



**ANGELS
UNAWARE, INC.**
Residential Care for the Developmentally Disabled.

The Angels Ledger

Volume 10 , Issue 2

July 2011

ANNUAL RESTAURANT RAFFLE

2011

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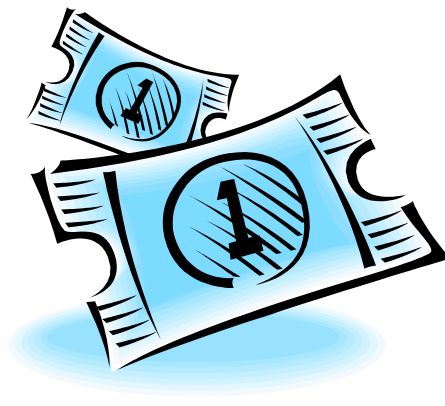
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Angels Unaware is holding their annual “Dinner for Two” restaurant raffle to benefit Angels Unaware. Angels’ board of directors have solicited many of Tampa’s local restaurants for “Dinner-for-Two” certificates. This year the tickets are only \$2.00 each!

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a list of prizes and raffle tickets. It is our hope that you will purchase these tickets and send in the stubs with your donation. It is also our hope that you will call our office and ask for more to sell to your friends, family and co-workers. You can also purchase tickets on our web site by [clicking here](#). Please do not forget to utilize your churches, neighborhood kids, businesses or service clubs to assist in selling these tickets. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help fund the purchase of a new group home. The drawing will be held at our October board meeting on the 18th and all winners will be notified by mail with their winning certificate.

We want to thank all the participating restaurants for lending their support. It is because of these restaurants that we are able to hold this raffle. We also want to encourage all of our members, families and friends to visit these restaurants and thank them for their help.



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 and concerned citizens from the community, governs the corporation.

A copy of Angels Unaware's 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). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

A Word From Ross

From the Desk of Ross O'Banion, Executive Director

July 1st marked the start of the new fiscal year for the state of Florida. This is an economy and a job market that is less than hoped for and, in fact, dismal at best. For Angels Unaware, Inc. and other providers of services for the Developmentally Disabled, July 1st marked yet another reduction in funding. This time, at the 4% level. There has been so many of these reductions in the past few years that most providers have lost count of the total percentage.

July also marked the announcement schedule for the new I-Budget. Oct 1, 2011 will start the rollout in the Northwestern part of the state. On Dec. 1, 2011 it will be parts of Central Florida, and then on Feb.1, 2012, the southern part of the state will see this new budget put in place. On April 1, 2012, all those remaining counties in the Northeast and those scattered across the state that were left out, will then join in. Simultaneously with the I-Budget, APD is rolling out its customer central record online system throughout the state. I wonder if April 1, 2012 will be anything like April 1, 2011 – the day APD announced a 10% reduction in funding. Later the legislature promised to find the money to cancel this action, which is why we have the 4% cut.

The question on everyone's mind at this point is really very simple. The I-Budget is supposed to give consumers and families the ability to control where their funding is spent. At the present time they still are required to have Support Coordination. A great question is "why?", as families and consumers will be making the decisions and tracking the budget. Once the money is gone in a consumer's budget they will get no more until the next budget year, unless it can be proved that the consumer's needs and challenges have increase to justify the increase (good luck). The I-Budget promises to be consistent so that everyone with similar challenges gets the same money across the state to spend. The question on everyone's mind is will it meet the needs? Will it be at a funding level to keep providers of services from going bankrupt? Having power to decide is long overdue, but having power to decide over consistent inadequate funding is another tasteless April Fools joke. Is the I-Budget one of these? No one knows yet. Yes, APD will stay in budget but how about the quality and level of care the consumers need?

The challenge for families is to continue to voice concerns to the Legislators, watch, talk, and work with others to see how the I-Budget is, or is not working as it is implemented across the state. Continue to work with service providers as they continue to provide services needed. Continue to push for adequate funding streams for those currently receiving funding and those approx. 19,000 on the waiting list. I-Budget places the consumer and families in the "driver's seat" but lets make sure the "car" is safe, sound, and adequate for the journey, as there are many twists, turns, and hazards ahead.

Angels Auxiliary

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

Jon & Brenda Broome

Joseph Saenz

Harold & Pamela Majors UA Local 123 & MCA Central Florida

Gary Pailthorp

Martha P. Estes-Trust

Trevor & Nola Smith

Sufka, Inc.

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Cynthia & Clifford May

W.C. & Doris Hammontree

American Legion Auxiliary, Town and Country Memorial Unit 152

Joseph and Elna Albano

The Talcott Family Foundation

Gary & Carolyn Ratliff

James Turner

Jerry & Marie Gibbs

Peace Community Church

Jack & Jean Jordan

James & Beverly Long

The Griebing Family in Memory of Elli McNulty

J.K. Lauderback in Memory of Mabel Broome

Louise R Ammons in Memory of Mabel Broome

Colleen & James Cauthorn in Memory of Mabel Broome Mrs. Charles Stringer in Memory of Mabel Broome

A. M. Brown in memory of Mabel Broome

Joseph & Judy Blakely in Memory of Mabel Broom

The Ritchie Family in Memory of Mabel Broome

The Riley Family in Memory of Mabel Broome

The Phillips Family in Memory of Mabel Broome

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Thank you participating restaurants!

It is because of these restaurants that we are able to hold this important fundraiser. Please stop by these restaurants and thank them for their support.

GRAND PRIZE

Tahitian Inn – Hotel/Cafe/Spa
2 Night Stay in a Queen Executive Room with Jacuzzi Tub
Dinner for Two for Both Nights at the Kon Tiki Restaurant

RESTAURANT CERTIFICATES

ABC Pizza	Bahama Breeze Island Grill
Bobalouies Grille & Sports Garden	
Bonefish Grill	The Colonnade
Cracker Barrel	J. Alexander's
Kon Tiki Restaurant at The Tahitian Inn	
Long Horn Steakhouse	Outback Steakhouse
P F Chang	Rapscallions Restaurant
Rigatoni Tuscan Oven	Tahitian Inn Cafe



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 are eligible for tax exemption consideration and benefit subject to current tax laws. Our regular donors are reminded that donations must be post-marked by December 31, 2011 in order to be credited to the 2011 tax year.

H.A.L.O. Update

The H.A.L.O. Foundation supports Angels Unaware, Inc. and is currently working on a new group home. As they progress, the board will be asking for your help. Please continue to support this organization by sending your check to:

The H.A.L.O. Foundation
c/o Angels Unaware
P.O. Box 270040
Tampa, Florida 33688-0040
www.halo-foundation.com

H.A.L.O. Board Members Needed

The board of directors is looking for a few new members. If you have the time to help, please contact Ross O'Banion at Angel's main office at 813-961-1159.

Restaurant Raffle Ticket Stubs **\$2.00 each**

Order on line by [clicking here](#) or
or use these ticket stubs.

Newsletter - Angels Unaware Tampa Restaurant Raffle Ticket Stub

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Return stub to: P O Box 270040
Tampa FL 33688-0040

Newsletter - Angels Unaware Tampa Restaurant Raffle Ticket Stub

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Return stub to: P O Box 270040
Tampa FL 33688-0040

Newsletter - Angels Unaware Tampa Restaurant Raffle Ticket Stub

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Return stub to: P O Box 270040
Tampa FL 33688-0040

Newsletter - Angels Unaware Tampa Restaurant Raffle Ticket Stub

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Return stub to: P O Box 270040
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Letter From the President—Gary Pailthorp

We are well into 2011 and our Board of Directors is hard at work. The board has settled on a design for this year's Christmas tree ornament. They have also been busy soliciting "dinners for two" certificates from local restaurants for this year's raffle. I want to say that I'm very impressed with all the hard work your Board of Directors puts into this organization. This is not a board that just sits back and directs staff. They are hard working and committed to the goals and ideals of this organization. They give their time and effort year around to insure that Angel's Unaware can continue to provide a safe and secure home for our residents now and for years to come. Some members have served since Angel's started and they are still working to keep it going.

We are always looking for dedicated, hard-working people to help us out. We do have openings available on our Board of Directors. If you have time and the desire or you know someone who might be interested in helping as a Board Member please make the contact information available to us by contacting the Angel's Unaware office. If you don't have the time to serve on a year around basis there are many other ways that you can participate. We always need help with our Christmas tree ornament and Restaurant Raffle ticket sales or you can volunteer to participate in our spring clean-up. This project involves making exterior improvements to the homes that have not yet been adopted. If you know of any service clubs or a group at school, church or work that may be able to help us in anyway please let us know and we'll contact them. Angel's Unaware needs each of us to assist in any way we can.

I also want to thank all those who contacted the Florida Senate, House and Governor's office to support funding for service providers. Your calls and emails did not go unheard and surely helped in the rollback of Governor Scott's "emergency rate cut" that he tried to implement on April 1st. While the end result still sent 4% cuts to providers, his plan would have collapsed the system. The battle is not over. Please keep informed about funding from the State of Florida and keep up the pressure. Your elected officials will listen to you when you call.

Attention Service Clubs

Please help Angels Unaware with this year's Restaurant Raffle. We have printed tickets available at our office for your service club to sell. Last year a large percentage of our ticket sales were from service clubs. We are looking for your help again this year. Please contact our office at 813-961-1159 to order ticket packages.

Thank you for your support!

**Become an
Angels Auxiliary
Member.**

**Join the many
friends and
supporters of
Angels Unaware
and lend a
helping hand.**

**Please contact
our office or
visit our web site
to see how you
can help.**

Keep informed on Legislative Issues

Please visit our web site and continue to check out new postings on our [Legislative Information](#) page. It's important to stay up-to-date and to contact your elected officials to discuss issues important to Angels Unaware and the Developmentally Disabled.

By **RAY REYES** | The Tampa Tribune
Published: August 22, 2011

He needs help with basic tasks, from combing his hair to drinking a glass of water. Born with cerebral palsy, 26-year-old Michael Cherta relies on others to dress him, feed him or take him to places where he can soak up the sunshine. While his parents are at work during the day, licensed caregiver Pam Davison watches over Cherta and sees that his needs are met. She'll fix lunch and pick up medication. Davison will take Cherta, who is wheelchair-bound, to physical or speech therapy sessions. Sometimes, she stands up for her client when she feels he's being ignored or taken advantage of.

Cherta and Davison now are worried this three-year arrangement is coming to an end because Gov. Rick Scott and lawmakers are cutting back on services for the developmentally disabled. The state Agency for Persons with Disabilities needs to slash about \$90 million in services this year to meet its budget. The cuts not only affect contract workers like Davison, but employees in group homes who coordinate training programs, community outings and other activities for the disabled.

About 33,000 people in Florida with developmental disabilities like Cherta go through the agency to find companions who will not only care for them but also find ways to make them a part of their communities. The agency serves about 50,000 people with autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and intellectual disabilities. Prospective clients use a waiver program the agency offers through Medicaid that will keep them out of nursing homes, pair them with caregivers or get them accepted into group homes. Local nonprofits that run group homes and provide supported living programs say they are feeling the pinch.

"They've cut beyond the bone," said Richard Lilliston of Hillsborough Achievement and Resource Centers. "They've cut into our hearts, basically." Lilliston, the chief executive officer for the nonprofit that oversees nine group homes and 350 clients, has ordered a 4 percent pay cut for all employees. The Tallahassee-based state agency is no longer paying to transport clients to day programs and activities, he said. Ross O'Banion, executive director of Angels Unaware Inc. in Tampa, said funding issues have been going on for years, but this year's budget cuts have been especially brutal. "This is the worst I can remember over the last four years," said O'Banion, whose nonprofit serves 50 clients in eight group homes. "This is the worst it's ever been." Angels Unaware has laid off at least one employee in each of its group homes and cut all workers' pay by 8 percent, O'Banion said. The reductions trickle down to clients, whose "quality of life is not what it used to be." "These are folks with severe developmental disabilities," he said. "They can't live on their own. If they're in a group home, they're in a group home for a reason."

O'Banion and other care providers said that if state services go away, their clients may end up in nursing homes. Family members who rely on in-home companion services may resort to quitting work to care for a disabled relative or pay for medical nurses to do the job, Lilliston said. Melanie Etters, communication director for the disabilities agency, said she and other state officials have been working with families and care providers to lessen the blow of the cuts. "We're certainly trying to listen to people," Etters said. "Whenever you're going to change things it will be challenging. We do understand this affects people's lives."

One of the first cuts the agency implemented on Aug. 1 is adjusting the rate it pays caregivers to \$6.72 per hour, a 4 percent reduction in pay from the previous year. The minimum wage in Florida is \$7.31 per hour. Because of the pay reduction, Davison said she is considering taking on more clients to make ends meet. She has done it before, caring for Cherta in his Tarpon Springs home one day then driving to Clearwater to care for another person the next. She no longer provides care for the woman in Clearwater. Cherta is now her only client. While "it's easy to say you can work for three people at the same time," the reality is having multiple clients limits the quality of care she can give and the time she needs to do her job, Davison said. Cherta said he's worried the pay cuts may force long-time caregivers like Davison to find other jobs, leaving less experienced and less professional workers to fill the vacuum. He uses a device called a Dynavox to communicate. A screen, similar to a small computer monitor, connects to his electric wheelchair. A sensor on Cherta's eyeglasses allows him to "type" words on the monitor, which are then turned into audio clips. The device lets him surf the Web and write emails. "To me, it is a really a safety factor first and foremost," Cherta said of the pay cuts. "By cutting the rates, many of the experienced companions will be unable to provide services. Inexperienced workers can pose a risk."

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has been in the red for much of its seven-year history. "The agency has historically spent more on services than we've been appropriated," Etters, the spokeswoman, said. "We're trying to bring that down." Contributing to the problem was third-party vendors offering services that clients ultimately didn't use, she said. This year, those services totaled \$1 billion. Scott gave the agency a \$174 million bailout in April to keep services going and lawmakers approved an \$810 million in state and federal funds for the current fiscal year. But the agency still has to cut about \$90 million in services to meet its budget. Vendors and clients now are being asked to go over the services they no longer use and report them to the agency, Etters said. "We're trying to reduce services in cost plans they don't need and talking to families who would voluntarily reduce unused services," she said. The agency must submit a plan by Sept. 1 to lawmakers detailing how it will further bring down its expenses and balance its budget. Caregivers said they don't know what the future holds. "I don't know what's going to happen," Lilliston said. "It's going to get worse before it gets better." Davison said she feels her career is in jeopardy. "What am I going to do? That's really hard for me to say right now," she said. "I work for bare, but I can't imagine doing anything else."

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[Tampa Tribune Link to this article](#)

Contact us

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813-961-1159

angels@angelsunaware.com

Please visit our web site at
www.angelsunaware.com

Angels Unaware Receives Two New Passenger Vans

Angels Unaware, Inc. received two new passenger vans this month using grant money from the State of Florida. A big thank you to the State of Florida for helping us out.

Wish List

Angels Unaware maintains a wish list on our web site for our residents and their houses. It is updated quarterly. Please visit our [Wish List](#) web site page to see if you can help.

Thank you for your
support!