



**ANGELS  
UNAWARE, INC.**

*Residential Care for the Developmentally Disabled.*

# Newsletter

## Angels Opens Fifth Group Home

In December, a house dedication ceremony and reception officially opened the doors to the fifth group home for Angels Unaware. Located in the Carrollwood area, Angels V has three bedrooms, two and half baths, a large living room with a fireplace, a family room, a separate office, plus a garage.

Rev. Roger Watts officiated at the dedication. Unveiled during the ceremony was a plaque to be installed in Angels V honoring Board President Millard Tatum and his wife Connie for their many years of service to Angels Unaware.

Board members, staff, family members and friends toured Angels V following the ceremony. In January, six Angels moved in, making the house a "home."

## Staff Earns CBA Title

Congratulations to staff members Pat Whitmore at Angels II and Oscar Sansoni at Angels IV for passing the state Certified Behavioral Analyst (CBA) exam.

More than 40 hours of training are required to be eligible for the CBA exam, which is given by the Department of Professional Regulation (DPR). The exam is extremely difficult and takes over four hours.

Also on staff as Certified Behavioral Analysts are Facility Directors Sandra Bulmer, Elizabeth Alexander and James Epperson and Executive Director Ross O'Banion. Good luck to four more staff members who are currently undergoing the rigorous training for the exam.

## Scholarship Helps With Emergencies

Angels Unaware has established a scholarship fund for residents whose savings accounts go into the red. Sadly, the State has discontinued covering some of our residents' medications, health care needs and general supplies, so these must be purchased with money from their SSI accounts and their personal earnings, if they're capable of working at any of the local sheltered workshops.

Our residents rely on their savings accounts to purchase clothing and personal needs and to cover recreational activities, such as eating at fast-food restaurants, bowling and going to the movies. While a week's pay at a sheltered workshop may be only \$2 or \$3, a prescription not covered by the State may cost ten times that amount.

Our scholarship fund will provide emergency funding to any resident whose personal account has been depleted by legitimate expenses. Hopefully, this scholarship fund will prevent our residents from missing out on special activities or going without necessary clothes or medical care.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please make your check payable to: *Angels Unaware Scholarship Fund*; send it to Angels Unaware, P.O. Box 270040, Tampa, FL 33688-0040. For more information about this special fund, call Executive Director Ross O'Banion at 961-1159.

Hillsborough County and Florida State  
Special Olympics Honor Angels III

(See story on page 4.)

## Annual Family Picnic A Success

by Dixie Martinez  
Corporate Secretary

Hi! My name is Dixie. Although I've had the privilege of working at Angels Unaware for nearly five years, this summer was the first time my husband and I attended the Annual Angels Family Picnic.

As secretary in the corporate office, I don't get to visit with some of our "Angels" or staff members on a regular basis. Thanks to this outing, I was able to spend time with residents and staff members I only get to see occasionally, plus I got to meet and befriend a lot of new faces.

Special thanks to Millard Tatum, Ross O'Banion, Mark Pflugh and Neil Lawrence for their extra hard work to make the day a true success. They came early to set up and stayed late to clean up, and in between, they made sure everyone had enough fried fish to eat. Staff and family members brought covered side dishes and desserts so there was plenty of delicious food for everyone. In fact, we all ate too much!

Since this year's picnic was at Lettuce Lake Park, Millard Tatum brought his pontoon boat and treated us to leisurely boat rides up and down the Hillsborough River. The scenery was beautiful, and we got to see some wildlife along the way. Everyone's laughter, whoops and howls of joy were testimony to their enjoyment of the boat ride.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's family picnic. We hope you can join us.

*"If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."*

— Bob Hope

## Bless Our Donors

Thanks to the following donors (January - June, 1994): Jerome Falk, Americold Storage; Jeff Eddy, Professional Dental Services; Pan American University Women; Joe Caruso, NCO Club Manager, MacDill AFB; Juan Vega, Officers Club Manager, MacDill AFB; Dolan and Rosalyn Buchanan; Lutz-Land'O'Lakes Woman's Club; Ruth Sunday School, First Baptist Church; Marcella Tournade; Sports Unlimited; United Mini Storage; Millard and Connie Tatum; The American Legion Auxiliary #152; Sherife Association of West Tampa; Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Delta Airlines Fair Share Committee; James and Vickie Feutz; Elaine Bispo, Body Shop; Ruskin Chapter 1718 - Women of the Moose; Donald and Patricia Kandalec; Alice Williams; Thomas Davis; Sharon Cox; Marge Groene; Les and Sandy Whittles.

## Memorial Donations

Donations were made in memory of: Dr. Alfonso Massaro (by J.R. and Jean Black); Melvin Klein (by Jean Jordan); Ralph Broome (by Mildred Lott, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lott, Dr. and Mrs. James Lott, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Ginsburg); Ralph "Tilly" Williams (by John and Millicent Fallon); Ruby Britt (by Dolan and Rosalyn Buchanan).

## Words To Ponder

*"What matters today is not the difference between those who believe and those who do not believe, but the difference between those who care and those who don't."*

— Abbe Pire

## Video/Slide Show Producer Needed

Angels Unaware would like to produce a 10 to 15 minute video and a separate slide show to use at various speaking engagements with local community service, business and church groups. These will help us spread the word about who we are and what we do. Unfortunately, our budget for these projects is *extremely limited*.

If you or someone you know can help us, please call Executive Director Ross O'Banion at 961-1159.

## Before You Vote

For years, our legislators have neglected our developmentally, mentally and/or physically challenged residents — and each year, more budget cuts are made, seriously lowering the quality of their lives.

As election time approaches, please ask the political candidates about their position on supporting Florida's developmentally, mentally and/or physically challenged residents. And, carefully consider each candidate's response, before you pledge your vote. Here's some suggested questions:

Will you vote for increasing budget allocations for Florida's developmentally, mentally and/or physically challenged?

What will you do to ensure comprehensive health care, including preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic services, for our developmentally, mentally and/or physically challenged residents?

Will you ensure that our state's developmentally, mentally and/or physically challenged residents will have access to sheltered workshops, affordable day care, job-skills training and employment opportunities?

For more information on how you can make a difference this election year, call Ross O'Banion, Executive Director of Angels Unaware, at 961-1159.

## 1993 Ornaments Raise \$4,000

Although donations to charities across the nation were extremely low (down 20 to 30 percent) during last year's Christmas holidays, Angels Unaware's annual angel ornament fund-raiser brought in \$4,000. We may not have done as well as we did in 1992 (\$6,000), but we count every dollar as a blessing. If you would like to purchase one of our 1993 ornaments, call Dixie at 961-1159; we still have some in stock.

Our deepest thanks goes out to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who helped to make our 1993 fund-raiser a success. At the top of our list is **Hawver Aluminum Foundry, Inc.**, for designing, manufacturing and donating the angel ornaments for four consecutive years for our annual fund-raiser.

Other top fund-raising angels included: **Bay Area Chiropractic Center; Westlake & Westlake (June Westlake); Guerra Enterprises (Vincent & Pam Guerra); Oak Grove United Methodist Church; Johnston Hallmark Store; Ellen's Hallmark Store; Oak Marche Furniture Accessories (Donna Lucas); Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Psychological Access Resources (PAR); Beta Sigma Phi - Chapter Preceptor Zeta Gamma Sorority; Tampa Bay Ornament Club / Tampa Bay Tree Trimmers; Rose Drugs (Rose Ferlita); Mary Eva & Andy Anderson; Yolie Ferlita; Lori Stevens; Regina Dietz; Cindy Marks; and Tricia Kandalec.**

If a top-seller's name has been inadvertently omitted, we apologize and ask that you call Dixie at 961-1159 so it can be included in the next newsletter's list of donors.

Special thanks to Oak Grove United Methodist Church for allowing Angels Unaware to use their classrooms for our staff training sessions and our Board of Directors meetings.

## Angels Unaware Turns 21 This Fall

This fall, Angels Unaware will be 21 years old. Plans are currently under way for an anniversary celebration in October.

So mark your calendar and watch your mailbox for more information about this exciting occasion.

If you would like to help with the celebration plans, please call Rosalyn Buchanan at 891-7830.

## Showing Their Concern ...

Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their continued support:

**GTE Federal Credit Union**, for handling our residents' personal accounts and waiving the service fees.

**Delta Airlines Fair Share Committee**, for giving us a grant for over \$2,000.

**West Tampa Sheriffs Association**, for giving us a grant for \$650.

**Hunter's Green Country Club Association**, for sponsoring a Casino Night to benefit Angels Unaware and three other local charities.

**Tampa Bay Buccaneers**, for awarding us a \$1,500 grant.

**Tampa Bay Tree Trimmers**, for selecting Angels Unaware as their official favorite charity. (Visit their exhibit-extravaganza in March 1995.)

**Bay Area Chiropractic Center**, for hosting an Angels Unaware Day to sell angel ornaments and collect canned foods and other items for our residents.

**The Pilots Club of Ybor City**, for sharing the spirit of Christmas with the residents of Angels I by giving them an annual Christmas party filled with fun, food and gifts.

**Southprint Corporation**, for underwriting the production costs of this issue of our newsletter.

## Vans Purchased With DOT Grants

Angels Unaware is slowly replacing each group home's high-mileage vans with brand-new customized vans, thanks to the Florida Department of Transportation's matching grants program.

Our residents and staff members are thrilled with the new vans! Not only is it great having reliable transportation, but also amenities and conveniences such as air conditioning that works, AM/FM radios and CB-radios.

The two new vans that arrived this year were purchased in 1993 under this special DOT program and require only a 10-percent match from Angels. We are now in the process of raising funds to apply for additional vans.

## Bus For Sale

Angels Unaware's 20-passenger bus is for sale — \$4,000 OBO. Call Executive Director Ross O'Banion at 961-1159.

## In Memoriam

Bob  
A Special Angel  
1954 - 1994

In February, Bob, a resident at Angels III, passed away. Bob and his brother Barry have been members of the Angels Unaware family for more than 14 years.

During a Memorial Service at Oak Grove Methodist Church, residents and staff members remembered Bob's zest for life and his ever-present smile. He was a Boy Scout and also bowled at the state level in Special Olympics.

Bob will be deeply missed. Sympathy is extended to his family, his Angels family and his many friends.

## 1994 Board of Directors Elected

Serving as the 1994 Board of Directors for Angels Unaware are:

**President:** Millard Tatum

**Vice President:** Jerry Gibbs

**Secretary:** William Cook

**Treasurer:** William Monfort

**Chaplain:** Rev. Roger Watts  
(Honorary Member)

General Board members are: Jon and Brenda Broome, Dolan and Rosalyn Buchanan, Richard Emerson, Michael and Joyce Hatfield, Joseph McConnell, Connie Tatum, Francisco Velez and Katherine Werner.

## Please Renew Your Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership yet for 1994, please do it today. Angels Unaware counts on your continued support. And, remember that a membership in Angels Unaware makes the perfect gift.

Individual memberships are \$10 each; Family memberships are \$25 each; General Corporate - \$100; Bronze Corporate - \$250; Silver Corporate - \$500; Golden Corporate - \$1,000; and Platinum Corporate - \$5,000.

Make your membership check payable to *Angels Unaware, Inc.*, and mail to:

Angels Unaware, Inc.

P.O. Box 270040

Tampa, FL 33688-0040

Be sure to designate on the check that it is for a membership.

Honorary and memorial donations to Angels Unaware are a very special way to pay tribute to loved ones and friends.

For more information on memberships and donations, call Angels Unaware at 961-1159.

## From The Home Front

### Angels I

by Sandra Bulmer, Facility Director

As we prepare for our annual beach vacation at Cape San Blas (the William J. Rish State Park in the Florida Panhandle), we must take a moment to say "thanks" for our two new vans.

It's nice to have dependable transportation — and air conditioning that really works! We received both vans last fall, and they have certainly made getting around much more pleasant. The radios entertain everyone on the rides. You may see us traveling down the road, singing to the "oldies."

We are looking forward to our trip up to the Panhandle. This year it will be ever so much easier and more comfortable, with plenty of room for everyone.

### Angels II

by Elizabeth Alexander, Facility Director

With open arms, Angels II welcomes our newest family member. Last November 2, Joseph joined our family. Along with professional care, he receives love, affection and the support he deserves.

Since arriving at Angels II, Joseph has done very well in all areas. He has a lot of potential, and we look forward to sharing in his continuing advancements, growth and development.

Joseph is a wonderful addition to our family — a true pleasure who gives enjoyment and happiness to others.

### Angels III

by James Epperson, Facility Director

When it comes to Special Olympics, Angels III has received two special awards: *Hillsborough County's Agency of the Year* and *Special Olympics Facility of the State of Florida*. We're involved with year-round training in numerous sports at different levels, from Bocce and Horseshoes for our elderly residents to the grueling Triathlon for our more conditioned athletes.

Special Olympics has always been a major part of our lives here at Angels III. It was at the Bowling State Games where Bob's life ended; his last words were, "Me happy." Special Olympics took on a different meaning after that. He left a void on our team that couldn't be filled. When Tim came to live with us, many of the residents tried to explain to him who Bob was. After each medal or ribbon was awarded, the conversation was of how Bob would have felt.

It was a different kind of season this year. Now, a new season approaches; things are different. Tim is enjoying the challenges his new home presents. Cathy is recovering from a serious illness and lengthy hospital stay. Staff faces have changed, but Angels III continues on. After all, overcoming challenges is our job.

### Angels IV

by Sandra Bulmer, Facility Director

Angels IV will be saying a sad "goodbye" to two very special staff members.

Samantha "Sam" McIntosh, who has been with Angels for five years, is heading for an adventure in Boston. She has been the Behavior Program Manager for almost two years.

Rachael Rutan is going to Colorado to be near her family while she finishes her pre-med studies. She has been "more-than" a Training Tech at Angels IV for almost four years.

We will all miss these two wonderful people very much, but, of course, we are happy for them and wish them every success.

### Angels V

by James Epperson, Facility Director

Now open for business, Angels V has been busy! Meeting the new residents included a reunion for me with three ladies whom I hadn't seen for over 10 years (they came to us from an ICF/MR), along with three friends who transferred from Angels I. These six ladies are enjoying their new accommodations on Krueger Lane. I'm not sure who is more rewarding to watch — the residents or their families.

With only five other residents to share their house and staff with, each lady is surprising us with new facets of their personalities. It's also exciting to watch the three families who are new to Angels grow in confidence as they learn that Angels Unaware is not like any other organization.

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

— Winston Churchill



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P.O. Box 270040, Tampa, FL 33688-0040

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