY-WIDE NEWSLETTER THE SPIRIT



AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services and programs in six Central New York counties to more than 700 individuals a day with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies, has resumed production and circulation of its agency-wide newsletter, The Spirit.

“We decided to revive our Unity House newsletter The Spirit after realizing our consumers and families, employees, stakeholders, and constituents were asking for as much information as possible about Unity House and our services and programs,” said Unity House Executive Director Joyce Williams. “The Spirit will help fill that need and will supplement information and

developments also communicated via our redesigned website, updated information packet, and soon-to-be-available Unity House video entitled ‘Empowering Lives and Securing Futures,’ which offers in DVD format an overview of who we are and what we do.”

Current plans call for publication of The Spirit twice a year, covering the summer/fall and winter/spring months. Unity House last published the newsletter in the summer of 2006. Redesigned and expanded to eight pages, The Spirit will be mailed to a circulation of about 1,000 readers in the agency’s six county operating area.

The Summer / Fall 2007 resurrected issue of the newsletter features news about Unity House’s fundraising efforts, implementation of a Results Only Work Environment (ROWE) at its Geneva, NY-based Unity Employment Services office, agency employee and consumer community activities, and the growth of quality assurance at Unity House. The Summer / Fall 2007 issue also profiles a grateful G.R.A.C.E. House consumer who knows volunteering in the community is directly related to the resilient recovery he is experiencing.

In addition to printing and mailing The Spirit, Unity House will make each edition of the newsletter available online, on the News / Press page of Unity House’s website (to access the just-printed Summer / Fall 2007 issue, simply click on the link Unity House Newsletter The Spirit in the left-hand margin of this page). The agency also will post to the same page of the website and make universally accessible the DVD Williams already referred to, upon its production.

Williams said Unity House will try to include news and developments about the agency’s four primary services / programs and their employees – MRDD, mental health, alcohol and chemical dependency, and employment – as well as information about Unity House’s support services and people, in each edition of The Spirit. She added that the full color publication would not repeat news and developments the agency provides via its website, information packet, and upcoming DVD.

“With The *Spirit* being produced and mailed again, we now have a fourth venue for our communities to use to learn about Unity House and understand fully the scope of our services and programs, and our commitment to empowering the lives of our consumers and their families and securing their futures,” she said.

Jacobs Press of Auburn, NY consults on the design and layout of each edition of The *Spirit* and also oversees its production and mailing.