



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

The Angels Ledger

Volume 13 , Issue 3

December 2014

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

2014 Board Members

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Richard Tatum

Vice President

Bob Albano

Treasurer

Connie Tatum

Secretary

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Connie Tatum

Clifford May

Marie Gibbs

Robin Girard

William Monfort

Board Member Emeritus



**Angels Unaware, Inc. and The HALO Foundation
want to wish all of our families and 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.

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

While at this time of the year most of the world is contemplating what Santa is going to bring them for Christmas, for the Providers of services licensed by Agency for People with Disabilities, we are wondering what the Legislature will do to us this year after Christmas. **This year we need to make a concerted effort to communicate effectively the message of what we must have in Florida to continue to provide services to the very vulnerable population.** We have endured years of cuts in rates, cuts in services, increases in regulation and increasing operating costs. The net effect is that many of the providers are financially in very bad positions. Florida must take immediate steps to end this decade of cuts to this vital area of our state budget.

ARC of Florida's suggestion is: Florida must increase provider rates by 5% for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and the funding for this should not be taken away from current client services. The ARC of Florida also supports building a plan to continue to increase rates in the coming years and increasing all provider rates to at least the minimum wage.

Florida must invest in provider rate increases so individuals with Intellectual Disabilities are served by qualified and quality professionals. Right now, professionals working with Floridians with Intellectual Disabilities make less money than employee's at a fast food restaurant, although they are responsible for people's lives and are required to have and maintain a much higher level of training. Payments for Floridians with Intellectual Disabilities in residential setting currently range from as low as \$3.01 per hour for basic care to \$11.04 per hour to care for the most involved individuals. If minimum wage is increased any further without increasing the APD rates a crisis of staff leaving this field of care for more lucrative pay will emerge quickly.

Please contact the legislative delegation now and start pushing them in this area. Something must be done now, this problem is not going away, and will get worse the longer it is not dealt with. Daily we are losing qualified, quality, caring staff due to the simple fact they can no longer pay their bills and feed their families on the horrible wages providers are able to pay. Most staff have not had a wage increase in over 8 years and some have had wage reductions along the way to balance budgets.

Please [click here](#) to read ARC of Florida for their 2014-2015 Legislative Priorities, and then email and call your delegation weekly until something is done. With your help and determination we can change this for the citizens of Florida that suffer with intellectual disabilities.

Allow me to suggest some reading material: Journal - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Vol. 52, No.5 October 2014 – Article Title: Direct Support Workforce Supporting Individuals With IDD: Current Wages, Benefits, and Stability. By Bogenschultz and others. Available at aaid.com.

Thank you for your support

Christmas Ornaments

The Board of Directors have decided not to make Christmas ornaments this year. It's been a long tradition but the return has not been large enough to continue making them. Past year's ornaments are still available for sale.

[Click here](#) to place your order.

We want to thank The United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters, HVAC & Refrigeration Mechanics Local Union 123, and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Florida's for hosting this year's Charity Piping Industry Golf Outing. This has always been an important fundraiser for Angels Unaware and we all appreciate their support.

We would like to thank Mr. Tim and Linda Tummond for donating 50 turkeys and 100 bags of food to Angels Unaware, Inc for Thanksgiving this year. They have been donating yearly for the past 10 years.

Thank you so much for your continuing support!

We would like to thank the **Tampa Bay Lightning** for donating tickets. We have some really great sports fans in our homes and they always love to go see the Bolts in action.

Go Bolts!



Letter from the President

My name is Richard Tatum and I am the current president of the Board of Directors at Angels Unaware, Inc. My brother Steven has been a member of the Angels family for about 35 years, and lives at Angels I.

Consumers living at Angels 2 have moved into their next beautiful home. On August 9, an "open house" was hosted with refreshments served. Those involved enjoyed showing visitors around the well designed spacious home. We cannot thank enough the people involved in the planning and enabling this home to be built.

Parents, siblings, friends or simply anyone who cares about Angels Unaware, **we badly need board members**. We meet one night each month at the corporate headquarters on Linebaugh. If this interests you, please call our office.

Thank you - Richard Tatum

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, 2014 in order to be credited to the 2014 tax year.

H.A.L.O. Update

The H.A.L.O. Foundation supports Angels Unaware, Inc.

Save The Date

05.03.15
5K run to benefit The HALO Foundation and Angels Unaware, Inc.

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

2014 H.A.L.O. Board Members

President - Bob Albano
Vice Pres. - Cliff May
Secretary - Ford Smith
Treasurer - Mike Sweeney

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.



Angels Unaware is looking for new board members.

Please contact our office for more information.

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

Thank you **North Tampa Civitan** for your generous donation. Another brick for our front walk at Angles #2!

Would you like your family or organization to be recognized with a brick at Angles #2 front walk?

[Click here](#) to place your order.



Angels Receives Grant for New Van

Angels Unaware, Inc. has been approved to receive 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.

Looking for Gift Ideas?

Concert passes, sporting event tickets, movie passes, special event tickets.

These all make great gifts for our residents. Thank you for your support!



Angels Unaware, Inc has several vacancies. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.