

**For Immediate Release:
April 19, 2007**

**Contact: Robert Pini
(802) 442-5491
rpini@ucsvt.org**

UCS Welcomes New Board Member

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — United Counseling Service has appointed Genevieve Strohmaier, of Pownal, as a new board member.

“Genevieve Strohmaier is an advocate for people,” UCS Executive Director Ralph Provenza said. “She has extensive management skills and a desire to serve the community. She brings broad experience to assist our mission of helping people in the community improve their quality of life.”

Strohmaier is active in the rental housing industry, specializes in providing transitional housing to people with special needs, and advises organizations that deal with homelessness.

“UCS is very important to the health and welfare of our community,” Strohmaier said. “I want to make sure people get the best mental health care possible. I also want to work to eliminate the stigma against people with developmental disabilities or mental health needs. Positive mental health creates a fundamentally better quality of community life.”

Strohmaier has served on the Bennington Zoning Board, on the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women, on the Bennington Regional and Pownal Planning Commissions, and on the Vermont State Dairy Council. She is widely known for innovative management in the dairy industry.

UCS board members are leaders in the provision of comprehensive systems of care for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and emotional and behavioral disturbances. The board oversees operation of all programs at UCS, which is the sixth largest employer in Bennington County.

A private, non-profit community mental health center, UCS offers care at 15 different facilities, including two primary outpatient facilities in Bennington and Manchester. UCS serves thousands of people every year through its many programs that aim to improve lives, empower people, and build community. UCS also sponsors Head Start and Big Brothers Big Sisters programs in Bennington County and employs more than 300 people.

-End-