



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

# The Angels Ledger

Volume 15 , Issue I

February 2016

**THE HALO 5K and FAMILY FUN RUN**  
Sponsored by Gator Ford  
March 5th, 2016

**2016**

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The HALO Foundation is holding their annual  
5K race and Family Fun Run on Saturday, March 5th  
at Al Lopez Park in Tampa to benefit Angels Unaware, Inc.

**Use the discount code "angels" for \$5.00 off!**

[WWW.THEHALO5K.COM](http://WWW.THEHALO5K.COM)

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## ***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.

## **Contact us**

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Tampa, Florida  
33688-0040  
813-961-1159

[angels@angelsunaware.com](mailto:angels@angelsunaware.com)

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

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

I hope that the New Year has found you healthy and happy. The Legislature is now in session and we need your support more than ever to make sure they do the **"Right Things"** for the Developmentally Disabled citizens of Florida. Angels Unaware, Inc. must have your support to make this happen. Please take the time to call, write, email, and contact your Legislator about these two issues.

### **An across the board provider rate reinstatement is required this year to begin the process of stabilizing the IBudget Service System - \$30 Million in general revenue**

In 2003, Florida adopted a rate reimbursement system that established uniform rates for the most of the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver. Overall IBudget HCBS waiver services rates are 14% lower that they were in FY 2003-2004. While some incidental increases have occurred, there has not been a systematic rate adjustment to address the increased operational cost providers face.

A first step to addressing this issue is an investment in FY 2016-2017 of about \$30 million in General Revenue funds, supplemented by \$47 million in federal matching funds. This increase would help strengthen the provider network and reduce the number of providers who have to close their doors or reduce the number of services provided. The 2016 Legislature is asked to fund this rate reinstatement request with the understanding that individual cost plans will need to increase accordingly to cover the rates.

### **Florida needs to continue to transition individuals off of the waitlist and onto the IBudget waiver.**

This year we are asking the Legislature for \$8.3 million in General Revenue supplemented by \$12.9 million in federal matching funds. This funding would not only move about 700 individuals with intensive needs (Category 3) or who are living with a caregiver over the age of 70 (Category 4), but would also enable about 522 individuals with DD who are transitioning from school to adulthood (Category 5) to be served by the IBudget HCBS waiver as they are separating from the services provided through the school system. Without the waiver funding these individuals will remain at home with no job, few meaningful activities, and limited social connections, losing the skills learned in high school. With waiver funding, individuals with DD transitioning from school will be able to continue with their post-secondary education, become employed, or engage in meaningful community activities.

Lastly, it is with great regret that we must announce that Angels Unaware, Inc. has lost another of our great advocates. Beatrice (Bea) L. Albano was a long standing Board member of Angels Unaware, Inc. and a founding Board member of the H.A.L.O Foundation, Inc. She was always ready to help advocate for the consumers we serve and will be missed by many of the people she came in contact with. Please keep her family in your prayers.

## **CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**

[Click Here for List](#)

# Angels Auxiliary

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

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford May  
Jeanette Banks  
Neppie Alexander  
Robert Albano  
Ann and Warren Swanston  
Carolyn Blanton  
Philip and Judy Schwanz  
The Talcott Family Foundation  
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Eleanor and Glenn Morel  
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Purchase through [Amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and support Angels Unaware, Inc.

When you order, choose Angels Unaware, Inc. as your charity and Amazon will donate 0.05% of any purchase to Angels Unaware, Inc.

Thank you for your support!

## 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!

[iBudget  
Handbook  
Link](#)

Thank You.....The HALO 5K Run Sponsors



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# Scholarship Fund

## is Critically Low!

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.



Perhaps you and your family may consider donating directly to the Scholarship Fund. Please [click here](#) to learn more or to donate to this fund. As always, our guarantee to you is that of every dollar that you provide to this fund will be spent directly on the needs of the consumers that we serve.

## RETIREMENT FOR TWO OF OUR FAITHFUL

I guess everyone looks fondly to the day or date when we are able to retire. For two of our Angels Unaware, Inc. staff, that time has come, and, while I hope they are happy, it is a sad time for those of us who will miss their talents, skills, humor, and the devotion and love they have shown to the consumers of Angels Unaware, Inc.

Sonya Seabrook that has been one of our faithful LPNs keeping watch over the consumers at Angels #2 and Angels #6 in the Lutz area for over 11 years. She is going to be missed by everyone.

Director of Programs – Sandra Epperson that has worked for Angels Unaware, Inc. for over 36 years. Sandra is the other half of “Team Epperson” (James’s wife). They met and were married while here at Angels Unaware, Inc. She will be missed greatly as she begins a new chapter.

We wish them both the best, and a most hear felt THANK YOU for all the years of service. Continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers, and, of course, Angels Unaware, Inc. as we move forward to fill these vacancies on our management team.

Ross O’Banion – Executive Director

### *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, 2016 in order to be credited to the 2016 tax year.

## H.A.L.O. Update

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

### Save The Date

03.05.16

5K run to benefit The HALO Foundation and Angels Unaware, Inc.  
[THEHALO5K.COM](http://THEHALO5K.COM)

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

## 2016 H.A.L.O. Board Members

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Vice Pres. - Cliff May  
Secretary - Jennifer Albano  
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