



UNITY ACRES
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August 1, 2007

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Not so long ago, I had received a phone call from person looking for further information about Unity Acres. The caller mentioned he had heard of Unity Acres by the means of our website. Strange, since we did not yet have a website, although one had been proposed, and is now under construction. Still I was curious, and 'googled' Unity Acres. I found the following article posted on a web log belonging to a daughter of one of our residents. I found it very moving.

The writer is Mary S; her father is Doug. Doug and Mary have kindly allowed us to reprint part of Mary's internet posting .

my father lives on a farm in upstate NY close to Canada. it is a type of residential compound. the main building was originally a TB hospital-spooky. there is a main house in the front of the property and several other smaller buildings surrounding. there is a large building that is the cafeteria/kitchen/rec room. my dad runs the kitchen. he first arrived at Unity Acres approx. 8yrs ago. after being in and out of shelters in the downtown Syracuse area hitting rock bottom once again, he found Unity Acres. it is run by Christians and the surrounding communities. the men adhere by strict rules and must work at the farm. there is much to do: farming, gardening, tending to the animals, cooking, cleaning, carpentry, organizing AA meetings and so forth.

my father lives in a room in the main house and runs the kitchen-which he truly adores. For the past two years in August, my brother and sister and I have visited him with C. last year Dad was able to meet J while she was preg with L then to boot, he was able to take the bus here and spend three days with us for thanksgiving. it was the greatest thanksgiving I ever had. the figs were here and all!!! R gave him a ride home so he didn't have to take the bus. I have been craving the acres a lot.

I can see how people can recover there-it is so beautiful-remote from the real world. a new Amish community has moved down the road from my dad. I am ecstatic to visit them this year. last year I traveled about 25mi outside the acres to find them and meet them.

my dad lost his wife, his family and his business, all his friends from his abuse with drugs and alcohol. he lost more than words can describe. he held on. he is ok now-I have learned to forgive as my mother taught me. it is difficult to fathom how one can give up love and life for chemicals. but sadly, it is done everyday. families are discarded like trash for one's submission to drugs.

Mary S

Prayer: August 2007
Hospitality: All are Welcome!

(Abraham said) "Please do not pass by my home without stopping.
I am here to serve you." – Gen, 18:3

"Whoever shares with others should do so generously... Whoever shows kindness to
others should do it cheerfully." – Rom 12: 8

"Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest." – Mt 11:28

Gracious God, we thank You for Your welcome to us, given to us so
often through the kind hospitality of people. By your grace, Unity Acres is a
place of hospitality, welcome and sharing. Through the generous gifts of many,
and the sharing of work by our men, we have a home, a shelter, a roof over our
heads. All are welcome to share our many blessings.

May all of us be inspired by the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah
to strangers. ("The Lord appeared to Abraham..." Gen. 18:1)

Holy Spirit, breathe upon us. Move us to show kindness cheerfully. – Rom 12:8

O welcoming Jesus, we thank You for Your hospitality to us. May
we respond to Your loving invitation: "Come to me, all who are weary." –Mt. 11:28

Father Bob Jones