



**ANGELS  
UNAWARE, INC.**

*Residential Care for the Developmentally Disabled.*

**2010**

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)

# **The Angels Ledger**

**Volume 9 , Issue I**

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## **ADOPT A HOUSE PROGRAMS**

Angels Unaware offers two programs that allows the community to become directly involved in the life of our homes and residents. This an excellent opportunity for your organization to take an active role in our homes and give something back to the community. We need your help. Please read the information contained in this newsletter and contact our office if you are interested in one of these programs. You can also download a brochure from our website.

### **Adopt a House Program**



### **Adopt a Home Program**

## **Construction Industry Organizations**

This is a great opportunity to get involved  
in your community!

## ***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**

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Please visit our web site at  
[www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)

## ***A Word From Ross***

### ***Ross O'Banion, Executive Director***

Currently Florida like the rest of our nation is struggling to balance its budget with an economy that is in serious trouble. Coupled with the facts that Washington is clearly out of control, and has forgotten that "the will of the people" is the reason they were elected has made for very perilous time for Floridians with Developmental Disabilities.

Currently the Governor's proposal **increases** the Agency for People with Disabilities' current budget 1.08 billion budget by 72 million. House and Senate have passed plans that would **reduce** the level of care yet again. APD would be cut at least \$44 million in the Senate and more than \$100 million in the House version. The reason for the difference is that no one can figure out what Washington is doing or going to do with Medicaid matching money.

How this all will effect the consumers we currently serve is pretty clear. More cuts in funding, which result is lower levels of care, more unfunded mandates which results in more 'staff hours' devoted to more paperwork, and less to quality of care, consumers loosing more once again. This last year consumers lost some of their day training and activity programs, and other needed services, I am sure more of that is on the way. Angels Unaware, Inc. had to staff for the additional hours that consumers were not at the day programs, etc., with absolutely no increases in funding to accomplish that task, not to count the increase in operations costs, due to increases in insurance, food, and fuel costs.

Now the "savior" on the horizon is Privatization of Medicaid or Medicaid HMO. For-Profit companies would make life-altering decisions overriding the people who know the Developmentally Disabled individuals the best. Tampa Tribune called this "a risky experiment on a segment of the population that needs stability, and likely to have higher overhead costs than the state agency. All told, privatization could jeopardize the community-based services system, which the state developed to help keep people in their homes and out of institutions." I must say that the Tampa Tribune has "hit the nail on the head" with this assessment.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, please continue to contact both state and federal legislators. Encourage the "no cuts for APD" and release of the Medicaid matching funds from the Feds. Lets look at the system in Florida hard and determine to eliminate the countless "middle men" and needless regulation, and unfunded mandates that drive up the costs of operation of the community based programs while at the same time actually drive down the quality. Above all we all need to 'VOTE'. Our nation desperately needs leadership with integrity, morals, honesty, and a memory as to why they were elected. Our founders gave us the greatest foundation of any nation in history, it is now up to us.

## **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](mailto: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  
Dolan and Rosalyn Buchanan in Memory of Lydia Ann Walker  
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Eileen Bennett and Thomas & Mary Stevenson in Memory of Michelle Williams  
Dolan and Rosalyn Buchanan in Memory of Theresa Khouri  
Jean Jordan in Memory of Harold Reak  
Shirley and Lois Placke in Honor of Marc Pailthorpe  
Jean Jordan in Memory of Gene Jordan and Suzie Mathews

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# “Adopt a House” Program

The “Adopt a House” program is for those organizations that are familiar with or are equipped for house maintenance and repairs. Construction companies and construction industry associations are best suited for this program. Certain civic and social clubs may have this experience, too. This program involves an organization assuming the responsibility of all house repairs and maintenance for a particular home. Our office maintains



a data base of past donors that have helped Angels Unaware with house repairs and maintenance. Your organization may want to do the work itself or use our data base to delegate the work. Our goal is to have one organization that we can count on to get the work completed and reduce or eliminate the costs associated with maintaining a house.

***Sign-up for one program or both!***

*Download a brochure from our web site.*



## “Adopt a Home” Program

The “Adopt a Home” program addresses the personal side of our homes. Adopting a home puts an organization in direct contact with the residents. Our goal is to develop a long-term, personal relationship with your organization and our residents. Each house has specific needs for the holiday season, summer vacations, birthdays and special events. Your group will help meet those

needs throughout the year. Birthday parties, holiday gifts and decorations, escorts for special events, picnics, theme parks, church and community services are a few areas that we need your help. Your group could act as escorts or just provide the financial assistance for these events. If your adopted home participates in Special Olympics, we ask that your group be a supporter or perhaps a “Unified Partner” of the athletes in that home. Your group could choose to help Angels Unaware with its annual fund raising efforts or hold your own.

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.

## 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 this year and should be completed within 12 months.

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

[www.halo-foundation.com](http://www.halo-foundation.com)

## Letter from the President

Gary Pailthorpe

The feeling that government wastes money is a popular one, we hear it all the time from candidates and citizens alike. Yet, when it comes to budget cuts it is not "waste" that gets cut, it's programs. Where is the waste? Maybe we should demand that these people point it out. So when funding cuts are needed nobody tries to determine where the waste is so that can be cut. Instead programs and services are incrementally cut, whether they are wasteful or not. These cuts are often made to programs and are often made based on the special interests supporting them and not on need. Unfortunately, Angel's Unaware, Inc. serves a population that can't afford high paid lobbyists, and we are not a large enough group to be a significant force at the poles. For these reasons programs which are essential to our residents are in great peril. By simply declaring that all programs have waste the budget axe is wielded and funding is reduced for necessary programs without any concern about the impact on the individuals being served.

Recent program cuts were made through implementation of the tier system. In this system individuals were identified as falling within certain need levels (tiers) based on the services they received in the past. The determination was not based on services needed, but those received. The services provided in past years had already been reduced either due to lack of availability or budget constraints. Once these individuals were placed into tiers based on this biased information, it was simply a math problem to establish a cap amount for each tier to allow the program costs to fit within the budget numbers. The data used was not based on the real needs of the individuals being served only to what amount was spent on them in past years and what percentage cut would result in meeting this year's budget goal.

At this point the problem becomes Angels. How do we provide for the residents adequately and stay within an arbitrarily set budget. The answer to this question is not simple and at some point the answer may be, "we can't". Each time funding is cut Angels Unaware, Inc. has to make cuts to keep the books balanced. Our administrative costs are already extremely low (one of the lowest in the industry) and further cuts to program cuts that are bound to affect the care the residents receive.

Please keep this in mind both at election time and when you are asked to participate either by renewing your membership with Angels Unaware, Inc., buying an Angel Ornament, buying a "Dinner for Two" raffle ticket, or by assisting your board with these fund raisers. The time is rapidly approaching when Angels Unaware, Inc. may no longer be able to provide an acceptable level of care to our residents. That is the time when we will have to close the homes. Even now the funding does not allow for the vacations the residents once enjoyed, or even the number and quality of community outings and activities that should be a part of their lives. Any outing no matter how brief or near requires additional staff (overtime), a vehicle (gas and maintenance), and other associated costs (admittance fees, concessions, etc). The current funding does not allow for any of these "extras". It is only through fundraising and donations that any of this is possible. That's why it is important for each of us who care about the residents of Angels Unaware, Inc. to do all we can to assure each resident a stable happy home environment.

### **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, 2010 in order to be credited to the 2010 tax year.

### **Openings are still available for additional board members.**

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



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### **SAVE THE DATE**

This year's Bobalouie's golf tournament will be held on November 13th. Please call Julie at the restaurant if you are interested in playing or becoming a hole sponsor.

This is an important fundraiser for Angels Unaware, Inc. and we all appreciate their hard work and support for our organization.

### **Angels Receives New Van**

Angels Unaware, Inc. received a new passenger van this year using grant money from the State of Florida. We desperately needed this van and we should all thank Ross and the office staff for putting this grant together. Also, a big thank you to the State of Florida for helping us out.



Please visit our web site for recent legislative news and information.

Stay up to date and talk with your legislators.

Thank you for your support.