



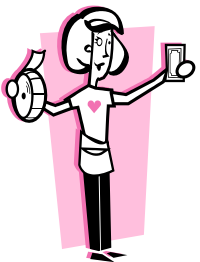
*Where Reality is Respect,
Appreciation, and Fulfillment*



THE ROAD AHEAD . . . NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

RRAF has a long and respected commitment to serving those with developmental disabilities and supporting their families as they care for them, but RRAF does not consist of any one family, one employee, or one board member alone. It is a group of individuals who bring to RRAF a diverse and wide knowledge base, along with a breadth of various experiences and needs.

We ask that each of you take a moment to reflect on how you can contribute to RRAF in some way. Your contribution does not necessarily need to be a financial one. Nearly everyone's budget these days - RRAF's included - has been tightened and stretched to its very limit. The contribution that we are asking for is the gift of you.



Please don't discount what you can contribute to RRAF. Each of us has something to offer - from making a presentation about RRAF to a community group, selling admission and raffle tickets to our fundraisers, helping employees with new craft and activity ideas, collecting jewelry for our Jewelry Cartel, volunteering to help at fundraisers (from jewelry sales and the Fall Benefit to local drives for our Lions Club and Knight of Columbus supporters), helping our Jewelry Cartel place jewelry on cards or in boxes for display, holding family meetings to foster friendships and bring new ideas to RRAF, performing needed maintenance tasks or primping upgrades to our site, or serving on the Board of Directors.

Volunteering is the cornerstone of RRAF and directly affects the level and quality of services we can provide above that mandated for and paid for through state reimbursements and private pay tuition fees.

We thank and appreciate our past and ongoing volunteers for their help. We look forward to hearing how new volunteers or new suggestions for RRAF's continued growth can be realized. That is the only way that RRAF can take itself to its next level of service provision and growth. The commitment of time and energy current employees and volunteers give to RRAF keeps us stable. To move forward on behalf of those we serve - and others - will take additional hours and commitment. The future of RRAF does depend on each one of us. And, each one of us is needed to ensure that future and to help drive the course of that future.



When you give - you get back as much, if not more, by the very act of giving itself. Give!



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As my employees like to point out, I have been telling everyone for years that “*someday*” I will retire! They joke that every year at the fall benefit I give some version of the “I am retiring” speech. More importantly, they all know that when that day comes I want RRAF to be able to go on without me easily, transparently, and without a rough transition.

This past year has been a step in that direction. I have taken my decision seriously that I am now an 80% employee. I am no longer helping with routes. I no longer get there at 8 am just in case I’m needed. And, I am adding many additional CARF surveys as my time allows. I also spend time working at home when I can. After all, I tend to be more efficient that way.

What staff have done this past year is learned to live without me making every little decision. They have learned what they can do - and what they still need me to do - and at least when they need to ask me how to do something. It’s been a full year of stretching for them and a full year of pulling back for me.

Some of the hardest lessons have been

on families who have come to just expect me to be there for them at the drop of the hat. I am delegating things on purpose so that lessons can be learned now while I am still here to point out things others need to know. For all of us need me to be the shadow in the background and staff need to be seen as the faces and voices of what gets done.

The one clear area of my position that does continue, especially now that I am also a member of the Board of Directors, is being a part of the strategic planning process.

It is a given that every organization I survey for CARF is facing ongoing challenges. Will it be alive a year from now? Will there be more funding cuts above what they’ve already experienced? Will there be even more regulatory and billing requirements placed upon them? What services should they continue to offer? Which ones are going to disappear based on state funding changes? Are there service areas or funding sources, that although not quite like anything they do now, are things that should be pursued just to stay alive for those they started out to serve and who still need the services they receive?

These questions that social service organizations across our country are asking themselves are the same ones we need to ask ourselves at RRAF.

Remaining status quo cannot be an option for us. We need to make some hard choices, especially knowing that a new version of Medicaid waiver is ahead of us. Every state I visit has its own version of a new Medicaid waiver or managed care environment. What the one fully implemented here in Illinois looks like is anybody’s guess. But we must begin the conversation.

I’ve surveyed thirty-four organizations in ten states. I’ve gotten to survey with over thirty CARF surveyors who live and work in almost as many states. In our conversations together the same themes emerge:

- How do organizations rise above the services and goals put in place for us by outside service coordination entities - and truly set goals that focus on each individual and that rise to the true definition of person-centered?
- How do organizations find the money to do true community based programming that is an extension of the family and not just the facility?
- How do we serve people with less hours of funding, harder eligibility requirements, and more people monitoring us from more directions?
- How do we stay true to our missions and serve those we always have - yet change to stay alive?

Tough questions we ***MUST*** ask and answer!

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

STRATEGIC PLANNING

“A systematic process of envisioning a desired future, and translating this vision into broadly defined goals or objectives and a sequence of steps to achieve them. In contrast to long-term planning (which begins with the current status and lays down a path to meet estimated future needs), strategic planning begins with the desired end and works backward to the current status”.

(Taken from BusinessDictionary.com)

RRAF’s MISSION

To support adults with developmental disabilities and their families by providing on-site and community based day programming and in-home support services.

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (July 1, 2014 through September 15, 2014)



**IN
MEMORY**

Aaron Mitton
Roger and Sandra Davis

Albert Mitton
Roger and Sandra Davis

Marvin Helen Nelson
Roger and Sandra Davis

Phyllis Pitello
Bob and Donna Resuali

Allene Reep
Penny Anderson

Rod Schwartz
Roger and Sandra Davis

Hartmut and Bernice Wegerich
Penny Anderson

Marianne Black
Nancy Brockmeier
Mike and Laurel DiPrima
Rick and Kathy DiPrima
Robert and Fran Haas
Mark and Lisa Paprocki
Ray and Genie Urick
Mike and Jeannie Vercillo

Tess Day
Penny Anderson

Scott Davis
Roger and Sandra Davis

Grant Ellington
Roger and Sandra Davis



**IN
HONOR**

Kara Altman
Marguerite Tully

Brooke Davis
Roger and Sandra Davis
Barbara Kennedy
Pete and Lori Sylvester

Roger and Sandra Davis
Bob and Donna Resuali

Bonnie Habura
Tracy Behrens
Erik and Kristin Ralli

Mr. and Mrs. John Mulkerin
Roger and Sandra Davis

Dennis Mullan
David and Sally Davis

Bob and Donna Resuali
Roger and Sandra Davis

Mary Urick
Richard Haas

JEWELRY !!

Thank you to our recent jewelry and jewelry box donors:

Arlene Dingello
Eileen Doherty
Margaret J. Orlando
St. Matthew Parishioners
WDSRA Employees

A special thank you to the parishioners of St. Matthew Church, Glendale Heights.

Their participation in a recent blood drive for Lifesource raised \$500 that was donated to RRAF on their behalf.

Thank you to the Saint Joachim Knights of Columbus, Council 15296 for their recent donation of \$1,279 !!

JEWELRY !! Join us Saturday, October 18th at the American Legion Club, Elmhurst for our next retro and costume jewelry sale!

FY'15 RRAF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Update administrative computer to current technology
- Maintain a cash flow level at June 30, 2014 of \$100,000 minimum
- If approved for the State of Illinois, transition into the 1115 Medicaid Waiver process while maintaining financial strength
- Replace the carpeting in the 613 building
- Maintain staffing levels at an average of one staff per five individuals
- Research technology options for electronic record capability for individuals served
- Continued board development with additional members added
- Continued delegation/cross training of duties across leadership positions

ONGOING DESIRES

- Additional QIDP case coordination skill sets available in RRAF personnel
- Exploration/implementation of alternative services to maximize capacity
- Community based day programming being a greater part of each day with facility based programming taking a back seat

FYI:

Recruiting for UIC RRTCDD Research Project - Longitudinal Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Study (LHIDDS)



This project, which is led by Drs. Kelly Hsieh and Sandra Magaña, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, aims to engage adults (aged 18 and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, caregivers, or workers – especially those from diverse backgrounds – to participate in a five year study on health behaviors by completing a survey once every two years. Upon completing each survey, a \$5 Subway gift card will be given as a small token of our appreciation. We encourage you to share this opportunity with people who might be interested, as this is an important study. The more people that participate, the more we will contribute to what is known about health behaviors of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities over time.

To learn more about the study and register, please visit <http://www.rrtcdd.org/research/research.html> or call Sumithra Murthy at (312) 355-1396.

Our Road to Tomorrow ... Begins with You... Join Us – Thank you!

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Where Reality is Respect, Appreciation, and Fulfillment

Newsletter, September, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS:

Roger Davis
Marilyn Flanagan
Thomas Flanagan
Sally Field Mullan

OFFICERS:

Marilyn Flanagan, Executive Director and President
Thomas Flanagan, Esq., Secretary, Treasurer, General Counsel
Zachary Slaughter, Vice President, Day Services

ACCREDITED BY:

**THE COMMISSION ON
ACCREDITATION OF
REHABILITATION FACILITIES
(CARF) THROUGH DECEMBER 2015**



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.