



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

# The Angels Ledger

Volume 7 , Issue 1

March 2008

## ADOPT A HOUSE PROGRAMS

**2008**

### Board Members

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Angels Unaware offers two programs that allows the community to become directly involved in the life of our homes and residents. This an excellent opportunity for your organization to take an active role in our homes and give something back to the community. We need your help. Please read the information contained in this newsletter and contact our office if you are interested in one of these programs. You can also download a brochure from our website.

### Adopt a House Program



### Adopt a Home Program

## Construction Industry Organizations

This is a great opportunity to get involved  
in your community!

## ***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, concerned professionals and other concerned citizens from the community, governs the corporation.

**Openings are still available for additional board members.**

Please contact our office to see how you can join our board.

## *A Word From Ross*

*Ross O' Bannion*  
*Executive Director*

As we cautiously start this new year our nation and our state is at a pivotal point in its existence. We will elect a new president soon. Let me urge each one of our readers to be a part of the entire process. Voting is a privilege and a right and I truly believe it is a responsibility of each of us as a citizen of this great country. No matter what your political leaning is may we never forget that we are a nation founded on basic principals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as one nation under God.

Florida has decided to limit property taxes so now the battle begins as to how each of our individual counties will balance their budgets. Services will be trimmed without a doubt. Jane Johnson, Director of The Agency for Persons With Disabilities (APD), urged people to unite around a common goal - "make life better for people who have disabilities". She said last year APD had a 156 million dollar deficit and the current deficit this year is around 25 million. According to Ms. Johnson, the deficit was reduced by reducing services, eliminating services, and reducing provider rates. She warned "we are not out of the woods". She suggested that everyone use creativity and think of new ways of doing things. Ms. Johnson said "We want to hear what your ideas are." So let her hear from you, write her, email her or call her.

For the last few years providers have been the "scapegoat" for the continued deficit and mismanagement. We have suffered rate cut after rate cut and continued increases in rules, paperwork and rising inflationary overhead costs. The rate reductions and/or eliminations have been so severe that providers have either closed down or had to cut things such as salaries and benefits that help us attract, train and retain quality staff. The real culprit is growth, which was not planned for by APD, the Governor and our Legislature. Growth can be planned for. It may be painful but steps are needed to limit it.

On a happier note I would like to thank our donors for your generosity last year. We have a growing population of consumers that have no family. As their parents pass away we try to step up to the plate at Christmas and birthdays and provide the gifts and special needs of these consumers that were once provided by their families. Your donations to our Scholarship Fund helped us meet some real needs this year that otherwise could not have been done. Thanks again and my God bless you for your generous gifts.

### ***Letter From the President—Gary Pailthorp***

Here we are beginning a new year. A new board of directors is in place and is now setting goals and a schedule for this upcoming year.

Last year one of our goals was to reduce staff turn over and we have had some success in this arena. Because of the uncertainty of our funding we have not been able to grant the kind of pay increases that we would like so benefits have been reworked to provide more flexibility. Other areas that we can work on is to insure the homes have items they need and, of course, some longevity based bonuses when the money is available.

Many of us take the opportunity at Christmas time to contribute to an annual bonus for staff. Last year we were lucky enough to have some money available in the budget to supplement the contributions. While we were lucky in 2007 to have these funds, they are not available every year and they can't be planned for. It is important for each of us who cares about our residents and the importance of staff stability to keep this need in mind. Perhaps at another time of year when you are not already stretched by Christmas spending or you have some extra room in your budget would be a good time to contribute. If you want to send in a contribution at any time during the year please mark on the envelope or check that it is for "staff bonuses". We will make sure it is applied as you wish.

Thank you for your continued support.

# Angels Auxiliary

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

- |                                  |                           |                                      |                              |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aguero, Thomas                   | Cauthorn, James & Colleen | Keast, Cary & Lana                   | Saenz, Joseph & Rosemarie    |
| Alexander, Jene & Jane           | Cook, William             | Majors, Harold & Pamela              | Schwab Charitable Fund       |
| American Legion Aux. Unit 01-52  | Estes, Martha             | Manhattan Ave United Methodist Women | Smith, Trevor                |
| Arthur, Vicki                    | Fabian Enterprises        | May, Clifford & Cynthia              | Talcott Family Foundation    |
| Banks, Jeanette & Backer, Pamela | Flynn, Judith             | Monfort, William                     | Tampa Breakfast Sertoma Club |
| Benningfield, Loren & Michelle   | Gibbs, Jerry & Marie      | Moore, Jean                          | Tampa Unity Church           |
| Blazing, Michael & Jennifer      | Goforth-Walker, Karen     | North Blvd Assembly of God           | Tatum, Connie                |
| Bobalouies Bar & Grill           | Guld, Carole              | Peace Community Church               | Terrell, Eleanor             |
| Broome, Mabel                    | Hameroff Insurance        | Placke, Shirley & Lois               | The Hartford                 |
| Brown-Allen, Barbara             | Hatfield, Joyce           | Psychological Assessment Resources   | Tye, Kevin                   |
| Buchanan, Dolan & Rosalyn        | Hogan, William & Vivian   | Ratliff Gary & Carolyn               | Velez, Francisco & Ann       |
| Burks, Theresa                   | Johnson, Mildred          | Ruth Sunday School Class             | Vizcaya Custom Homes         |
|                                  |                           |                                      | Young, Jason & Joanne        |

## In Honor of...

**Broome, Jon & Brenda  
Jordan, Jack & Wendy  
Pailthorp, Gary & Janet**

**Jack Spillane  
Jean Jordan  
Frankel & McKay Wedding**

## In Memory of...

**Broome, Jon & Brenda  
Cheney, Ronald & Brooke  
Cryo-Cell International Inc  
Jordan, Jean  
Siemens Caring Hands  
Williams, James**

**Mr. & Mrs. Jene Alexander & Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Allen  
Suzie Mathews  
Barry Bland  
Mary Smith & Norma Kane  
Michelle Williams  
Eugene Williams & Michelle Williams**



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# Moving Out

Our group homes are a wonderful experience for our residents and their families but they are not for everyone. For some people with mental retardation the only thing between them and living in their own place is – a chance. Angels Unaware, Inc currently provides services to four individuals that live in their own apartments. Carl and Tad are two of them. Although the other two we provide supports to are just as proud of their accomplishments they declined to appear in this article. One was puzzled as to what the fuss was all about. “I’m an adult, I live here.” end of story. We totally understand.



Carl and Tad are the newest to move out on their own. These two approached us as a team to see about moving out on their own. They had seen two others move out and knew they had just as much going for them. At first glance these two just don’t seem to belong together. Carl wanted Tad as a roommate because, “He does laundry good and knows cleaning”. Tad indicated that he wanted Carl as a roommate because he can order pizza on the phone and can cook. Their differences and strengths work together to get everything accomplished that’s needed. Watching them get together to clean the bathroom mirror is a treat. Tad gets as much as his 5’ height can reach and then calls in the 6’ 2” Carl to top it off. The novelty of paying bills for themselves hasn’t entirely worn off either.

It hasn’t been easy. In their first apartment they ran into prejudices in the community that they lived. Some, because Carl is African-American and Tad is not and others resented having people with developmental disabilities in their apartment complex. Carl and Tad persevered, advocating for themselves, or more often, ignoring it all together. However, Angels Unaware, Inc. had to intervene at times when their basic rights were in danger of being violated. They have since moved to another apartment complex where they are treated like any other member of the community.

To describe their day to day life would be, frankly, – boring. Their daily life is as mundane as yours or mine. They pay their bills, complain about the cost of electricity and shop for essentials just as everyone else. There are a few little differences - a picture prompt here and a checklist there. But overall, the most remarkable thing is that all this is all very unremarkable. They hit the snooze button as much as anyone else does and just like everyone else they eventually have to get themselves up and get out to work.

Like with many other services in our state, Florida has reduced services to people living in their own apartments. Currently there is a cap of ten hours a month for Supported Living Coaching. Carl, Tad and Angels Unaware all see this as a recipe for disaster. With diligent effort from the “Coach”, In-Home Support Staff, Supervisory Staff, the guys themselves and their families, that disaster will not happen here. There are times when life can be overwhelming. That’s true with Carl and Tad as well. When those times come Angels Unaware will be there with them. They will not face it alone.



## 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, 2008 in order to be credited to the 2008 tax year.



We are looking for help managing our mailing lists. We do offer Public Relation Internships. Please contact our office for further information.

## “Adopt a House” Program

The “Adopt a House” program is for those organizations that are familiar with or are equipped for house maintenance and repairs. Construction companies and construction industry associations are best suited for this program. Certain civic and social clubs may have this experience, too. This program involves an organization assuming the responsibility of all house repairs and maintenance for a particular home. Our office maintains a data base of past donors that have helped Angels Unaware with house repairs and maintenance. Your organization may want to do the work itself or use our data base to delegate the work. Our goal is to have one organization that we can count on to get the work completed and reduce or eliminate the costs associated with maintaining a house.



***Sign-up for one program or both!***

*Download a brochure from our web site.*



## “Adopt a Home” Program

The “Adopt a Home” program addresses the personal side of our homes. Adopting a home puts an organization in direct contact with the residents. Our goal is to develop a long-term, personal relationship with your organization and our residents. Each house has specific needs for the holiday season, summer vacations, birthdays and special events. Your group will help meet those needs throughout the year. Birthday parties, holiday gifts and decorations, escorts for special events, picnics, theme parks, church and community services are a few areas that we need your help. Your group could act as escorts or just provide the financial assistance for these events. If your adopted home participates in Special Olympics, we ask that your group be a supporter or perhaps a “Unified Partner” of the athletes in that home. Your group could choose to help Angels Unaware with its annual fund raising efforts or hold your own.

**Become an  
Angels Auxiliary  
Member.**

**Join the many  
friends of  
Angels Unaware  
and lend a  
helping hand.**

**Please contact  
our office to see  
how you can  
help.**

### **Contact us**

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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) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Visit us on the web on the web  
[www.angelsunaware.com](http://www.angelsunaware.com)

## H.A.L.O.

### Update

The H.A.L.O. Foundation supports Angels Unaware and the developmentally disabled. The foundation has just seated a new board of directors for 2008.

Bob Albano - President      Cliff May - Vice President  
Max Oligario - Secretary      Mike Sweeney - Treasurer  
Melody Osborne

### Grant Writer Needed

The board of directors is looking for an experienced grant writer to help with a few upcoming projects for 2008.

### Building Lot Needed

The foundation is currently looking for a home site to be donated for the construction of a new house designed for wheelchair use.

### Contact the H.A.L.O. Foundation

Please contact Bob Albano at 813-695-0236 or at [Ralbano@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Ralbano@tampabay.rr.com).