

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS NAMES DAMON ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALBANY, NY (October 14, 2010) — The board of directors of Community Caregivers today announced that Executive Director Diane Cameron will step down from her post effective Friday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cameron, who headed up the Guilderland-based non-profit for the past five years, will be replaced by Acting Executive Director Christine C. Damon, who is currently also serving as the organization's program director. Meantime, the board is launching a search for a new executive director.

"Our board, management and staff are enormously grateful to Diane for the dedication and unwavering commitment to this organization," said Community Caregivers Board President Christopher Cassidy. "Since taking over the reins she and her staff have done a tremendous job supporting the needs of our clients in the numerous communities that we serve and further strengthening Caregivers' reputation in the Capital Region. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best in her future career."

During her tenure, Cameron is credited with launching an array of new programs, including Writing for Caregivers, Salsa Dancing, The Sandwich Generation, and When an Employee is a Caregiver. She also initiated respite care by volunteers for caregivers and clients dealing with dementia and Alzheimers's disease, including an Alzheimer's monthly support group that meets at Community Caregivers' office. In addition, Cameron developed an annual appeal to boost fund raising, boosted grant income, and forged stronger working partnerships with the Albany County Office for the Aging, and New York State Office for the Aging.

Damon comes to Community Caregivers from Catholic Charities Caregivers Support Services, where she was responsible for eldercare respite and caregiver support and was one of a handful of certified "Aging in Place" specialists (CAPS) in New York. She also created and presented educational programs regarding elder caregiving, home modification and fall prevention, marketed and promoted the program, as well as worked with community-based agencies and elder care recipients.

Before that, the Niskayuna native served as president of Adaptive Aging, Inc. in Wadsworth, IL., where she assessed housing, educational and other related non-medical needs of older adults and their caregivers. She has also worked as a project manager with both Total Living Choices in Seattle, WA and ExtraCare in Wildwood, IL.

Damon holds an undergraduate degree in English and literature from Lake Superior State University and a master's degree in adult continuing education from Northern Illinois University. She is currently working on a master's degree in gerontology from Iowa State University.

### **About Community Caregivers**

*Founded in 1994, Community Caregivers is a non-profit (501c3) whose mission is to help individuals of all ages maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life within their homes and communities. The volunteer-run organization, which serves the town of Guilderland and parts of Bethlehem, Berne, Knox and New Scotland, offers an array of services, including transportation for disabled, elderly and non-driving persons; essential shopping; respite time for caregivers; short-term meal preparation or delivery; light housework; minor repairs and yardwork; home visits or reassurance calls; assistance with paperwork and correspondence; and, referrals to other agencies. For more information, call (518) 456-2898, or visit [communitycaregivers.org](http://communitycaregivers.org).*