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Congratulations to

Sandra Epperson

for 30 years of service to
Angels Unaware, Inc.

Sandra has touched many lives in a very special and caring way. The Board of Directors, our staff, residents and families all thank you for your hard work and service.

The Angels Ledger

Volume 8 , Issue 3

September 2009

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

NOW ON SALE



This beautiful, custom made brass ornament is 4" in diameter, comes in a black gift box and is ready to be hung on your Christmas tree. Thanks to our supporters, Angels Unaware, Inc. ornaments have a wide circulation across the world. They have been used as gifts, attached to presents in place of a bow and have been sent to our troops in every major conflict since 1990. Each ornament is dated and ornaments are available from past years to complete your collection. We use the proceeds from our ornament sales to supplement our transportation costs. With the rising cost of gas and insurance, this fundraiser is an important one for Angels Unaware, Inc. Please order as many ornaments as you can to help us supplement these costs. You can order from our web site or fill out the order form located on the back of this newsletter. We believe your friends, neighbors, and co-workers would be happy to receive these Christmas ornaments as gifts or would gladly purchase them from you to help our cause. Thank you for your support.



Buy your
Pro-Am
tickets from
Angels Unaware!

Mission Statement

Angels Unaware, Inc. is a non-profit corporation operating in Hillsborough County, whose express goal is to provide quality professional residential group-home care and supported living services for severe and profound developmentally disabled individuals. We currently own and operate eight homes serving forty nine handicapped residents. Each home is highly specialized to serve the individual needs of its residents. Current training utilizes a behavioral management approach designed to meet the needs of each individual. A board of directors, made up of parents, concerned professionals and other concerned citizens from the community, governs the corporation.

Contact us

Angels Unaware, Inc.
P.O. Box 270040
Tampa, Florida
33688-0040
813-961-1159

angels@angelsunaware.com

Please visit our web site at
www.angelsunaware.com

A Word From Ross

Ross O'Banion, Executive Director

Florida's Trail Tiers (Tears)

As you may recall the original "Trail of Tears" happened to a group of Native Americans (Cherokee Nation) and chronicles their march from their historically ancestral home to the isolated reservations that were "prepared" for them. Many members of this nation died on the way due to starvation, disease, and other perils, hence the name the "Trail of Tears". A wise man once said "unless we study and learn from history we are doomed to repeat it."

If you have a Developmentally Disabled family member you know that Florida has its own problem with Tiers ("Tears" as most now refer to it). On October 6th the US District Court Ruled in favor of the Disabled. At stake are a few issues. The state wants to move funding into 4 cost containment levels or Tiers. The first issue deals with how a disabled person was assigned to a specific "Tier". The second issue addresses whether the Disabled were denied the due process of an appeal if they felt they were improperly assigned. The third issue involves the Tier spending limits and whether they are adequate to meet the basic needs of the consumers. The court agreed that, in fact, the assignment process did not include the use of a fair and equitable instrument that was uniformly applied. Additionally, the consumers that wanted to appeal their assignment were, in fact, denied that fundamental right.

The state was barred from reducing the benefits of the plaintiffs. Does this mean that the Trail of Tiers has come to an end? **Absolutely not.** Even as you read this article the effort to apply this "Tier Solution" continues. One day perhaps someone will think to ask what the disabled really want out of this fight. (Thought you would never ask.....)

1. Assignment to these levels (Tiers) based on a nationally normalized instrument that takes into account the needs, level of need, and the severity and intensity of the disabilities of the consumers that is administered by an independent third party that is trained to use the instrument. Please do not suggest support coordinators as they are not a third party that is independent. They, like other providers, have "a horse" in the race and should be up for elimination if the consumer chooses.
2. Create Tiers that have realistic spending levels so that consumers do not have to choose getting one service (example: day program) at the expense of another necessary service. This has actually happened to some of our consumers. Because of their Tier assignment they cannot afford 5 full days of day programs so they stay in the group home on the days that they don't attend. Angels Unaware, Inc. is not paid extra to have staff in the homes during those times so our costs have risen while our receipts have not.
3. Due Process for appeal in a fair hearing system that is binding on both parties. The current system is supposed to be set up that way (by statute) but the appeal process has not been followed as the statute was written.
4. Rate adjustments that are tied to a measurable adjustment level such as a "cost of living" index that helps the consumers keep abreast of inflation and other real rising costs.

It is time that we send a message to our legislators to stop wasting tax payer money defending the state against legal action that the state is clearly going to loose. The verdict in this case was a shock to no one except A.P.D. That's a crying shame and a huge waste of money and resources. Hopefully **YOU** can help call for an end to Florida's "Trail of Tiers". Please visit our web site and click on "Legislative Information" and contact your legislators today!

Angel's Newsletter is going Green!

Angels Unaware, Inc. wants to do their part in reducing paper waste and helping the environment. Angels Unaware, Inc. is rebuilding their mailing list to include email addresses. If you want to continue to receive our newsletter and have an email account we encourage you to email us your contact information to angels@angelsunaware.com and you will begin receiving our newsletter via email. If you do not have access to the internet, please mail us your contact information including mailing address via USPS to the address listed to the left of this article and you will remain on our USPS mailing list. Please help us save us paper, printing costs, and postage.

Angels Auxiliary

These organizations and individuals proudly support Angels Unaware, Inc.
God Bless our Donors.

Clifford and Cynthia Heir in Memory of Jane Heir
Robert Van Zyl in Memory of Michelle Williams
Jack and Jean Jordan in Memory of Suzie Mathews
Doris Shultz in Honor of James Saenz

Jack and Jean Jordan in Memory of Harold Reak
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Thank you to the estate of Rosemary Harnish for her generous donation.



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Check out our new video!



Go to www.angelsunaware.com

Outback Pro-Am Golf Tournament

Dear Parents, Supporters, and Business Leaders:

Angels Unaware, Inc. and the **Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am**, along with some other fine charities in the Tampa Bay area have teamed up to bring you an opportunity to see and enjoy the festivities of the annual Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am that will be held April 12th-18th, 2010. At the same time you will be helping Angels Unaware, Inc.

The Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am is allowing Angels Unaware, Inc. and other charities to sell the ticket package to the annual Pro-Am Tournament. The ticket package has a variety of tickets for the Pro-Am events that week so you can pick and choose the events based on your interest. There is even a Weekday foursome of golf at TPC Tampa Bay. For every ticket package that Angels Unaware, Inc. sells, Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am will donate 100% of the ticket package price to us! Not a bad deal, for us, **BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE – FOR YOU!** Last year the ticket package price was \$1,000.00 but this year the event will remain the same value but the ticket package price has been reduced to \$500.00 per ticket package. Think about that! You get a \$1,000.00 event for half price and you help Angels Unaware, Inc. at the same time! This is great opportunity for us. It's a real WIN- WIN situation.

Attached to this newsletter is all the information and the order form for the ticket package. You can also download a form from our web site. Please complete the form and mail it to the address of the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am office printed in the lower left hand corner. That's it! The ticket packages and credentials will be sent to you via mail along with information on all the professional golfer, celebrities, and movie stars that will be attending and/or playing. So grab you friends, business associates, clients, and a few challenges (enemies that you want to make friends) and plan to attend the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am on April 12th-18th.

As always, we thank you for supporting Angels Unaware, Inc. It is your support that helps us continue to address the residential home needs of the Developmentally Disabled of the Tampa Bay area, as we have done for over 37 years and counting.



Thank you to **Bracken Engineering** for helping build the fish pond at Angels 6. Bracken Engineering has committed to become a contributing Auxiliary member and we appreciate their continued support.

Thank you for your commitment to Angels Unaware, Inc. and to all that helped on the project.

Thank You Tampa Connection!

The Tampa Connection has completed their project and has produced a wonderful video presentation for Angels Unaware.. Please visit our web site to see this video. It is a "must see" for anybody that wants to know what Angels Unaware, Inc is all about.

Thank you to The Tampa Connection and Jeff Paul Pesce for all their hard work on this project!

H.A.L.O. Update

The H.A.L.O. Foundation supports Angels Unaware, Inc. and the Developmental Disabled.

Last year, The HALO Foundation, Angels Unaware, Inc. and Florida Home Development wrote two grants to obtain a vacant building lot in Lutz and for the construction money to build a new group home.

Recently, the Hillsborough County Office of Affordable Housing Review Committee gave both grants a favorable review. Additionally, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved the funding package that included the grant money for this project.

We anticipate construction to begin sometime in the beginning of 2010 and should be completed within 12 months.

Please check our web site and this newsletter for future updates.

www.halo-foundation.com



Kookaburra Charity Ticket Package



Join us as TPC Tampa Bay hosts the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am April 12th – 18th

Phone (813) 265-4653 Fax (813) 265-4655
www.outbackproam.com

Since its inception, 22 years ago, this tournament has contributed over **\$8.4 million** to Tampa Bay area charities. 100% of the money from all charity ticket packages sold will go directly to the charity that sold the package. This year Angels Unaware, Inc. is a participating charity.

The Kookaburra Charity Ticket Package Includes:

- Two (2) One Day Green-Hopper Party Passes (see description below)
- Four (4) Weekly Badges, tournament admittance entire week.
- Ten (10) One Day Passes, tournament admittance any one day.
- Two (2) preferred parking passes.
- One (1) weekday foursome of golf at TPC Tampa Bay. (Space available basis, May 3 – September 23. Monday – Thursday Cart fee approx. \$30 + tax)
- One (1) Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am lapel pin.

Total Investment: \$500

(Retail Value: \$1,000)

Green-Hopper Party Pass

This pass grants admission into three hospitality areas, all three venues offer VIP golf viewing and spectacular hospitality.

Michelob Ultra Watering Hole: This venue on 17th green features complimentary Anheuser-Busch drafts, Coca-Cola products, wine, featured drinks and light snacks. Premium cash bar and concessions are available. Open Wednesday through Sunday.

Coke Zero Soda Shack: This venue on the 11th green features complimentary Coca-Cola products, Anheuser-Busch drafts, premium specialty cocktails, wine, and light snacks. Open Friday through Sunday.

16th Green Hospitality: This venue on the 16th green features complimentary, premium specialty cocktails, Coca-Cola products, Anheuser-Busch drafts, wine, and light snacks. Open Friday through Sunday.

Angels Unaware needs your help!

Please check with your Tax Advisor and consider a donation to Angels Unaware, Inc. and the Developmentally Disabled we serve. Donations to Angels Unaware, Inc. are eligible for tax exemption consideration and benefit subject to current tax laws. Our regular donors are reminded that donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2009 in order to be credited to the 2009 tax year.

Openings are still available for additional board members.

Please contact our office to see how you can join our board.

Kookaburra Charity Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Kookaburra Charity Ticket \$500

Quantity _____ Total

\$ _____

Please invoice me ☐

Check enclosed payable to: Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am

Bill My: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Expires _____

Signature _____

Charity Name: Angels Unaware, Inc.

Please remit to:

Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am

2202 N. West Shore Blvd. 5th Floor

Tampa, FL 33607

813.265.4653 OR fax to: 813.265.4655



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A copy of Angels Unaware, Inc. official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 (refer to CH8732) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Visit us on the web at
www.angelsunaware.com

ORNAMENT ORDER FORM

Please detach and mail with payment to:

Angels Unaware, Inc.

P.O. Box 270040

Tampa, Florida 33688-0040

NAME: _____

MAILING OR SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Email address _____

2009 Ornament Number of Ornaments _____ at \$10.00 each = _____

2008 Ornament Number of Ornaments _____ at \$10.00 each = _____

Ornament year _____ Number of Ornaments _____ at \$ 2.50 each = _____

Ornament year _____ Number of Ornaments _____ at \$ 2.50 each = _____

Ornament year _____ Number of Ornaments _____ at \$ 2.50 each = _____

TOTAL ORNAMENTS REQUESTED _____ Sub Total _____

SHIPPING AND HANDLING (see below) _____

TOTAL _____ Amt. enclosed _____

Shipping Fees: \$1.00 shipping per ornament, plus an additional \$1.00 handling fee per order.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK PAYABLE TO **ANGELS UNAWARE, INC.**

Please check our web site for prior year's availability.