



**ANGELS
UNAWARE, INC.**

Residential Care for the Developmentally Disabled.

Newsletter

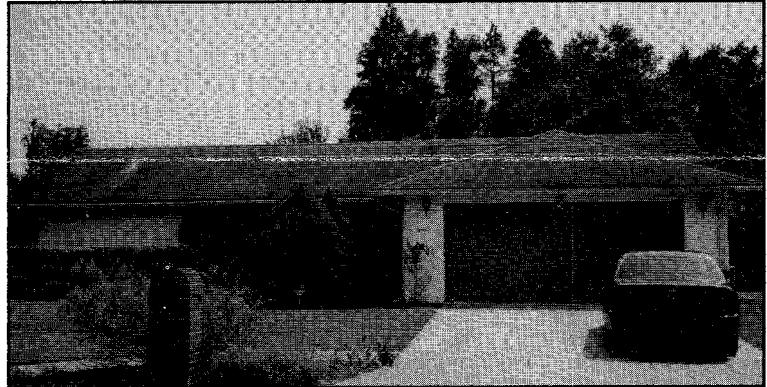
PRODUCED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ANGELS UNAWARE

Angels Unaware Opens Seventh Group Home

When the doors to Angels VII opened in October, it became the new home for six young adults. Located near Ehrlich and Anderson, the home is only minutes from Angels I and IV, making it easier for Sandra Bulmer to serve as Facility Director for all three homes.

After the 3-bedroom, 2-bath home was purchased, minor renovations were made to accommodate the special needs of the incoming residents. In addition to a living room, the house also has a family room with a fireplace, plus a small office for the staff. An oversized screened porch allows residents to enjoy themselves regardless of the weather or the mosquitoes.

An Angels VII dedication and housewarming will be held in January. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Dixie Martinez at **961-1159**.



Angels VII, our newest group home, is in North Tampa near Ehrlich and Anderson and only minutes from Angels I and IV group homes.

1997 Angel Ornaments Now On Sale!!

Our 1997 fund-raiser angel ornaments are now on sale. Since 1990, Jim Hawver, President of Hawver Aluminum Foundry, Inc., has designed, manufactured and donated aluminum angel ornaments, making each sale a 100-percent donation to Angels Unaware. Special thanks to the following vendors that are currently selling our 1997 ornaments for \$5 each:

Ellen's Hallmark

13124 N. Dale Mabry (962-3168)

Johnston's Hallmark

13125 N. Dale Mabry (968-2625)
15015 N. Dale Mabry (265-8115)

Oak Marche

4616 Eisenhower Blvd. (882-9177)

Angels Unaware Corporate Office

4918 West Linebaugh (961-1159)

If you or your organization want to purchase or help sell ornaments, please call Angels Unaware Executive Director Ross O'Banion or his office assistant Dixie Martinez at **961-1159**.



← In the center is this year's ornament, a little "Granny" angel, surrounded by ornaments from previous years.

Place Your Order By Mail

Mail-order ornaments cost \$6 each (includes \$1 shipping/handling). Send checks (payable to Angels Unaware) to:

P.O. Box 270040

Tampa, FL 33688-0040

To order angel ornaments from previous years (1990 to 1997 each feature a different angel), call Dixie Martinez at **961-1159** to ensure they are available.

Angels Make The Holiday Special

Let our versatile angel ornaments decorate your holidays — on Christmas trees, wreaths, floral arrangements and gifts. Or put one on a velvet ribbon and wear it as holiday necklace.

they are available.

Share The Christmas Spirit . . .

... buy our angel ornaments to brighten your holidays. May the new year bring you and your loved ones many blessings!

*"Things that matter most
must never be at the mercy
of things that matter least."*

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Bless Our Donors ...

Donations made December 1996 – September 1997: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Culp; Publix; Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Westerman; Lutz-Land 'O Lakes Women's Club; Jean Black, Mr. & Mrs. Nelvin Bridges; Mr. & Mrs. Ed Montfort; Ruth Sunday School Class First Baptist; Jean Bond; Luz M. Wilson; Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Groene; Grace Lutheran Church in Carrollwood; Lana Looney; West Tampa Sherife Association; Mr. & Mrs. James Feutz; Gale Grodi; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gernak; Independent Order of Forresters; Daniel Herrera; Maude Joyner; Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Murphy; Ellie Terrell; Americold; Shore Tampa Bay Staff; Xi Delta Delta; Jean Breese; Mr. & Mrs. Rose Ressler; Mr. & Mrs. Kent Morris; The Gleaners of Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church; Tita Rogers; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kennedy; Betty Corson; O'Neill Hallmark Shop; Hank Cramer; Knights of Columbus; Mary Alice Freaney; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andrew Hart; Lora Lee Novak; Virginia Diaz; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Keebler; Mr. & Mrs. Nick Guagliardo; Jill Ricketts; Cora Martin; John Klaver; Rod Crawford, Acosta Sales Co.; Mark Hartung; Lala Napier; Mr. & Mrs. George Hinds; Mr. & Mrs. K.D. Cochran; Mr. & Mrs. David Hensel; Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Durbin; Mystic Hair Group; Lisa George; Target Stores; Daewoo Int'l. of America Corp.; Mr. & Mrs. John Gibson; Travis Post; Robert T. Boyer; Red, Inc.; Jay J. Pierce; Pierce & Assocs.; Lela Hayes; Francos Petot; PKM International; Don Demers; J.H. Crouch; Jody Pupanek; Sheryl Pearl; Sharon Robles; Sunday School Class of Westlake Memorial United Methodist Church; Todd Broome; Virginia Beaty, Florida Palms Cootlette Club #560; Norman Esser; Kinetic Cycle; Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Massimal; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Curry; Mr. & Mrs. Earl Stover; Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Lee; Mr. & Mrs. Greg Monteau; The G Peppers Sports Bar; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Talcott; Talcott Family Foundation; Mr. & Mrs. Alfred McClutchy Jr.; Dalia Camara; Masonry Builders; B. Jean Bond; Penny Myers; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Riggs; Rebecca Palasti; Rolie Cabrera; Men's Club of Oak Grove Methodist Church; Maggie Young; New Salem Missionary Baptist Church; Mark Pace; Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate; Jacqueline Danzer; Wanda Genzler; Jean Maxwell; Beta Sigma Phi; Don Morris; Don Thornton; Brenda DeBoyer; Lala Patterson; Charles Cherry; Mr. & Mrs. Millard Tatum; William Cook; Anne Ayala; Mr. & Mrs. Jon Broome; Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Guerra; Trevor Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Chive; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Trocke; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Worlick; Mr. & Mrs. John Gifford; Wilma Foye; Mr. & Mrs. Dolan Buchanan; Jeanette Banks; Mr. & Mrs. Ford Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Dann. ♥

Remembrances ...

Donations in Memory of: Margaret Diecidue by Mr. & Mrs. Dolan Buchanan, Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso Diecidue; John W. Joyner by Peggy Joyner; Edna Presting by Jean Jordan; Albert Mellem by Jean Jordan; Gene Jordan by Jean Jordan; Marina Chavez by Lora Lee Novak; J.R. Black by Mr. & Mrs. Windsor Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Binder, Janice Blohm, Marie Cusmano & Children, L.A.C. Parent Group, Marian Hand, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent DeSalvo, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Mangione, Edna Pielow, Mary Ann Simonsen, Kelly Simonsen, Guy Black, Virginia Beaty, Florida Palms Cootlette Club #560, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Black, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Sacks, Yvonne Rodriguez, Margaret Polo; Pete & Sue Schiro by Frances McKinnon & Family; Donald Campbell by Mr. & Mrs. James Caldwell, West Coast Refrigeration. ♥

Donations in Honor of: Jason Buchanan by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Ferlita. ♥

Guest Column By William Cook

A Founding Parent's Message From The Heart

*"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

— Hebrews 13:2

When this Bible verse was referenced at a recent service at my church, it caused me to reflect on the origins of Angels Unaware. Thirty years ago, a group of parents met regularly. Our common bond: we all had children who were residents of a Sunland Training Center. Most of us traveled 250 miles round trip to visit our children in Fort Myers. Out of our frustrations and concerns arose the dream to establish a group home in Hillsborough County for the severally retarded. One of our charter members, Arlene Mersereau, wrote to Dale Evans Rogers who authored the book "Angel Unaware." She gave us permission to use this name when we incorporated in 1973.

I have to confess that, at the time, I did not like the name. Both my wife and I thought it was not compatible with the image of personal dignity and achievement of self-potential which we advocated for mentally handicapped persons.

I am now older and more mellow, so when I heard the above Bible verse, I knew it was time I read Dale Evans' book. (It's available at local libraries.) Although I do not agree with all of Dale and Roy Rogers' religious views, I now can appreciate this special story about how their experience with their Down's syndrome daughter Robin (1950-52) drew them closer to God.

I now believe that we grow and learn from everything we experience — that things happen for a reason and there are no mistakes. All the things we have experienced have brought us to where we are now, and we are right where we are supposed to be.

I now accept my retarded daughter Lisa for exactly who she is, and I don't have to be angry at God for what He "did to me."

As Angels Unaware looks forward to our 25th anniversary in 1998, I want to give thanks for all the staff, parents and friends who have given so much of their time, talent and treasure to make Angels Unaware a loving home for our special children. It is a wonderful name and organization, and I am proud to be part of its heritage. God bless you all. ♥

Donations Needed To Help Our Residents

Donations of non-perishable food items are needed for the pantries of our seven group homes. Ask your business, church or service organization to sponsor a food drive to benefit Angels Unaware.

Christmas wish lists are also available to individuals and organizations that would like to adopt a resident or a group home for the holidays.

Angels Unaware's scholarship fund helps our residents when their personal savings

accounts are low, so they won't miss activities or go without needed medical care or personal items. If you would like to contribute to the general scholarship fund, mail a check (payable to Angels Unaware Scholarship Fund) to:

Angels Unaware

P.O. Box 270040

Tampa, FL 33688-0040

To learn more about how you can help Angels Unaware, please call **961-1159**. ♥

Mail Label Corrections

If your mail label is incorrect or you receive more than one copy of this newsletter, call Dixie at **961-1159**. Thank you. ♥

*"The only thing necessary for
the triumph of evil is for
good people to do nothing."*

— Edmund Burke

Community Members Sharing Their Concern

Special thanks to these individuals, businesses and service organizations —

State Rep. Faye Culp, for hosting an Angels Unaware Charity Dinner in her home and raising more than \$1,100 for our residents.

Greg and Terry Monteau and G. Peppers Sports Bar in Odessa, for hosting a golf tournament in May to benefit Angels Unaware and raising more than \$5,000.

West Tampa Sherife Association, for supporting Angels Unaware throughout the year and helping to make our Spring Picnic an extra-special day for everyone (photos on pg. 4).

GTE Federal Credit Union, for waiving service fees for our residents' accounts.

Oak Grove United Methodist Church, for opening its classrooms to Angels Unaware for staff training and Board meetings.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, whose members annually purchase angel ornaments.

Preceptor Zeta Gamma Chapter, for selecting Angels Unaware as its service project.

O'Neill's Hallmark, for donating party supplies.

Knights of Columbus at Incarnation Catholic Church, for hosting a fund-raiser to benefit Angels Unaware.

Pacific Life Insurance Company, for donating office equipment.

PAR, for donating office equipment and purchasing angel ornaments each year.

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

St. Paul's Catholic Church, for donating food and ride tickets for its Annual Fall Carnival to the Angels Unaware residents.

Tampa Bay Tree Trimmers Ornament Club, for inviting Angels Unaware to participate in its Annual Flamingo Fling Ornament Show and buying our angel ornaments.

Planet Visions Inc., for donating services to design and launch an Angels Unaware website at (<http://www.angelsunaware.com>).

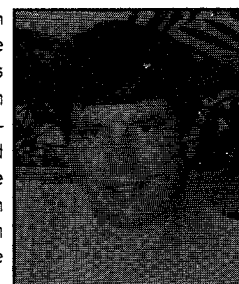
Ruth Epsky, *Tampa Tribune* Columnist, for publicizing our fund-raisers and events.

Jim Hawver of Hawver Aluminum Foundry, for designing, producing and donating our angel ornaments for the past seven years.

Liberty Christian School Senior Class, Anderson, Indiana, for donating part of their Florida spring break vacation to do yard work at Angels VI.

Ross O'Banion Celebrating 20 Years As Angels Unaware's Executive Director

The Angels Unaware residents, parents, Board members and staff are blessed to have Ross O'Banion as the Executive Director of Angels Unaware. Through his 20 years of dedicated service and loving guidance, we have grown to seven group homes, with plans for more in the near future.



And to his wife Cynthia goes our deepest appreciation not only for the helping hand she cheerfully and frequently lends to Angels Unaware, but also for her patience and understanding of the many long hours Ross works so willing to ensure a higher quality of life for our residents. ♥

"Your world is as big as you make it."

— Georgia Douglass Johnson

Share Angels Unaware With Your Family And Friends During This Holiday Season

Capture the true meaning of Christmas this year by giving gift memberships in Angels Unaware. And if you haven't renewed your membership, please do it today. Angels Unaware counts on your continued support. Mail your check (payable to Angels Unaware, Inc.) to:

**Angels Unaware, Inc.
P.O. Box 270040
Tampa, FL 33688-0040**

Designate on the check whether it is for a membership or a donation (and the type of donation) or for angel ornament(s). Angels Unaware is a 501(C)(3) non-profit charitable organization; donations are tax-deductible. For more information, please call Ross O'Banion, Executive Director of Angels Unaware, at 961-1159. ♥

Annual Memberships

- Individual General Membership \$ 10
- Family General Membership \$ 25
- Corporate Membership \$ 100
- Bronze Angel \$ 250
- Silver Angel \$ 500
- Golden Angel \$ 1,000
- Platinum Angel \$ 5,000

Donations

- This donation is in Loving Memory of Honor of.
- Please send a notification letter of this remembrance donation to:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
- This is a general donation (to be used for the residents as needed),
 a donation specifically for the Residents' Scholarship Fund,
 an order for Angel Ornament(s) (\$6/ea. includes \$1 s/h) for these years:
____ '90 ____ '91 ____ '92 ____ '93 ____ '94 ____ '95 ____ '96 ____ '97

Enclosed is my check (payable to Angels Unaware, Inc.) for \$ _____

Donor's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____

ANGELS UNAWARE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

Snapshots From The Spring Picnic



This year's spring picnic was at the Tampa Baptist Assembly Grounds. Special thanks to:

♦ **West Tampa Sherife Association**, for serving food, distributing beads and candy, and lending a hand wherever needed.

♦ **Jim Hawver**, President of Hawver Aluminum Foundry and designer of our angel ornaments, for bringing his classic hot rod to the picnic to give residents rides around the park.

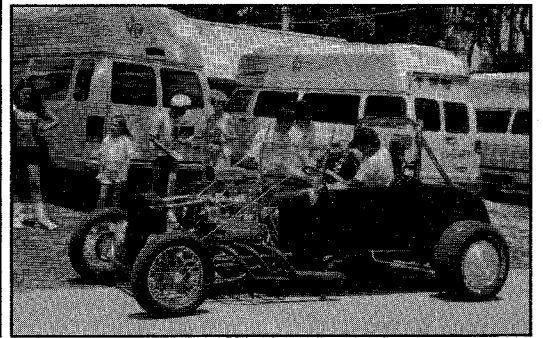
♦ **Members of the staff, Board of Directors and residents' families** who shared their time that day to ensure the residents enjoyed themselves eating delicious food, swimming, playing volleyball, and riding in Mr. Hawver's classic convertible. ♥



We Need You On Our 1998 Board of Directors

The Angels Unaware Board of Directors is a working Board committed to improving the lives of the developmentally disabled residents living in our seven group homes. We meet monthly for about two hours, and hope you will consider joining us in this rewarding volunteer work.

If you would like more information, please call Dixie Martinez at **961-1159**, and she will arrange for a current Board member to call and talk with you about the work we do on behalf of our residents. ♥



Visit our new website at <http://www.angelsunaware.com> designed by Planet Visions, Inc. (www.planetvisions.com)

Happy Holidays!!!

Coming In January
Super Yard Sale
 Don't miss out on great bargains — appliances, furniture, clothing, software, toys, housewares — something for everyone. For the date, time and place, call Dixie Martinez at 961-1159.

Residential Care for the Developmentally Disabled
 P.O. Box 270040, Tampa, FL 33688-0040

ANGELS UNAWARE, INC.



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