

This year, Niagara County's Federal Credit Union's "Giving Tree" will benefit "Carolyn's House" (a domestic violence shelter which is a program of the YWCA of Niagara.) The house is in Niagara Falls. They ask that we contribute one gift per member. We have a list of sixteen moms with one to four children and two women without children between Lockport and Niagara Falls to give to. If we and our members choose to contribute additionally or in a cash donation in lieu of a present, they ask that we consider making a contribution to their Carolyn's House scholarship fund, which provides tuition assistance for residents who want to pursue college or a vocational program. In addition, they also welcome donations to Carolyn's House building fund to purchase items like beds or assist with the heat (YWCA provides heat to all apartments and bills estimate \$4000 a month during the height of the winter season).

### **YWCA of Niagara presents Carolyn's House**

On August 8, 2005, Carolyn's House opened its doors to homeless women and children who are in need of long-term, transitional, supportive housing. Carolyn's House is located at 542 Sixth Street, Niagara Falls, NY and is owned and operated by the YWCA of Niagara.

Since the mission of the YWCA is the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism, Carolyn's House is more than just a place to live, it's a place where women in need can start over. Eligible residents are given the help they need with access to a variety of programs that will strengthen their spirit and skills so they can work toward a life of self-sufficiency. Each resident is given the chance to develop job skills, receive one-on-one counseling, participate in parenting workshops, learn to cook nutritious meals, shop on a thrifty budget, learn how to manage their finances and have access to culinary and food service job-ready training - all while their children are cared for in a clean, well-staffed on-site day care or attend school.

Carolyn's House is not just a home for women of domestic violence. Homelessness can be caused by a number of circumstances and Carolyn's House is there to help all women who find themselves in this unfortunate situation.

The fully-renovated, four-story brick building has 19 apartments - studio, one, two or three bedroom units - complete with new stoves and refrigerators. In addition, each resident is provided with a new bed, an item many women have never before owned.

