



# The Angels Ledger

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2003

• 2003

## Board Members

### President

Bob Albano

### Vice President

Dolan "Buck"  
Buchanan

### Treasurer

William E. Monfort

### Secretary

Joyce Hatfield

Michelle  
Benningfield

Christine Coleman

Ellis Ellis

Gary Pailthorp

Connie Tatum

Ernie Todd

Bill Maen

## Honorary Board Members

Rhonde Barber

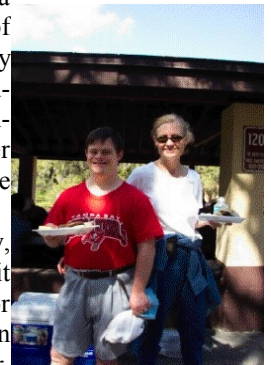
Gary Metzger

## Angels Unaware, Inc. Family and Friends Annual Picnic

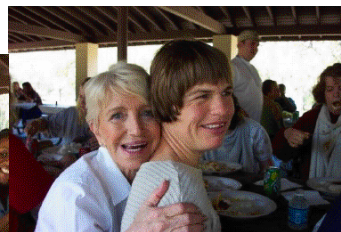
For the past 20 years it has been Angels Unaware, Inc. tradition to host a picnic for consumers, staff member, Board members, volunteers, and all of their families. This year was no exception. On February 15<sup>th</sup> at Lowery Park we held our annual picnic. This feeding frenzy was held under a beautiful canopy of clear skies and towering oaks. Consumers and family members enjoyed the day eating, visiting the zoo, board walks, and various other activities and as well as no activity. A few also got to experience a boat ride down the Hillsborough River.

Enclosed in this newsletter are some of the pictures that highlighted the day, with nearly 150 people in attendance and mountains of food to prepare, it turned out to be a great day for everyone. This also gave an opportunity for our Executive Director to brief the parents, family members, and friends on up and coming challenges that Angels Unaware, Inc. will face this year.

Ross encouraged the parents to make their wishes known to the Legislators and the Governor.

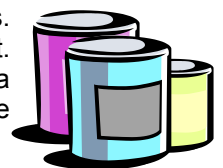


Special thanks for the day should go the Board of Directors, Christopher and Mark, as well as the members of the West Tampa Sherife, and the Ybor City Rotary Club. Without their humble servant spirits, preparing, cooking, serving, setting up tables, and cleanup, this great day would have been impossible. They made the day a smashing success. Thanks.



## Attention High School Service Clubs

Angels Unaware operates nine group homes and serves 52 residents. This spring we are planning a food drive to supplement our food budget. We are encouraging our local high school service clubs to participate in a competition food drive with prizes for the winning high school. Please contact our main office if your club is interested in this competition.



**Openings still  
available for  
additional Board  
Members...**

**Please contact Bob  
Albano  
for additional  
information**

**Angels  
Unaware, Inc.  
Needs  
Auxiliary Board  
Members**

**To assist Board  
Members in some  
of the day-to-day  
and special event  
functions. Please  
contact Nancy at  
Angels  
for additional  
information at 961  
-1159**

## *Letter from our President—Bob Albano*

I first want to thank last year's board of directors for their participation. We accomplished what we set out to do. I also want to thank this year's new board. I appreciate their dedication to this very special organization. We have a new set of goals for this upcoming year and we will need a full board of directors to accomplish all that we have set out to do. There is room for three more board members. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a board member.

This year we have several fundraising projects scheduled and will need some help from the general membership to complete them. Your board of directors is setting up an auxiliary group to help with these projects throughout the year. Please contact me if you can donate some time for these worthwhile projects. Please keep in mind that Angels Unaware plays an important role in this community. We are working for you and your loved ones. Participation from the community and the general membership is always needed and encouraged. Thank you for your consideration.

**Bob Albano  
Board of Directors President  
Angel's Unaware, Inc**

## **OUR 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 for severe and profound developmentally disabled individuals. We currently own and operate nine homes serving fifty-two 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, concerned professionals and other concerned citizens from the community governs the Corporation.

### **Notices**

Angels Unaware, Inc Newsletter advertising. Angels uses the advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution of the newsletter. We reach over 1,500 homes and businesses with our newsletter. Cost for a business card ad is \$30. Please mail your check and business card to:

Angels Unaware, Inc.  
PO Box 270040  
Tampa, FL 33688-0040



**Bob Albano**  
*Design Consultant*

14409-B N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa FL 33613

Phone: 961-2358

Ralbano@tampabay.rr.com

Fax: 971-7309

# Words from Ross

**Ross H. O'Banion Jr.—Executive Director  
Executive Director/CEO**

Each year it has been our pleasure to host the Board Members, families of our residents, the residents, and the staff and their families at an annual picnic. This tradition at Angels Unaware, Inc. has been going on for many years, and has been held in various places. This year we held our annual picnic at Lowry Park in Tampa. Within this newsletter are some pictures from the picnic, and I am sure you will find they speak volumes about Angels Unaware, Inc. and the services that we provide. After reviewing them I am sure you will agree, the people in these few pictures are what is really important.

With the approach of the state legislative session we have several areas of concern. 1). Funding is always at the top of the list. The state of Florida has approved millions of dollars to Developmental Disabilities but it seems that none “filters” down to the organizations such as Angels Unaware, Inc. that has been serving the growing needs of our residents faithfully since 1973. The new rate structure, that is currently in the rule making process is suppose to correct this by applying a uniform rate structure to the entire state. I realize however, that the “devil is always in the details” and the state Developmental Services Office has developed a history in the last several years of not communicating. This important rate structure change is no different—no details—just limited here say information. 2). DCF and DS along with it are up again for a system redesign. Lets see, this makes about a redesign rate average of about once every two years. Last time we “decentralized” and now we are re-centralizing” some areas. I wonder how much this will cost Florida taxpayers? 3). Then there is Senate Bill 178 that would make it illegal to have a group home like Angels Unaware, Inc within 1,000 feet of any other residential single family home. Never mind the fact that it probably violates several federal laws and is likely to cause some very costly lawsuits. It should motivate everyone of us to contact our State Legislators and explain to them that our folks have a moral right to live like everyone else, were they want. The “NIMBY-not in my backyard” adage is decades old and should not ever be allowed to rear its ugly head. 4). Florida has several other areas that effect each citizen—tax reform—we must figure a way to pay for obligations and other initiatives that we have voted for like classroom size. Workman’s Compensation reform rates are escalating at alarming rates in Florida. We are losing businesses to other states. Health Care insurance is the last area—rising to the point that many businesses are dropping or considering dropping group health care plans because of skyrocketing costs. Most of the insurance group providers have left the state. Reform is needed this year. With the issues facing Angels Unaware, Inc. and you, each of us needs to take the time to be informed, and stay informed, and then make your wishes known to your legislative delegation. Find out how they voted on critical issues and remember that on Election Day.

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## Donations

DLIONEL QUINONES & ROSA QUINONES, MICHAEL & ROBIN PURDY, JEAN JORDAN-In memory of Charles Travers, SUSAN MATHEWS-In memory of Charles Travers,TREVOR SMITH, JOYCE HATFIELD, WILLIAM MONFORT, PEACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ROBERT & NANCY RODRIGUEZ, ROBERT ALBANO, LANA LOONEY, RUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, SALUD SAENZ, JON & BRENDA BROOME, JEANETTE BANKS & PAMELA BACKER, CLIFFORD & CYNTHIA MAY, JOHN & ELLEN KLUVER, NORSK HYDRO AMERICA INC., HAMEROFF INSURANCE AGENCY, YOUR ATTORNEY, GRETCHEN-ELIZABETH, JEAN JORDAN-In memory of Ryerson Ingelborg, FREDERICK & MARY LANE, JENE & JANE ALEXANDER, JERRY & MARIE GIBBS, FREDERICK & PHYLLIS WHILDIN, DANIEL & KATHRYN HARLOW, AUDREY LONG, FREDERICK & MARY LANE, ANDREW JACKSON, DOLAN & ROSALYN BUCHANAN, TAMPA UNITY CHURCH, SUSAN CURVAT-In memory of her mother - Amelia Becker, EDNA GRAMLICH, GARY & JANET PAILTHORP, KEITH & ALICE PAILTHORP, TALCOTT FAMILY FOUNDATION, MARCELO SEMPE, JEAN MOORE, KATHLEEN MOORE, DOLORES STEVENS, BEVERLY LONG, DOLORES STEVENS, JUDY SCHWANZ, JEAN JORDAN, BEATRICE ALBANO, GARY RATLIFF, FABIAN ENTERPRISES INC. ,DOLAN & ROSALYN BUCHANAN-In memory of Donald Lancaster, DOLAN & ROSALYN BUCHANAN-In honor of Andrew & Glanda Hart, ROBERT & DOROTHEA PAILTHORP, MARK & JACQUELYN BAIN, JOSEPH & JOSEPHINE BIFULCO, THOMAS MURPHY, JON & BRENDA BROOME, TIMOTHY & HOLLY NOLAN, ROBERT & BARBARA DRAYNE, DEANNA C DUTTING,KIMBERLY HALL, DAVID & ROBIN LANE, DANIEL & KATHY COUILLARD, MENDEZ FOUNDATION, RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ROSA QUINONES, MICHELLE BENNINGFIELD, LAURA JOHNSON, DELORES STEVENS ,MR & MRS JULIO MAGGI & FAMILY, ALLEN JONES - ATALY INC, DIAZ/FRITZ GROUP, DEBORAH ENGLISH, TINA FULLER, WILLIAM & VIVAN HOGAN, W C & DORIS HAMMONTREE, T L HUNT DEVELOPMENT, TIM & LINDA TUMMOND ,JACK & WENDY JORDAN-For Jean Jordan as her Christmas gift, ELLEN KLUVER, ELAINE LANCASTER, MANHATTEN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, LENORA NAGEL, CARL & PATRICIA RIGGS, ROBERT SCHIRO, B KEITH & DOLORES STEVENS, PHILIP & JUDY SCHWANZ, WJ & PHYLLIS WESTERMAN-In honor of Jean Jordan, YOLANDA WARMACK, HAWVER ALUMINUM FOUNDRY

"A copy of the 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) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state."

**Your Donations are  
graciously accepted  
and appreciated.**

Angels' Unaware, Inc  
PO Box 270040  
Tampa, FL 33688-0040  
813-961-1159 8 am to 4 pm

*Thank  
You*

**Angels Unaware, Inc. 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 31,2002 in order to be credited to the 2002 tax year.



## Angel's Wish List

### **All Homes**

Towels (bath), Wash Cloths,  
Twin Sheets, Regular Pillow cases,  
twin blankets

### **Angels 9**

Vacuum Cleaner, Waffle Iron

### **Angels 6**

Outside of home need painting,  
landscaping in front of home,  
Privacy fence around rear of  
home, Crock pot, Adult bibs for  
consumers, Kitchen aide mixer,  
electric can opener

### **Angels 3**

Knife set, pots and pans

### **Angels 1**

Pyrex glass bowls, Tupperware  
containers, baking sheets –air  
bake

Please contact:  
nancy@angelsunaware.com

**We're on the web**  
[www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)

## COMMUNITY IS INCLUSION

More than a quarter century ago, long before the term “community inclusion” was brought into use, the people who formed Angels Unaware were taking steps in this direction. When people were able to move out of distant institutions because they had a home to live in, in their home community, these were the “baby steps” of community inclusion. However, whether your home is rural or is an apartment in a huge building does not totally define living in a community. It is the associations that you have with others that make a community and most of these associations are made outside the home.

Unless we have ever been a “shut-in”, most of us take our community for granted. Many of the activities that include us in the community may seem ordinary when we have free access. Shopping is such an activity. Residents are encouraged to do their own personal shopping as well as participate in shopping for the home. Shopping can be done at any of the malls or “superstores” in the community. The same goes for needed services, such as haircuts. As we make our purchases, we have opportunities to talk and interact with the people that make up our community and learn about them as they learn about us. We also learn about our community, in both the local and the global sense, by visiting the library and by visiting museums, the zoo, and the aquarium.

People with challenges are often singled out as “special” and have a lot done for them. Being a real part of a community requires participation--doing things with our neighbors. Residents are provided with opportunities to choose to participate in the community a variety of ways. Some become members of organizations such as the YMCA or may become a member of a bowling league. Some residents choose to attend church services and participate with prayer and singing. Members from churches sometimes help to make these opportunities possible through assistance with transportation. Some residents participate in the community by exercising their right to vote. Others have participated through volunteerism — from stuffing envelopes for a political candidate to entertaining nursing home residents to helping to serve food at a mission or helping to distribute food at a food bank.

Although we have always been and will continue to be out in the community doing fun things like Busch Gardens and Disney, concerts, shows and sporting events, eating out, and other amusements and entertainments, we will also continue to make efforts to be a part of our community, which is, after all, what inclusion means.