



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

# The Angels Ledger

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## GROUP HOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### 2013 Board Members

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Our new group is now under construction! After almost 4 years, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The project is located on Crystal Lake Road in Lutz. It will replace our oldest and smallest home. This home currently has six consumers that use wheelchairs. Our new home will be DDA compliant and will give our consumers much more space and easier access. The property is located on Strawberry Lake and will offer our consumers a quiet and peaceful view from the living area and back porch.



This project was made possible through grants from the Hillsborough County Office of Affordable Housing written by Angels Unaware, Inc. and Florida Home Partnership, which is the contractor for the project. We want to thank everybody for their hard work and 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

The famous 'white hankie' has dropped in our state legislation signifying the end of another legislative session. Thus far it seems that some funding will be sent to the 22,000 thousand on the DD waiting list. Fifteen million dollars seems like a lot of money but if you divided it up equally among the people on the waiting list it comes out to a little over \$681.81 per person on the waiting list. I don't think that will buy a lot of services divided that way, so clearly there will be many remaining on the waiting list for yet another year(s). The good news is that at least the Governor and the Legislators have started talking about meeting this growing problem. Now, it is our responsibility as advocates not to let them forget this need over the legislative "off season". Please take the time to thank each of them for the assistance, and let them know that the job is not over.

The language of 'managed care' was removed (at least for now) from the budget. The concern was that managed care options would further cut services and reduce the ability of individuals with DD to live in the community. I agree with this opinion. Furthermore, managed care it is clearly anti small business, which is the backbone of our economy. We need to thank Senator Negron, Representative McKeel and Senate President Gaetz and Speaker of the House Wetherford for their help in this effort. **BEWARE – this managed care effort will be back and very soon.**

As the budget is further examined over the next few weeks, we can only hope that the era of continuous cuts in funding to the providers, and continuous reductions, or elimination in services to the DD population is finally coming to an end. Frankly, the cuts have been very deep and very detrimental to the health, welfare, and quality of life of this population.

Angels Unaware, Inc. has finally begun construction on our new home for consumers with non-ambulatory needs. Through two grants from the Office of Affordable Housing we were able to obtain a lot in the Lutz area, and have recently broken ground and a brand new home. Hopefully, by the end of the year we will be moving our consumers from their current location, which is our oldest and smallest home, to this new home that is designed with the consumers' needs in mind. We plan on devoting our next newsletter to this new project and perhaps have a list of ways that describe how you can help.

Angels Unaware, Inc., Group Home #5 (our home for 'mature ladies'), along with our staff and Board of Directors is grieving the loss of Becky. After being removed from an institutional setting, Becky resided in the home since its opening in 1993. She went home to glory on March 8th at the age of 66. She will be missed deeply by her 'sisters' at the home as they have lived, played, and loved together for over 20 years. Please remember them in your prayers as they adjust.

Lastly, for the Graduates of 2013 - Mark Twain is quoted as saying "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the things you did. So, sail away from the safe harbor! Catch the trade winds in you sails! Explore! Dream! Discover!"

# Angels Auxiliary

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

New England Wheels	First Baptist Church of Tampa	Amvets Post 550
Hameroff Insurance	Gary Pailthorp	Gary & Carolyn Ratliff
First Baptist Church	The Community Foundation	Bracken Engineering, Inc.
Johns & Susan Rowan In Memeory of William Cook		G.M. Knight
James R. Long	Carmen Bermudez In Memory of Ernest Todd	
Dolan & Rosalyn Buchanan	Joyce Hatfield	Virginia Diaz
N. Guagliardo	Joseph Albano	Hill Turner
Pamela Majors	Jean & Jack Jordan for Elizabeth Weber	Jack & Hilda Knoche
Jean & Jack Jordan for Carrie Sullivan		Jack & Wendy Jordan
Mary Lou Surbaugh & Deborah Harris In Memory of Earnest Todd		Keith & Alice Pailthorp
St. Lawrence School In Honor of Lilianne Rodriguez		Connie Tatum
ICTC USA In Memory of Bill Cook		Gary & Janet Pailthorp
Robert & Diana Komarek	Linda Curlette In Memory of Bill Cook	Ernest Todd
Shirley & Lois Placke in Honor of Mark Pailthorp		Brett Wadsworth
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 152		Robert and Rosella Albano
Sam Barbara Lassara in memory of Tony Canaliza		Millard R. Tatum
Union Security Insurance	Kevin Fleming & Anne Vincent	Karen Walker
Robin J. Davis	Cynthia & Clifford May	Cent. Anesthesia Mang.
Serv. Kenneth Courington for Ernest Todd		

## *Letter from The President - Gary Pailthorp*

A month or so ago my wife and I attended a meeting held by Sunrise to explain who they were, how they took over the HARC assets and programs, and how they intended to operate them and keep them running. Sunrise has a great deal of experience and has developed some systems that help them operate efficiently. Angel's has experience and has developed systems to help increase efficiency so I was feeling good about Angel's. If Sunrise can make it Angel's can make it.

Then Sunrise's Director told us the real secret to their success and that is that they have branched out into other states that, unlike Florida, provide adequate funding for their programs for the developmentally disabled. Sunrise is able to fund a greater share of the overhead to these out of state programs and reduce the cost for their Florida programs such as HARC. Unfortunately Angels doesn't have any alternate State funding sources.

I won't go on except to point out that Florida State funding for the developmentally disable is and will continue to decrease for the foreseeable future. Therefore the need for additional funds to sustain our programs will increase and that means you, the friends and family of the residents, will need to step up if we are to survive. If each of you will please go to the Angels Unaware web site ([www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)) and become members by joining at the appropriate level and if possible add a donation it will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks

## Angels Unaware, Inc. is looking for new board members

Angels Unaware, Inc is looking for new board members for the Angels Unaware Board of Directors. The mark of any good board of directors is an exchange of new, innovative ideas. Good, hard-working people, like you, are the perfect candidates. A well-functioning non-profit organization should always have an influx of new people to keep the organization's goals and ideas fresh.

Please consider becoming involved with your Board of Directors. This Board of Directors is here to serve you and the people that you care for. Please lend a helping hand and become a board member.

Please contact Ross O'Bannon, or any of the existing board members if you are interested.

Thank you for your support.

### **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.

## Intellectual Disabilities bill passes in Florida Legislature

The Florida House today passed CS/SB 142, Intellectual Disabilities. The bill removes all references to "mental retardation" in state law and replaces them with "intellectual disability."

"This is a great day for our state," said State Representative Janet Adkins, who sponsored the identical House version of the bill, HB 1119.

"Florida now joins 39 other states in changing its laws to show respect towards our citizens with intellectual disabilities," said Rep Adkins. "This bill is one way we demonstrate our respect. It's time we eliminated the R-word."

Advocates and individuals with intellectual disabilities from across Florida rallied to promote the Intellectual Disabilities Bill. Though the term "retardation" began as a medical term, it became an insult that promoted negative stereotypes and bullying.

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the American Psychiatric Association recently made similar changes to their official diagnoses. Federal health, education and labor policy statutes were changed in 2010 when Congress passed, and President Obama signed Rosa's Law.

The bill will now be sent to Governor Scott to be signed into law.

## Contact us

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

## 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.