



*Where Reality is Respect,
Appreciation, and Fulfillment*



Our Fall Benefit was a Huge Success! Thank you!

The Next Generation



*Beginning another 25 years
of quality services!!*

- ⇒ Total Net Proceeds: \$19,230
- ⇒ Raffle Proceeds: \$12,400
- ⇒ Donations to the Event: \$4,513
- ⇒ Guests in Attendance: 220
- ⇒ Raffle Prizes: Almost 200 !!
- ⇒ RRAF Peers in Attendance: 12
- ⇒ RRAF Families In Attendance: 14
- ⇒ RRAF Families Supporting Event: 22

RRAF's 2013 Lapertosa Award Honorees

“The families of RRAF thank you for your support. Your gift has enriched the lives of our loved ones in many ways.”

**Friendly Ford, Roselle
Knights of Columbus, St. John Council #3738
The Pelletier Family
The Schwartz Family
St. Matthew Council of Catholic Women**

**Marilyn Flanagan's
2013 Presidents Award Honorees**

“In recognition of your ongoing dedication and commitment. Thank you for believing in, and helping us achieve, our dream.”

**Robert Pennisi
Zachary Slaughter**



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT:**

The following is the speech I gave during our fall benefit program. It speaks to successor planning.

“The theme today is clearly what is next for RRAF. After all, almost every time a staff leaves we never hear from them again. For peers that is also usually the case. A peer

leaves and we at RRAF usually don't get a thank you note, a gift of appreciation – at best we learn from their PACT person where the peer has gone and if they are served well. For us we are appreciative of that. At least we can learn that our efforts on behalf of them – some for years on end – actually were helpful and led them to their future lives. For those who do keep RRAF in your conversations and efforts on our behalf? You have no idea how much it inspires us to keep going and show up day after day in spite of all of the state's bad decisions, lack of funding increases, and everything else that goes with our field. As I travel this country watching every

size and version of social service agency struggle to determine its future I do know that successor planning is always in the forefront of everyone's minds. Whether it is on paper in the strategic plan or on the mind of a single board member or on the mind of a single family member of a person served – it is on the minds of important people that really need to know the future of an organization.

As I write report after report for those organizations I survey I work to ensure that they keep successor planning in that forefront. For RRAF I know I must do the same.

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Whether we like it or not – all of us in this room are growing older, as are the peers that we serve. So we MUST plan. For me not to do that would be remiss in my role as president.

So today I come before you to say that we are probably looking at my 5-10 year window of my role here at RRAF. No, I hope not to leave tomorrow. Yes, I am happy that I lived through last April's accident and still can work as hard as for RRAF as I did before that. But, I do have to say that I am realistic in that I probably will not be here for another 23 years. But, what a 23

year ride that has been.

We have grown. We have expanded. We have been through good and bad. We have been adversaries. We have been friends. We have persevered. We have achieved good things, for good people, for good reasons. But, what's next?

For starters? I have cut my hours back to a four day per week average. Even though at full-time I make less than any director at any agency that responds to salary surveys, it is still too much to do what is needed. I have made that decision to add an extra direct care person to ensure programming happens.

The next plan? To do what most

agencies our size does. I want to bring in a part-time administrative assistant / accounting person. These areas are critical to the continuation of this organization if anything happens to me. This will be done as the budget allows.

In the meantime. I will be here. I will continue to learn from my CARF surveys. I will continue to remind staff that **I AM RETIRING**. Someday. Let's get ready. We need to do it right for staff. We need to do it right for peers. We need to do it right for families. Help me. We will all benefit from that.

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

THANK YOU - OUR 2013 FALL BENEFIT DONORS!

Addison Dairy Queen
Don Azarias
Banner Moulded Products
A. Capadona
Frank and Connie Bruno
Roger and Sandy Davis
Greg and Estela Deloria
Jean Dolle

Roy Fisher
Tom and Marilyn Flanagan
Feliz and Edna Ganon
Virgil and Leona Gulliford
Diane Hodges
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Mr. and Mrs. Art Juridico
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The Metcalf Family
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Clyde and Shirley Nelson
Marjorie Nystrom
LaDonna Randazzo
Charles and Roberta Robison
Tom and Michelle Scales
Schaper Insurance & Financial Services
Al and Judi Stojanovic
Mr. and Mrs. Don Story



FROM THE BOARD:

In addition to my regular duties as master of ceremonies at the RRAF Fall Benefit this year I had the opportunity to present a short speech. I took as my inspiration words from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech when he said "the torch has been passed to a new generation". He was referring of course to the fact that in 1961 people of his generation, born in the 20th century, raised during the depression, and who fought the second world war, were then assuming senior positions in

government and business.

Obviously, by now that generation long ago passed the torch to younger generations, and it occurred to me that over time each generation passes the torch to younger generations, both within families, and within organizations. It would be that way within the families of those served by RRAF, and it would be that way within the management of RRAF.

I then asked family members of those served by RRAF that were of the same or younger generation of the family member served to stand up, and I asked RRAF staff, with the exception of Marilyn to also stand up. I said to them "congratulations, you are the next generation at RRAF".

I impressed upon that group, the "next

generation", how much RRAF was really a partnership between RRAF staff and the families served. But I noted that in recent years, as the parents of those served have grown a little bit older, the members of this "next generation" had not really stepped up and played an active role at RRAF. I told them that the upcoming jewelry sale would be a perfect time to step up and help out, and I even invited anyone interested to ask about membership on the RRAF Board of Directors.

Well it must have worked. At the end of the day several family members of this "next generation" and one RRAF staff member volunteered to work the October 26th jewelry sale. To each of them I say "thank you".

*Thank you,
Thomas Flanagan*

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (August and September, 2013)

IN MEMORY

Ella Mae Cooper
Paul and Cindy Habura

Scott Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Grant Ellington
Roger and Sandy Davis

Art Giannotti
Bruce and Nancy Brockmeier
Ray, Genie and Mary Urick

Barbara Mackowiak
Penny Anderson

Aaron Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Albert Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Marion Munson
Penny Anderson
Paul and Cindy Habura
Rhonda Mack

Rod Schwartz
Roger and Sandy Davis

IN HONOR

Brooke Davis
Barb Kennedy
John and Dee Mulkerin
Bob and Donna Resuali
Joe and Nancy Sykora

Bonnie Habura
Carol Bartels

John and Dee Mulkerin
Roger and Sandy Davis

Ariana Pratt
Gary Gesink

Andy Santos
Flo Saturnino

Mary Urick
Kathleen DiPrima

THANK YOU TO RECENT JEWELRY DONORS:

Bernadette Dooley
Lisa Duncan
Judy Sopoci
St. Matthew Parishioners

JEWELRY !!

Join us October 26, 2013, at
the American Legion,
Post 187,
Annual Craft Show in
Elmhurst, IL.
310 West Butterfield Road

The sale hours are
9 am - 3 pm



RRAF has been CARF accredited since 1997.

GENERAL

Friend (\$10—\$49)
Don and Ann Yurik

Sponsor (\$50—\$99)
St. Matthew Council of
Catholic Women
(In memory of Rod Schwartz)

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED RAFFLE PRIZES FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT CELEBRATION!

Addison Dairy Queen
Dorothy Altman
Amalfi Ristorante, Bloomingdale
Angelo's Ristorante, Elmhurst
Anyway's, Oakbrook Terrace
Banner Moulded Products
Barone's, Glen Ellyn
Blu Moon Salon, Lombard
The Boundary Tavern & Grille, Chicago
Judy Boyer
Brianna's Flowers, Bloomingdale
Carson's, Stratford Square Mall
Central DuPage Foot and Ankle Assoc.
The Cheesecake Factory, Chicago
The Cheesecake Factory, Lincolnshire
The Cheesecake Factory, Old Orchard
The Chicago Cubs
The Chicago Wolves
Chicago Zoological Society
'El Tesoro' Restaurant, Glendale Hts.
Epic Buffet, Hollywood Casino
Roy and Lucy Fisher
Franky's Red Hots, Addison
Glendale Lakes Golf Club
Hacker's Glenbard Gardens
The Hair Parlor, Glendale Hts.
Hollywood Blvd., Woodridge
Hollywood Palms, Naperville
Dr. Thomas Huyvaert, D.C.
Improv
Ki's Steak & Seafood, Glendale Hts.
Krage's Service Center, Addison
Patricia Kreibich

Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants
Lou Malnatti's Pizzeria
Lynfred Winery, Roselle
Maggiano's, Schaumburg
Manhattan's Restaurant, Carol Stream
Marcus Theatres Corporation, Milwaukee
Tania Mitton
Mark and Lisa Paprocki
Pilot Pete's, Schaumburg Airport
Platt Hill Nursery, Bloomingdale
Rooster's Barn & Grill, Bloomingdale
John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc., Elgin
Shedd Aquarium
Kathie Stellman
Target, Glendale Hts.
TRU Restaurant, Chicago
US 99.5 Radio Station
Village Tavern & Grill, Carol Stream
Lee and Mary Ann Walper
Gail Williams
Zanies Comedy Nite Club, Chicago
Zigfield Troy Golf, Woodridge
Zio Tony's Pizza, Addison
- and Families, Staff, and Board of RRAF

Roger Davis, Board Member (left) presents Clifford Grammich from the St. John Knights of Columbus, Council #3738, in Westmont with a Lapertosa Award on behalf of their efforts through their annual Intellectual Disabilities Tootsie Roll Drive. To all of our Knights of Columbus partners, thank you for the many years of efforts on our behalf. It truly helps

Dessert for the day was donated by the Addison Dairy Queen. "Dilly Bars" for all !!



Marilyn Flanagan, President, presents Ken Dombeck our Lapertosa Award for Friendly Ford, Roselle. They go beyond customer service to personal service!



Administration/Programming
613 South Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone/Fax: (630) 495-RRAF [7723]
E-Mail: RRAF@RRAF.ORG

Programming Annex
619 South Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148

Where Reality is Respect, Appreciation, and Fulfillment

Newsletter
October, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS:

Roger Davis
Thomas Flanagan
Sally Field Mullan

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and General Counsel
Zachary Slaughter
Vice President, Day Services

**ACCREDITED BY THE
REHABILITATION
ACCREDITATION
COMMISSION (CARF)
THROUGH DECEMBER 2015**



(Above) Look at all of those raffle prizes (almost 200) and all of those raffle stubs (over 5,000 were in the bin!). Congratulations prize winners!



Our celebrity DJ, Connie Szerszan, has been a part of our fall benefits for many years. A radio legend from WCFL to WIND and more she has been entered into the U.S. Congressional Record as “the first female to have her own show in prime time in a major market”. She is an actress and painter, too! Thank you Connie for setting the mood with great music!

**Enjoy more Fall Benefit pictures on
page 3 of this newsletter!**

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

_____ Benefactor, \$500 _____ Centurian, \$100 _____ Sponsor, \$50
_____ Friend, \$10 _____ Other

This donation is in memory of: _____

honor of: _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please make checks payable to RRAF and mail to 613 South Main Street, Lombard, IL 60148-3341. RRAF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations not exchanged for goods or services are tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS regulations. Should you wish a copy of our certified financial audit, please request it in writing to address above.