

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2008

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Community Access Unlimited Member Lands STAR-ring Role

Marcella Truppa Joins Cast of 40 STARS Named by New Jersey Association of Community Providers

Elizabeth, NJ – Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Marcella Truppa has been named a 2008 Community STAR by the New Jersey Association of Community Providers, Inc. (NJACP). Truppa was one of 40 recipients of the 2008 Community Star Awards at the association's Ninth Annual Community Stars Dinner held in June.

Each year NJACP honors exceptional individuals with disabilities who "continue to work toward achieving personal growth and enriching their own lives," according to the association. The awards also honor NJACP member agencies who provide these individuals with human services assistance.

Truppa is a member of CAU's Supervised Apartment Program (SAP), which provides adults with disabilities the opportunity to live in the community by residing in houses, condominiums or apartments. A SAP resident since 1995, Truppa takes pride in her housecleaning and cooking skills and is active in CAU's workshops and self-advocacy programs. In addition, she has been a CAU employee since 2002 as a member of the cleaning and maintenance crew.

"I like it here," Truppa said of her involvement with CAU. "I like to help people."

Truppa's next goal is to move into CAU's Supportive Living Apartment Program, which allows for semi-independent living. She aspires to one day open a shop selling scarves and sweaters.

Ray Fantuzzi of NJACP said, "Our Stars have risen to meet the challenges that life has thrown their way, and they have done so with grace, dignity and determination. All of our Stars possess great stories of success and accomplishment. They have much of which to be proud."

Added Sidney Blanchard, CAU executive director, "Our core value and belief has always been that all people can be independent citizens participating in and contributing to the community in which they live. Marcella Truppa, with all she has accomplished and all she plans to achieve, is a living embodiment of what we work toward."

About CAU

Community Access Unlimited (CAU) supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have had little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU serves more than 3,000 individuals each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07207.

About NJACP

For more than 20 years, the mission of The New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) has been to assist member agencies as they provide quality support and services for people with developmental disabilities, and more recently brain injuries. NJACP Member Agencies provide services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and brain injuries, including but not limited to mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, head injury and communication impairments. Many individuals also have vision and/or hearing impairments, medical, physiological and physical disabilities.