

# unity house

Making Life Better

# CONNECTIONS

## Join us at our Fall Fundraiser Breakfast!

November 9th at  
The Desmond, 9-11am.

For ticket information and  
sponsorship opportunities,  
call (518) 274-2607 x4139



## Can you help? It's easy!

- Conduct a toy drive
- Shop for children, using their Wish List of wants and needs
- Make a donation or give gift cards to this program

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

## 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.

## A Word from the CEO



**I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received since stepping into the role of Chief Executive Officer in August.**

From the smiling faces of children at A Child's Place to conversations with guests joining us for our free lunch, I can see the impact that Unity House makes for people in need, a difference you help make possible.

Many of you who receive this newsletter are long-standing supporters, volunteers, and advocates for social justice. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to making life better. I want you to know how much I respect the legacy of our Unity House founders. I am committed to following their example of service, as I have seen in action from Unity House staff.

At the heart of what we do at Unity House is connection. Connecting families to food, victims of abuse to safety, children to services, and adults to housing, healthcare, jobs, clothing, and more. Now, more than ever, human services are needed. The support of our community is vital to this work.

Looking ahead, we are focused on staying true to our mission of helping people in need. We help people identify their strengths and needs, draw upon their abilities and access community resources. Demand for our help has only increased, as we have seen across the board this past summer due to rising costs in food, fuel, and housing. For the people we serve, often termed 'the working poor' and living paycheck to paycheck, even a modest increase in costs can be a serious problem. Human services like ours are a lifeline.

I am humbled to be a part of Unity House and to lead an amazing team of professionals engaged in valuable work. If you haven't already, please come to Unity House to see this work in person. I look forward to meeting you and, together, making a difference.

With gratitude,

*Dave*

David L. Bach, Chief Executive Officer



"Dave is an early riser, roll-up-his-sleeves kind of person. No matter how early I get to the office, he's often beat me there."

SAM SHIPHERD

"Dave seems to have a head for numbers. Given our many programs and services, some with complex funding streams, Dave understands the balance of needs, especially for program sustainability."

MIKE MALONEY

"It was clear that Dave would bring an important background and experience with him, but what has become even more clear is how effective it would be and how quickly. Staff and children respond well to his genuine approach also!"

SUSAN RIMKUNAS

"He takes the stairs, is a family guy, an avid reader, and a great youth coach."

DIANE CAMERON

"Dave is a leader, not afraid to jump right in and get his feet wet. He has some innovative ideas for the future of Unity House and is respectful of the mission and carrying that forward. It is a pleasure to get to know him and work with him in my final months at Unity House."

LINDA LEWIS



## Get to Know Dave!

We asked Unity House staff about Unity House's new CEO, only the third in our history.

## Help is always available

Stay up to date on happenings by following us online, where you can learn about the new site for our Domestic Violence Services program. Special thanks to The Robison Family Foundation for their generous support for a new playground at this site.



**Domestic Violence TEXT HOTLINE**  
*We are here for you 24 hours a day 7 days a week!*  
 Text us or visit us on the web:  
**TEXT 518-720-6161**  
**CALL 518-722-2370**  
 or  
**rc.chat/uhdvs**

## Outreach & Partnerships

Our Supportive Housing program serves adults with mental illness, people living with HIV/AIDS, 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 service while offering varied service points for people in need.

# FALL HAPPENINGS

## October marks Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month

You'll see lots of purple, the color to raise awareness. Look for Unity House staff in the community more, since a collaborative community response is how best to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence. Many thanks to our community partners who are key to this work. Join Us at our **Community Awareness & Prevention Block Party on Saturday, October 8th**. Visit us online for details.



## November marks Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month

Can you help by conducting a food drive among your social circle? Shelf stable goods, toiletries, new underwear (for men and women) are always needed and appreciated.

## November 9th

Help Unity House Make Lives Better: Meet New CEO David L. Bach. Contact Mandy Brown at (518) 274-2607 x4139 or [Events@UnityHouseny.org](mailto:Events@UnityHouseny.org) for more information.

## Easy Ways to Help

**AmazonSmile:** when you shop at AmazonSmile, your designated charity receives a portion of eligible purchases.

**Diapers:** needed for food pantry, daycare, shelter, and more. Ideally in any size except newborn.

**Recurring donations:** set up a monthly or quarterly gift on our website. Designate to your favorite Unity House program and dedicate your donation to someone special.



## Director Profile

**Susan Shipherd came to know Unity House through her friendship with the late Mary Jane Smith and John Lyons.** Susan believed in the social justice work the pair were engaged in. Susan and her husband Jim supported Unity House and other causes by attending events, volunteering, and asking others to support the mission of Unity House, through sponsorships or donations. Retirement gave Susan more time to volunteer and she joined the board of directors. Serving on a board for a non-profit can be time-consuming yet Susan found time to also volunteer at A Child's Place at Unity House.

Originally called Unity Sunshine, 'where children of all abilities grow and learn together,' A Child's Place serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age. More than child care, the program provides early intervention services for children with developmental delays, special education preschool, and community-based UPK. On site, Susan saw how valuable these services were to the children who received them and to the families who relied on the care and expertise found at A Child's Place.

### Pandemic Disruption

The pandemic sidelined Susan from volunteering in person. It also brought to

## Rising Food Insecurity makes Thanksgiving Food Baskets essential

The joint effort by Unity House, CEO, and Capital Roots to provide Thanksgiving Food Packages will help hundreds of families in need. By working together, we reduce duplication of effort and streamline enrollment and distribution. Each package has all the fixings for a Thanksgiving feast, including fresh, local produce from Capital Roots. If you'd like to support this work, please consider a donation to our food programs, or host a food drive for non-perishable pantry staples.

light the serious problems in the child care sector, historically underfunded. Providers of child care operate on thin margins, direct care earning less than minimum wage. There are too few providers, especially for working families living in a child care desert. Child care is labor-intensive and too expensive. With the disruption caused by the pandemic, some parents were unable to return to work, for lack of care. Families and workers need transportation solutions to even get to child care.

This bleak picture galvanized Susan, who joined Unity House's Advocacy Committee, advocating for support of the child care sector. As she sees it, "Child care is essential and should be seen as part of our infrastructure. Just like public transportation helps people get to work, child care helps parents get to work. Childcare needs to be available and affordable."

New York State is making some changes. Eligibility thresholds for assistance with child care are expanding, with a campaign to promote awareness to families. More needs to be done, for the providers, working parents, the childcare workforce, and children.

Susan knows this better than anyone since she was once a child care provider. In the 1960s, with small children of her own, she started watching children in her home and was a licensed child care provider. It was not easy work. When Susan's children became of school-age she moved to the Capital Region and worked outside the home. Like parents everywhere, she cobbled together solutions for child care. It shouldn't be so difficult. Susan has seen first hand how we all benefit when families have child care and parents can fully engage in the workforce.



We have openings for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at our Troy and Albany sites. Call (518) 271-6777.

## Personal Care items needed for our shelter

Shampoo/conditioner, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products. With toiletries, please be mindful that there are many skin and hair types.

## Advocates in Action

### A Warm Welcome to our newest Board Members

Alexander Courtney, Jr.  
Michael DiAcetis  
David Ellis  
Carlo Fusco  
Kathleen (Kate) Koval  
Paul Levine  
Kate Manley  
Erika Martin, Ph.D.  
Noreen McKee  
Beth Mothersbaugh  
Marsha Ras  
Michael J. Roche  
Susan Shipherd  
Karen B. Simons  
James A. Slavin, M.D.  
Tara Toomajian  
Natélegé Turner-Hassell\*  
Gerald Washington  
Rev. Cynthia Van Alstyne\*  
Jean Watts  
Gwen Wright\*  
Jennifer C. Zegarelli, Esq.

\* New member





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(518) 274-2607

[info@unityhouseny.org](mailto:info@unityhouseny.org)

[www.unityhouseny.org](http://www.unityhouseny.org)



## The Gift of a 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** Reach out to Diane Cameron (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

## Interested in volunteering your time for a good cause?

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



## See our website for a complete list of job openings.

SCAN CODE  
WITH PHONE



**WE'RE  
HIRING**