



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

# The Angels Ledger

Volume 12 , Issue 3

December 2013

## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

NOW ON SALE

### 2013 Board Members

**President**

Gary Pailthorp

**Vice President**

Bob Albano

**Treasurer**

Connie Tatum

**Secretary**

Joyce Hatfield

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Richard Tatum

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Board Member Emeritus



This beautiful, custom made brass ornament is approximately 4" tall, 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. 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.

[Please click here to order ornaments.](#)

Thank you for your support.

## ***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 of Florida.

## **From the Desk of Ross O'Banion, Executive Director**

Needless to say 2013 has been a year that all of us will remember for a very long time. Most of us have heard of Obama Care, also known as the "Affordable Care Act", and are growing very tired of the hype and rhetoric. Like most businesses, Angels Unaware, Inc. must make decisions based on information that changes daily, and on statements that were made in the past and that now prove to be totally untrue. As the old saying goes, "when you up to your butt in alligators, it is hard to remember that the original objective was to drain the swamp". Perhaps it is time that we as a nation step back and remember what our original objectives were. In order to make Health Care affordable, was it really necessary to 'socialize' the best medical system in the world and thereby dooming it to failure as history has taught us? Now we are once again asking the future generations to pay for the over spending of our generation. That is what I call "passing the buck" for sure. I hope that as elections approach we take a hard look at the candidates themselves and choose those that would move our country back to the track set by our founders and remember that all of us must live within our budget.

Speaking of Budgets, APD consumers that had funding reductions with the implementation of iBudget should be receiving notices of a proposed class action settlement. APD wisely decided to a settlement rather than having a long legal battle over the adequacy of its original iBudget legal notice. Soon, 11,377 settlement notices will be mailed to APD consumers and guardians. As the legislature heads back to session in Florida, please make sure that your representatives and senators know that APD needs funding to address the waiting list. Also, with rising costs as a result of the Health Care issues, and other inflationary trends, provider rates again have not been adjusted upward for over 5 years.

Angels Unaware, Inc. new home that is currently under construction should have been completed in December 2013 but due to labor shortages the completion has been delayed until January 2014. We will be announcing an OPEN HOUSE date when we have a firm grasp on a target.

**Important announcement - If you have a Developmentally Disabled loved one, or a friend that needs a group home or supported living placement, we have 6 openings (male and female consumers) in our current homes that we would like to fill. Contact me at the office and we can discuss the possibilities we have to offer. If you know a consumer that is not happy in their current group home setting we especially would like for them to hear and see what living in our homes can be like.**

Thank you so much for your support of Angels Unaware, Inc. this year. Financially we appreciate every donation that is made. Remember it is our policy that none is used for staff salaries. Donations specifically help meet the needs of the disabled consumers that we are blessed to care for every day and the upkeep of our homes.

God Bless you in the coming 2014 year

## Looking for Residential Placement?

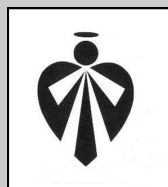
### **"ANGELS UNAWARE, INC. CURRENTLY HAS OPENINGS THEIR GROUP HOMES"**

*We are looking for consumers that, of course, "fit with our existing 'family'" within each home. All of our homes are in residential neighborhood settings and are 6 beds or less.*

Some of our homes can accommodate consumers with non-ambulatory challenges.

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE CONSUMERS WITH DD A'S (THE PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS), ALSO AUTISM, DUAL DIAGNOSIS (DD/MH), PRADER WILLIS, ANGELMANS, AND SECONDARY ALZHEIMER'S.**

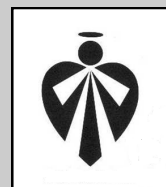
If you know of someone that is looking for a group home placement or is currently in another group home and is not happy or satisfied with the services they are receiving, please refer them to:



**Angels Unaware, Inc.**

**(813) 961-1159**

**FOR A CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEW  
WITH THE CONSUMER, GUARDIAN AND/OR  
FAMILY MEMBER**



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

*WSC's are also welcome to attend if the consumer/guardian/parent agrees.*

Angels Unaware, Inc. is an organization that is dedicated to providing quality residential placements (group homes and supported living opportunities). We are a local organization with local management and a local Board of Directors comprised mostly of the parents of the consumers that reside in our homes.

**We have been operating in Hillsborough County since 1973.**

**We have over 37 years of service to the DD population.**

**We offer Residential Habilitation, Transportation, Nursing Services, some Behavioral Services, Supported Living, and related services. We accept APD-GR, Medicaid Waiver funding or private pay.**

#### **Our Staff Motto**

*"Our consumers do not live in a facility, we work in their home."*

Come see what we have to offer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**  
[www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)

## Thank you participating restaurants and all those that participated in our Dinner for Two Raffle!

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.

### RESTAURANT CERTIFICATES

Roy's  
Bonefish Grill  
Carrabba's Italian Grill  
Champs Americana  
The Colonnade  
Mosquito Grill and Bar  
Ukulele Brands  
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse  
ABC Pizza  
Outback Steakhouse  
Leroy Selmon's  
PRP Wine



## Attention Service Clubs

Please help Angels Unaware with this Ornament sales. We have plenty of ornaments available for your service club or organization.

Please contact our office at 813-961-1159 to order ornament packages.

Thank you for your support!

**All of us at Angels Unaware, Inc. and The HALO Foundation want to wish all of our supporters a very joyous and wonderful holiday season.**

**We appreciate your generous support throughout the year.**

**It is because of you that we are able to continue to provide the quality services and care to the people that we all care so much about.**

***Thank you and God bless you.***



Thank you to the Plumbers, Pipefitters and HVAC Local Union 123 and The Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Florida for supporting Angels Unaware, Inc. with their annual Charity Piping Industry Golf Outing on October 26th. We all appreciate their hard work and continuous support throughout the years.

## Stay 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.

# Scholarship Fund



If you have been a reader of our newsletter or a supporter of Angels Unaware, Inc. for any length of time, you are aware that we have a growing number of consumers that no longer have immediate family or relatives alive, or active in their lives due to age or illness. Angels Unaware has established a fund within our organization that helps those consumers without families. Throughout the year we use this fund to help our consumers have and enjoy the same things that others in the group home enjoy. These funds support their birthdays, holidays, vacations, trips to the movies, restaurants, and amusement parks.

We do utilize this fund throughout the year but due to the Christmas holidays, our greatest need is towards the end of the year. Perhaps you and your family may consider donating directly to the Scholarship Fund or consider providing Christmas for one of our consumers that no longer has any family alive or active in their life. Please [click here](#) to learn more or donate to this fund. As always, our guarantee to you is that of every dollar you provide to this fund will be spent directly on the needs of the consumers that we serve.

## APD iBudget Florida Customers Receiving New Notices

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) customers who had a funding reduction when moving into iBudget Florida will be receiving a notice of a proposed class action settlement. A hearing has been scheduled in federal court on November 27. APD agreed to enter into a settlement rather than a potentially prolonged legal battle over the adequacy of its original iBudget legal notice.

The iBudget Florida Medicaid waiver is used to direct and receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) through APD. The HCBS waiver is funded by state and federal tax dollars to help people with developmental disabilities live in their local communities. iBudget Florida provides greater ability to choose services that matter most to customers given their unique situations. It also gives more flexibility for customers to respond to their changing needs.

APD Director Barbara Palmer said, "In the interest of saving tax dollars to pay large legal bills, we agreed to try to settle this matter. This week, 11,377 settlement notices were mailed to APD customers and guardians. We expect that some customers may be confused as we comply with the terms of this settlement which will require two more notices to be sent in the future. Because most of our customers have been living with their new iBudget amount for about a year, we hope this process is not too distracting."

iBudget Florida is designed to make the funding process fair and equitable for all Medicaid waiver customers. This enhanced system also provides for financial predictability for the Medicaid waiver which will allow the agency to move more people from the waiting list to the waiver.

### *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 postmarked by December 31, 2013 in order to be credited to the 2013 tax year.

## Contact us

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813-961-1159

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