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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GIFFORD FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW ROUND OF ADVANS PARTICIPANTS

(Syracuse, NY) – The Gifford Foundation has announced its newest round of ADVANS participants. ADVANS, or *Advancing and Developing the Assets and Value of Nonprofits in Syracuse* is the major capacity building initiative undertaken by the Foundation late in 2007. The first round of ADVANS, or ADVANS 1, will be completed this fall, when the original nine organizations will report out on their successes as part of the three year pilot program.

ADVANS 2 is a \$140,000 one year program which follows the organizational capacity model developed by Dr. Susan Kenny Stevens as outlined in the book *Nonprofit Lifecycles: Stage-based Wisdom for Nonprofit Capacity*. The organizations will work with trained area consultants utilizing the self-assessment techniques of Dr. Stevens, and then identify their primary capacity needs. The Foundation has committed to \$25,000 grants to each to help them implement these needs, and up to \$10,000 in continued consultant assistance.

The four organizations selected for ADVANS 2 are:

Farnham Family Services, Oswego. The mission of Farnham is to reduce and eliminate the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in the Oswego

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Community through the provision of treatment services, education and intervention strategies as well as networking with appropriate community agencies and providers of addiction related services.

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Center, Fayetteville. Their mission is to preserve Matilda Joslyn Gage's legacy of social justice and to develop the Gage House as a place where the various segments of US history that were influenced by Gage and others of her time could be fully appreciated and studied.

Sage Upstate, Syracuse. The organization was founded in 1997 to provide beneficial activities and emotional support within a friendly and safe environment for older gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

Cooperative Federal (Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union) serves individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits across Syracuse through three, community-based offices on Westcott Street, North Salina Street and South Avenue. Founded in 1982, they are a unique combination of a traditional credit union and a non-profit community development organization.

"As with the previous ADVANS cohort, these are unique organizations that provide value to the Central New York community," notes executive director Kathy Goldfarb-Findling. "They are open to change and willing to embrace an intensive process that will enable them to become even stronger."

About The Gifford Foundation

The Gifford Foundation is a private foundation supporting community needs in Central New York since 1954. Through its grantmaking, they fund organizations in an intentionally transformative and flexible manner. This is based on a fundamental belief that change at the individual and/or organizational level holds the potential to institute change at broader community levels. For information visit www.giffordfd.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Dr. Stevens and the Executive Directors of the participating organizations are available for phone interviews. Please contact Heidi Holtz at 315-474-2489, hholtz@giffordfd.org, to coordinate.



**ADVANCING & DEVELOPING THE VALUE
& ASSETS OF NON-PROFITS IN SYRACUSE**

A GIFFORD FOUNDATION INITIATIVE
TO BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Susan Kenny Stevens, Ph.D.

Susan is a nationally recognized consultant and advisor to many local and national foundations. Over the past twenty-five years, she has written extensively on financial and management issues pertaining to philanthropy and the nonprofit sector including five books, several journal articles, and a variety of case studies used in university-based nonprofit management courses throughout the country. Her award winning book, *Nonprofit Lifecycles: Stage-based Wisdom for Nonprofit Capacity*, has sold more than 10,000 copies and serves as the cornerstone for many capacity-building programs across the nation.



Dr. Stevens received her Bachelors' Degree in Sociology from the University of St. Thomas, and holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Union Institute and University. Her doctoral dissertation examined the entrepreneurial behavior of nonprofit founders.

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