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April 15, 2014

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UNITY HOUSE ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER AWARDEE

Bruce Sherman selected for 4th Fred Atkins Community Service Award



Auburn, New York – The Fred Atkins Community Service Award selection committee is pleased to announce that Mr. Bruce Sherman of Auburn has been chosen as its 4th annual awardee. Mr. Sherman, an outstanding community volunteer at a number of organizations in Cayuga County, will be honored at Unity House's annual dinner on April 28 at the Springside Inn. There, he will receive a \$500 cash prize - \$250 for him and \$250 to be given to a Cayuga County non-profit of his choice. Bruce has chosen Matthew House as this year's recipient.

Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. introduced the community-wide fund and award in 2011 in memory of beloved Cayuga County volunteer and 30-year Unity House board member Frederick Atkins. The Atkins Award recognizes an outstanding individual who volunteers in Cayuga County and who exemplifies Fred's high moral standards and philanthropic spirit.

This year's awardee Bruce Sherman is an Auburn native. He graduated from Auburn High School and received a bachelor's degree in political science from SUNY Buffalo. While on campus, he was active in several student organizations. Bruce grew up next door to Fred Atkins, and remembers Fred as "a jovial and kind neighbor who was always willing to lend a hand in the neighborhood."

Volunteer service has long been a part of Bruce's life. He currently sits on the boards of Evergreen Heights and the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, and is the president of the Cayuga Museum board of trustees. He served as treasurer of the Knights of Columbus #207 Home Corporation, and has worked on numerous projects and events for the Knights and the Cayuga County Republicans. Bruce previously served on the boards of Tyburn Academy, IGNITE, and the St. Mary's Church Council. Bruce is also a civil service commissioner, appointed by the Cayuga County legislature.

"I have always enjoyed being involved with my community, whether it's my hometown, my university, my church, or local nonprofits," says Bruce. "I truly believe that the organizations

that I work with are enhancing the quality of life of the community in which we live. And at the end of the day, I believe quality of life is what will attract more economic development opportunities and subsequently residents to our beautiful region."

Bruce has just accepted a new position with the Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA) in Auburn, where he will be an economic development specialist, concentrating on business development, retention and expansion in our region. He was most recently an account executive for Tompkins Insurance Agencies for four years. Bruce has also worked in the public sector, both for the City of Auburn and on the staff of Assemblyman Gary Finch.

Bruce enjoys a healthy lifestyle, cross-fit training at Swagler Strength & Performance in Auburn, playing golf, and running in the annual Boilermaker race in Utica. He is engaged to Cammy Cook; the two will be married in September.

Mr. Sherman will be honored at Unity House's annual dinner on Monday, April 28 at the Springside Inn, 6141 West Lake Road, Auburn. The public is invited to attend; the evening will begin at 5:30 pm. Nicole Spear of SANYS will be the keynote speaker. Cost is \$35 per person. RSVP by April 18 to 315-253-6227 or email: annualdinner@unityhouse.com.

Donations to the Atkins Fund are gratefully accepted at any time. Corporate sponsor for the dinner is Key Bank. Table sponsors are Owasco Beverage, Welch Allyn, Johnston Paper, MEDENT, and Cuddy Law Firm.

For more information about the Fred Atkins Community Service Fund and Award or Unity House's annual dinner, please contact Director of Marketing and Development Kelly Buck at 315.253.6227 or kdbuck@unityhouse.com, and visit www.unityhouse.com/fredatkinsaward.

Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. provides transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services for individuals with mental health illnesses, developmental disabilities, and/or chemical dependencies from which they are recovering. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Unity House partners with these individuals to develop their personal skills and potential, enabling them to live more full and independent lives. The agency serves more than 700 consumers a day in six central New York counties. Unity House is committed to freeing our communities of misconceptions associated with disabilities through innovation, education, and advocacy. The agency celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2012.

Unity House ~ Empowering Lives, Securing Futures