



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

November 2005

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

During the past several years, many of our supporters and benefactors and members of our Board of Directors have formed a Fundraiser committee to organize events such as last month's Pasta Dinner fundraiser at Saint Andrew's parish hall. The purpose of these events has been to help us obtain the means necessary for enhancing the safety, comfort and efficiency of our facilities.

We have made use of the funds raised by such events during the past several years to make definite progress toward the implementation of a long-range plan for maintenance and improvement of our facilities at Unity Acres: namely, drilling of a second well to provide a redundant source of drinking water, as recommended by the Oswego County Health Department; having new roof put on the Annex Building; construction of a barn to shelter our herd of cattle during the winter months; purchase of several items of kitchen equipment, including a commercial refrigerator and a new hot water heater; reconfiguring our fuel oil storage facilities to minimize risk of ground water contamination. Additionally, we have been able to purchase three used vehicles: a van for use in receiving donations of food items and other donated goods throughout Onondaga and Oswego counties; a second van for use in hauling trash

and for our farm work; and a truck which we use as a snow plow during the winter months.

Earlier this year we completed renovations to the dormitory where our men first reside upon admission to Unity Acres. A persistently leaky roof drain in B Building has just been repaired, and the roof of the old canteen, which now houses the men's coffee room was replaced. Additionally, a new heating system was installed in the canteen only a few days ago. The ramp which serves as the front entrance to the B Building is undergoing major renovations at present. We hope to have a new, more energy efficient, hot water heater installed in B Building within the next few weeks as well.

Indeed, there is always something of a scramble around this time of the year, as we try to batten down the hatches, patching and tarring any last minute leaks, preparing the plow truck and the snow blowers for the first inevitable snowstorm, tilling under the gardens, and so on, and so on. Putting aside some money for fuel oil, too, is always a big concern and priority.

However, we are anticipating significant increases this year in our expenditures for heating, electricity, propane and gasoline. Our fundraiser for 2005 was organized, in large measure, to help defray our increased costs.

1) Fuel oil: During an average year we consume approximately 25,000 gallons of fuel oil. We also use fuel oil to heat domestic hot water in three of our buildings through-out the year. Most of the cost for heating our buildings occurs December through March.

2) Electricity: We use between 15,000 and 25,000 kWh of electricity each month, and are currently on a budget plan with National Grid whereby we pay \$3200 per month. In 2001 our monthly bills for electricity were between \$2200 and \$2900.

3) Propane: Our kitchen is run on propane, as are the dryers in our laundry room. During 2005 we budgeted \$5000 for propane during the course of the year. We will be budgeting at least \$7000 for 2006 due to increases in the price of propane

4) Gasoline: The budget in 2005 for gasoline was set at \$9,000. Gasoline prices, too, have increased in recent weeks.

Residents, staff and board members have consulted to find ways to economize. We have taken steps to mitigate the rise in our expenditures for electricity, heating oil, gas, and propane. We are trying to become more energy- and efficiency-conscious than we have been in the past.

We always think twice now before sending someone on an errand to town -- gasoline has become so expensive, perhaps the errand can wait until there are two or three errands that can be done together.

We have been forced to request that the men limit the number of electrical appliances in their rooms, and we have had to ban certain types of appliances, such as hot plates and space heaters, entirely.

We have also, reluctantly, decided to vacate one of the buildings --the Brick Building-- during the winter months so we will have one less building to heat and light.

Steve Dickhout

NIGHT WATCH

“Watchman, how goes the night? The night is ending the day is dawning We return to serve the Lord. The morning comes, the night follows soon. Let us walk as children of the light.”

(Lucien Deiss taken from Isaiah 21: 13)

A longtime duty on the part of the men has been that of Night Watch. Presently there are three men who faithfully walk through all the buildings, each floor, making sure that there are no emergencies; checking on the older men, guarding against fire, checking for smoke; making sure no one is hurt or sick, or wandering around.

Each man works two nights and is then off four nights. Their duty begins at 11 pm and they finish at 5 am. Their round or walk-through of the buildings is every hour. This includes three floors of "A" Building, three floors of "B" Building, plus the basement dorm, the first floors of the Annex and Infirmary and the 2nd floor of the Infirmary. When the Brick is open, they check that dorm also.

They also check doors making sure that all are locked, i.e., the offices, phone room, clothing room, library, kitchen, etc. Weather permitting a complete walk around outside the buildings is done. Also they watch for any strangers or strange vehicles that may possibly come on the grounds and also keep an eye on the cows.

These men get together, have chats together, have a working agreement among themselves. We are all able to sleep better, feeling secure, knowing that our Watch is on their toes. Thank-you Will, Keith, Bob and Roger!

Peg McCarthy

With winter just around the corner we can be sure that we will see another of God's great seasons. Snow and cold are a fact of life here in CNY. With this thought in mind I want to tell all of our friends how we are preparing for this winter. Rob Fredericks and John Coyne have given our plow truck the once over and repaired the hydraulic system and given it a new protective paint job. Sparky has done all the welding on the plow blade and the steel connections. Steve D. is changing light fixtures in the kitchen and dining hall to newer, more efficient models, he is also moving thermostats to more efficient locations in an attempt to save on heating costs. We are also wrapping the water heaters with insulating blankets and turning down the temperatures. Mark Coon has been hard at work making and installing removable and storable plastic storms for the windows. Mark Baker and myself have been weather stripping and sealing doors for the winter. Mark and Dave Voorhees have sealed the roofs on the B bldg to ensure no leaks this winter.

All these things are given to us to do as stewards of the Lord's house. As you know Unity Acres is in its 36th year and it is only through the grace of God and our most generous benefactors that we are able to do God's will. We ask God to continue to pour down blessings on us. We also thank and continue to ask everyone to help us any way possible to do the Lord's work by helping the men that come here to Unity Acres looking for a place to fit in.

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”
1 Cor.9:24,25

Sincerely in Christ,
Bill Bogart

Thursday the 28th of October was Unity Acres' yearly fund raising dinner at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Syracuse. I was blessed to have the chance to attend for a second year. It was a good time for all. Carol Berrigan greeted our assembled guests and Mark Capone emceed the event. John Lusby, a staff member and cook at Unity Acres, gave a testimony; it was an outstanding job. All were blessed by it. There was a short slide show of the Acres and Jerry Berrigan had some really good jokes. The food prepared by Nick Orth, as always was outstanding. I want to take time to thank all those who planned this event, Elaine Crough, Sister Pat Bergen, Carol Berrigan, Meme Woolever, Kathleen Rumpf and Mary Maples.

Father Jones was there and gave the blessing and some men from the Acres were in attendance. We at Unity Acres are thankful for all those who support us and pray for us; the labor of love that makes the Acres the place of hope and rest that it is. The Holy Spirit was just everywhere that night, and the goodness and love of Christ was in every heart.

I am blessed not only to be part of this ministry but more so blessed to have such good brothers and sisters in Christ. Like all of the men, I would not have the chance to heal and rebuild my life if it were not for you.

I pray that God will continue to bless you, as you bless us, and that the light of His love will shine brightly on you each day of your life,

Your brother in Christ,
Robert



Please pray for the repose of the soul of BELA NYIRI, who died at Oswego Hospital, Tuesday afternoon, November 8, at 4:17 pm. Bela had been taken to hospital by ambulance about three weeks ago, due to complications of acute leukemia, and was cared for these last weeks in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Bela was born in Romania, though into a Hungarian family. He undoubtedly had many difficulties surviving in Eastern Europe during World War II, the Soviet occupation of Hungary, and the failed revolution in Hungary in '56. He came to America subsequently, alone, to the best of my knowledge; eventually making his way to Syracuse, and finally to Unity Acres in 1991. He has been with us ever since that time. Bela worked for most of these last 14 years as part of Unity Acres' landscaping crew, and once he started receiving social security, he purchased for himself a Husqvarna riding lawn-mower in order to carry out his calling here at the Acres. Bela established for himself the role of Unity Acres' master garlic, pepper and broccoli gardener. When his peppers would come in, he would also take over the kitchen for a day in order to prepare for the men a meal of genuine Hungarian stuffed peppers, taking care as well to purchase whatever meats and spices that would be necessary for proper preparation of the meal. He was trying to look out for his brothers. Bela truly found a home here at Unity Acres, but now he desires a better, that is to say, a heavenly country, (Hebrews 11, 6), let us pray that he may attain that better country, that eternal objective.

November Prayer

(Note: November is dedicated to the souls of all the departed. We at Unity Acres conclude the 10th Anniversary Year of the deaths of Father Ray McVey and Kate Stanton. We believe that our founders are even now in the 'vast multitude (who) have washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb.' Rev 7,14 Feast of All Saints.)

"The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them"--Wisdom 3,1

(Mass of All Souls' Day)

God of all life, you have given us the gift of life on earth for a while. But You give us hope in eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We at Unity Acres commend our loved ones to You. We pray for all who have been a part of our history.

For those at rest up on the hill, our Saint Martin de Porres Cemetery. For the many men who through the years have found a home here; may they rejoice in their eternal home. For the many generous souls who have served in so many ways in the life of the Acres. For all who have given so generously, of time, of talent and treasure, of themselves. For those who have given prayerful support. May all of those saints rest in Your peace.

May they hear the words of the King: "Come you blessed of my Father: inherit the Kingdom... for I was a stranger and you welcomed me...."

(Matthew 24, 34, 35, Feast of Christ the King)

Father Bob Jones