



More Than 40 Years of Caring

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EAST HOUSE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AT RIT

Inspiring Independence through education for those in recovery

ROCHESTER, NY (MAY 31, 2011): East House and the Rochester Institute of Technology are once again collaborating to offer 40 individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency an opportunity to experience college life on the RIT campus. Taught by community volunteers, classes such as computer skills, advertising, chemistry, public speaking, photography, art and more are offered. This unique program, now in its fifteenth year, has yielded great success in encouraging East House clients to pursue higher education to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

After completing the Enrichment Program, many have gone back to school to obtain their GED or have enrolled in local colleges to earn a degree. This program has proven to inspire many clients to better their lives, as is often expressed during the graduation ceremony. Classes will run at RIT from June 6- 16th, with a formal graduation ceremony planned on June 16th at 4:00pm.

On Friday, May 27, a car wash was held by East House Career Services staff and clients enrolled in this year's East House Enrichment Program at RIT. Though the rain continued to fall as the temperature dropped, the teams enthusiastically washed and vacuumed long lines of vehicles. The fund raiser produced over \$425 to go toward food and transportation costs of the Enrichment Program which begins on June 6.

M & T Bank has sponsored the 2011 program with a gift of \$5,000. In addition to the time and space donated by instructors and RIT, financial support has also been received from the Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, Rochester Charitable Female Society, The Kessler Group, Eastman Kodak Company and Wegmans Food Markets. This program is funded wholly by donations.

East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency. Founded in 1966, East House provides residential, rehabilitation and support services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. East House serves more than 1,000 clients and their families each year and is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and donations. For more information, contact Anne McKenna at 256-3800, ext. 231.