

**Unity House of Troy**  
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[www.unityhouseny.org](http://www.unityhouseny.org)

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# INSIDE

## unity house

*Making Life Better*



### Burke's Blog

Since our early days, Unity House's programs and services have evolved by responding to the needs in the community. Today we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people living in poverty, adults with mental illness, victims of domestic violence, people living with HIV/AIDS, and children with developmental delays. It is the children I want to focus on in this newsletter.

In 1971 the founders of Unity House met many parents who struggled not just with household poverty but with the needs of their children. There were few options for safe, affordable childcare. The families of children with developmental delays faced additional barriers to getting their children the services they needed. Studies had shown that early testing and treatment are crucial in treating developmental issues.

So began the *Unity Sunshine Program*, which offered childcare, education, and therapies for children with developmental delays. Many of these services simply did not exist elsewhere. Today, the program serves children ages six weeks to five years of age and offers services in the home, community and in Unity House child care centers. Along with offering multiple services to children with developmental delays, the program also serves children who are developing typically and works in partnership with the Troy and Albany school districts to offer Pre-Kindergarten in the community.

Safe and affordable daycare is the key to employment. Accessible childcare is crucial for those who are seeking and need to maintain employment. In this way, childcare programs and services offer not just childcare, but a path to greater self-sufficiency and financial independence.

We recently changed the name of the program to **A Child's Place at Unity House**. The new name puts the focus on the amazing children our teachers and therapists work with. But it's still about learning through developmentally appropriate activities.



The program has been a great help to parents seeking quality childcare and early education, especially those with children who have special needs. **A Child's Place** has grown to three child care centers: downtown Troy, south Troy and downtown Albany. In addition, there are partnerships with satellite locations. In this way, we can meet parents and their children where they are.

Last month the South Troy location was able to install an indoor rock climbing wall, which is particularly useful for children working on developing their motor skills. Plus, it's just plain fun.

I invite you to learn more about A Child's Place at their new website: [achildsplace.unityhouseny.org](http://achildsplace.unityhouseny.org). Consider how you might get involved and help make a difference in the life of a child. At this time of year especially, there are many children and families who are in need. I hope you will take the opportunity to learn more.

With gratitude,

Chris Burke  
Chief Executive Officer

### Looking for an easy way to help?

Children's programming is in need of diapers (any size except newborn)

Children's Holiday Program needs elves to shop for specific needs and wants

Do you shop online? Check out the Unity House Wish List on Amazon. Don't forget to shop via AmazonSmile to support Unity House!

**CORE VALUES** With passion and integrity, Unity House embraces the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights. We work together to open doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need.



**Friday, February 9, 2018  
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy**

We are thrilled to honor the Prout & Robison Families, KeyBank, and the Honorable Kathleen Jimino for their service to the community. Join us! For more information: [events@unityhousesny.org](mailto:events@unityhousesny.org) or call (518) 274-2607 x4139

## Summer Camp

Special thanks to the Robison Family Foundation for a fantastic time at the Unity House Traveling Summer Camp. We couldn't have done it without you!



## SEFCU Carnival for Children a Great Time

It was a great day on October 5th when SEFCU volunteers helped out at the SEFCU Carnival at A Child's Place. Families enjoyed ponies, clowns, music, and bounce castles on a gorgeous fall day. Thank You, SEFCU!



## October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Unity House staff and volunteers were busy all month with outreach and awareness efforts that spanned Rensselaer County. On October 19th the Domestic Violence Services Program hosted "Through our Eyes," an art exhibit highlighting the work and poetry of survivors of domestic violence. The group was proud to honor Barbara Devore of the Independent Living Center with the *Coordinated Community Response Award* and Hair and Body Essentials with the *Volunteer Leadership Award*. Many thanks to our honorees and all the community collaborators who help address this issue and raise awareness of the needs of victims of domestic violence.



## Thanksgiving Baskets Address Food Insecurity

There's still time to pitch in to help **Working Together** at Thanksgiving, the joint effort by Unity House, CEO and Capital Roots to help families with Thanksgiving food packages. Eligible households will receive pantry goods, fresh produce, and a voucher for turkey/main dish of choice. **Contact us about hosting a food drive for needed pantry goods, or make a donation in support of Working Together.**

**ANNUAL REPORT NOW  
AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

Visit [www.unityhousesny.org](http://www.unityhousesny.org) to view our Annual Report and list of donors. Want a paper copy? We'll drop one in the mail. Contact Diane Cameron Pascone at (518) 274-2607 x4133 or [info@UnityHouseNY.org](mailto:info@UnityHouseNY.org).

## November marks Hunger & Homelessness Awareness month

Unity House's Supportive Housing programs serve adults with mental illness, people living with HIV/AIDS, chronic medical conditions, and/or chemical dependency. Unity House staff work closely with area agencies to provide needed services without duplication. Working together ensures efficient delivery of services while offering varied service points for people in need.



A warm welcome and thank you to the newest members of the Unity House

Board of Directors:

**Paul Arlein**

**Michael DiAcetis**

**Ryan Mullahy**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Christ Sun of Justice



**CHAPEL + CULTURAL CENTER**

UNIVERSITY PARISH OF CHRIST SUN OF JUSTICE

RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

Christ Sun of Justice has been a steadfast source of support and volunteers. We are grateful for their fellowship and for all they do in the community and beyond.

### Bank of America

Bank of America hosted a Diaper Drive for the Unity House Food Pantry. Did you know that diapers are one of the most requested items in the Unity House food pantry?

If you or your group are interested in volunteering, contact our Volunteer Desk at (518) 274-2607 x4135 or [Volunteer@UnityHouseNY.org](mailto:Volunteer@UnityHouseNY.org)



## Children's Holiday Program: an enormous undertaking involving lots of elves!

### Can you help? It's easy!

- Conduct a toy drive
- Shop for individual children, from their wish list of wants & needs
- Donate gift cards or make a donation

*Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, and families who are already committed to putting the sparkle in the holidays for a child in need.*



## Be the Change You Wish to See in the World

We're planning ahead to **May 2018** when we'll honor one of Unity House's founders, the late Mary Jane Smith, through a week of service to others.

## #GivingTuesday



November 28th, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a day dedicated to giving.

Get involved by signing up to volunteer, make a gift, or help raise awareness about important issues.

Thanks for helping to make a difference!





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## Food Insecurity Fact:

**Did you know that 1 in 6 children do not know where their next meal is coming from?** Programs like Unity House's food pantry and community meal are vital. Consider how you can help Unity House's efforts to ensure that all children have access to healthy meals. For more information, contact Diane Cameron Pascone at (518) 274-2607 x4133.



## Chop Club

Can you or your small group help out in our kitchen? We are looking for small groups to help with meal preparation. Contact us for more details: (518) 274-2607 x4135 or [volunteer@unityhouseny.org](mailto:volunteer@unityhouseny.org)

## Personal Care items needed

- shampoo
- soap
- laundry detergent
- toilet paper
- feminine hygiene products



## Make the Gift of Your Lifetime

By including a bequest to Unity House in your will, you are ensuring that we continue to help people in need for years to come. One sentence designating Unity House is all that is needed. That bequest gift entitles your estate to a federal estate tax charitable deduction.

Next steps:

1. Contact Diane Cameron Pascone (518) 274-2607 x4133 for additional information on bequests, or gifts of life insurance, etc.
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.
3. If you include Unity House in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID number:

Unity House of Troy, Inc.  
Federal Tax ID#: 23-2378930