



UNITY ACRES
P.O. BOX 153
ORWELL, NEW YORK 13426
TEL: 315 298-6215
FAX: 315 298-5356

November 16, 2006

The fund raising sub-committee of the Unity Acres Support Group wishes to thank all of you out there for your generous contributions of time, money, food, flowers, desserts, "sweat equity," set up, and serving. Each item mentioned has been vital to the success of our most recent fund raising efforts. The Paint Out over the summer, a non attendance affair, raised funds to paint the buildings. The Fall Festival, raised money toward the wood burning furnace to be installed as a fuel economy. This Festival was held at St. Ann's in Manlius as a way to foster sociability among supporters and the men and staff of the Acres. St. Ann's parishioners were very involved, and we signed up a few new members for the Support Group. This parish was chosen as a way to broaden our outreach to attract younger supporters. Our gratitude, love and prayers go out to all of you. It is a joy to be involved in this activity. We hope that our readers will join us as we plan the next event to be held in early May 2007. Details are not finalized as yet so watch this newsletter as Spring approaches. It will be planned in the spirit of Fr. Ray and Kate. If you are interested in helping plan and carry out these activities, please contact us through Steve, Peg, or Laura at the Acres.

Pat Waelder

Pat Waelder's letter of thanks to all who shared in some way in the fund-raising events of this past year makes reference to planned installation of a wood burning furnace. This furnace, actually an outdoor wood boiler, arrived on the grounds of Unity Acres on Monday of this week. It is situated in the vicinity of the 'Star' Building which houses the Dining Hall, Kitchen, and Recreation Room of Unity Acres. Currently, this building is heated by burning fuel oil, and we have a quite large electric hot-water heater in place. When installation of the boiler is completed, we will be able to heat the Star Building, and make hot water for the Kitchen as well, by burning wood.

During an average year we consume approximately 25,000 gallons of fuel oil to heat all the buildings at Unity Acres. Most of the cost for heating our buildings occurs December through March. During each of the last three years, we have burnt between 2100 and 2800 gallons of fuel oil to heat the Star Building alone. Our electrical usage for making hot water in the Star Building runs to as high as 10,000 kWh per month.

By switching to our new wood-fired boiler, we hope to realize some significant savings.

And in the meantime, a space has been cleared in the hay-barn as a dry area for storing and seasoning wood. There has been an encouraging enthusiasm on the part of several of men for undertaking the project of gathering firewood from our forest-land. There are 'blow-downs' in the woods, as well as tops of trees, left over from the loggers who harvested part of the woods here several years ago. From these sources we hope to be able to collect the 30 or so face-cords of wood we anticipate burning during the next several months.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER – NOVEMBER 2006

How shall I make a return to the
Lord for all the good He has done for me? The cup of salvation
I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord – To you
will I offer sacrifice of Thanksgiving –Psalm 116:12-13,18

Indeed, how shall we thank You, God, for all the good
You have done for us? You have given us a beautiful world, too
often marred by our abuse, neglect and violence. You have created
us in Your image, too often shattered by our sins. But You are
always ready to forgive and restore us. You have loved us so
much that You "gave Your only begotten Son
so that we may have eternal life" –John 3:16

Each year at this time our nation pauses for a
special day to give thanks for Your many gifts to us – our
freedom, our abundance, the beauty of Your creation in our land.
We acknowledge, Lord, that too often, like the ten lepers
You healed, "only one returns to give You thanks"
–Luke 17:11-19 – Mass on Thanksgiving Day

May we make every day a day of thanks. May we express
our gratitude with our prayerful worship, and by sharing our
gifts with others, especially those in need. Amen.
"The earth has yielded its fruits; God our God,
has blessed us." – Psalm 67:8

"And now, bless the God of all, Who has done wondrous
things on earth. May God grant you joy of heart, and may
peace abide among you."
–Sirach 50:22-23 – Mass on Thanksgiving Day