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MORE THAN 110 ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS NEW YORK STATE JOIN “BRING IT HOME” CAMPAIGN

*Growing Coalition of Advocates and Providers Gains Statewide Momentum,
Implores State to Adequately Fund Supportive Housing*

ALBANY, N.Y. – In less than one month since launching, more than 110 organizations from across New York State have joined the Bring It Home campaign, an effort to demand full and adequate funding for community-based supportive housing from Governor Andrew Cuomo and state lawmakers. The member organizations include both advocates and housing providers, and continue to grow steadily in numbers.

This growing coalition is urging the state to uphold its reputation as a leader in providing supportive housing and care for New Yorkers with psychiatric disabilities, and to allocate much-needed funding to the community-based mental health housing system.

“This first milestone is proof positive that the imminent need for adequate funding for the community-based mental health housing system is a statewide issue that must be resolved,” said Toni Lasicki, Executive Director of the Association for Community Living. “With decades of inconsistent and unreliable funding, facilities are becoming unable to meet their obligations to the clients they serve, plus there is a real risk of them closing housing if this is not fixed.”

“Insufficient funding means insufficient care; it’s that simple,” said Wendy Burch, Executive Director of National Alliance of Mental Illness-New York State. “When facilities don’t have the resources they need to provide care, more and more New Yorkers with psychiatric disabilities fall through the cracks, ending up homeless, in prison or worse. The state needs to live up to its obligation to care for our neighbors, and help us to address this major health crisis.”

“For those living with psychiatric disabilities, the lack of a stable home means constantly starting recovery over from square one,” said Harvey Rosenthal, Executive Director of New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. “Giving us the funding we need to provide the best possible care

means an opportunity for real recovery for our residents, and for reintegration into their families and communities."

"It's critical that nonprofit organizations providing supportive housing for our most vulnerable have adequate resources to provide both the housing and services to tenants so they can live successfully in our communities," stated Laura Mascuch, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York. "Without adequate services, they will not get the care they need and will just cycle back through much more expensive systems of care like institutions and shelters."

All of the following community housing providers and advocates have joined the Bring It Home campaign:

Acacia Network
Access: Supports for Living Inc.
AccessCNY
ACMH, Inc.
Aid to the Developmentally Disabled, Inc.
Ali Forney Center
Arbor Housing and Development
Association for Community Living, Inc.
Association for Mental Health and Wellness
Barrier Free Living Family of Companies
Beacon of Hope House: Catholic Charities Community Services
Behavioral Health Services North
Breaking Ground
CAMBA, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Brooklyn & Queens
Catholic Charities - Peer Advocacy
Catholic Charities Chemung – Schuyler
Catholic Charities of Broome County
Catholic Charities of Chenango County
Catholic Charities of Cortland County, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties, Inc.
Catholic Charities Open Door Club
Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc.
Center for Urban Community Services
Central Nassau Guidance
Central New York Services, Inc.
CLUSTER Inc.
Coalition for the Homeless
Columba Kavanagh House, Inc.
Community Access
Community Healthcare Network
Community Housing Innovations, Inc.
Community Missions of Niagara Frontier
Comunilife, Inc.
Concern for Independent Living, Inc.

Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors
Community Supportive Housing
DePaul Community Services, Inc.
East House
Equinox
Federation of Organizations
Fountain House, Inc.
Fox House
Fulton Friendship House
GEEL Community Services, Inc.
Geriatric Health Alliance
Goddard Riverside
Harlem United
Housing and Services, Inc.
Housing Options and Geriatric Association Resources, Inc. (H.O.G.A.R., Inc.)
Human Development Services of Westchester
Institute for Community Living, Inc.
Jericho Project
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
Joseph's House & Shelter, Inc.
Lakeview Health Services
Lantern Community Services
Legal Action Center
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Liberty Resources
Loeb House
Maryhaven Center of Hope - Nassau Division
Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties
Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.
Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc.
Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties
Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc.
Mental Health Association of New York City
Mental Health Association of Rockland
Mental Health Association of New York State
Mohawk Opportunities, Inc.
Mosaic Mental Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness-New York State
Neighborhood Care Team, Inc.
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter
No. Country Transitional Living Services, Inc.
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
Odyssey House
Open Door Club
Options for Community Living
Pibly Residential Programs, Inc.
Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, Inc.
Project REAL, Inc.

Project Renewal, Inc.
Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc.
Rockland Hospital Guild, Inc.
RUPCO, Inc.
Safe Harbors of the Hudson
Saint Joseph's Medical Center
Search for Change, Inc.
Services for the Underserved, Inc. (SUS)
South Shore Association for Independent Living, Inc. (SAIL)
Southern Tier Environments for Living, Inc.
Supportive Housing Network of NY
The Bridge, Inc.
The Bronx Health & Housing Consortium, Inc.
Transitional Services Association, Inc.
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.
Transitional Services, Inc.
Transitional Services, Long Island
Unique People Services, Inc.
United Helpers Care, Inc.
Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc.
Unity House of Troy
University Consultation & Treatment Center for Mental Hygiene, Inc.
Urban Justice Center
Urban Pathways, Inc.
Warren Washington Association for Mental Health, Inc.
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.
YWCA-GCR

New York has long been a prominent leader in mental health advocacy, and a proud national example of strong mental healthcare support and programming. But for decades, the above organizations – and their staff and residents alike – have suffered from the effects of inadequate funding. Although the Governor took a leadership role, once again, by promising 20,000 new units, the new units will be funded at a much higher rate than the exact same existing units. The Bring It Home campaign and its rapidly-growing membership are highlighting an opportunity for New York to once again show the nation how to address a major health crisis, promoting an approach that ensures integrated care with strong supportive housing programs.

About Bring It Home:

Bring It Home is coalition of community-based supportive housing providers, mental health advocates, patients and their families, urging New York State to adequately fund community-based housing programs for individuals with psychiatric disorders. Full recovery and community reintegration depends on stable housing opportunities. Through education and advocacy, Bring It Home is working to bring better funding for better care to New York.