

Where Reality is Respect,  
Appreciation, and Fulfillment



## *THE STATUS OF FY'16*

### *The known ... The unknown*



#### **FROM THE BOARD:**

As I write this, it is now February, and the state of Illinois has yet to pass a fiscal year budget - almost eight months without a budget! For RRAF, the first weeks of this fiscal year were quite scary. We were not sure if we would be getting paid at all for the services we provide, or if we would be able to continue providing those services if we were not paid.

However, as the majority of our funding is federal Medicaid funding, the decision of whether we would get paid for services or not was decided by the court system. Our funding was one of those types determined to be part of a court consent decree. Reimbursements have been coming into RRAF routinely and on a timely basis. For that we are eternally grateful.

We are also eternally grateful to our donors and supporters. So far this fiscal year we have received almost \$80,000 in donations from family and community supporters and from those participating in our ongoing fundraisers. Without these generous donations, carrying out the work we do with reimbursement rates that have not been raised in almost ten years, would be impossible.

The news highlights, it seems daily, the struggles that social service organizations like ours are facing ongoing as we try to traverse the realities of this fiscal situation that our state is in - and that likewise impacts us greatly. As Illinois continues to grow a backlog of payments they cannot make - logic tells us that somewhere down the road a simple decision will not be enough.

Our doors are open - yes. But, we like other organizations struggle to pay good wages, are hesitant to hire and incur greater employee benefit costs, and have had to limit the types of opportunities that we provide to those we serve in lieu of safety first. Please be assured that what you hear in the news is a fact. And, we all wish that those facts were different.

But, unfortunately, this is the way things are at this time and so we must persevere.

Please, stand strong with us, and keep us in your thoughts. And do know that we truly appreciate every single one of you and what your support means to us.

No offer of help is too small. From those donations of jewelry to all those hours you may pound the pavement on candy day or tootsie roll days? Know that your help is recognized and acknowledged. Now, more than ever, we all have to "give it forward" to ensure that there is a future of services for those we care about so deeply and who need our ongoing help. Thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts - we could not do it without you.

*Thank you,  
Marilyn Flanagan*

**A recent initiative between Illinois Partners for Human Services and the University of Illinois at Chicago, authored by Annie McGowan, MPA, produced a very timely "Analysis of the Declining Value of Illinois Human Services Reimbursement Rates".**

The facts:

Prior to January 1, 2002 the Base Hourly Wage for a Direct Support Person as calculated by the state was \$9.72/hour. This was increased, effective January 1, 2002, to \$10.71/hour. That hourly rate has not changed since. Adjusting this amount to account for cost of living would currently mean an hourly rate of \$13.92 being able to be paid to our awesome staff who do so much. That is a needed 30% increase.

In order to provide that hourly wage would mean that what RRAF gets reimbursed per person served would need to be increased. Instead of the \$10.39 hourly rate we currently receive, an increased rate of \$11.78/hour would need to be implemented by the state.

At our current census that would increase our revenue by over \$30,000. Instead, we need to rely on donations and fundraisers to help bridge that gap. It is a huge gap that is getting larger every year.

**JEWELRY !!**



**Thank you to our recent jewelry donors:**

Wendy Borke  
Colette Carnevale  
Sandra Chitkowski  
Anita Habura  
WDSRA Staff Members  
Nancy Wilson

**Jigsaw puzzles were donated by:**

Pamela Bertolani

**An anonymous donation allowed us to upgrade the administrative computer to current technology! Wonderful!**

***GENERAL DONATIONS***

**Centurian (\$100-\$499)**

Ladies of the Elks  
Paul and Alice Heinz  
Mary Queen of Heaven Jewelry Sale Participants  
St. John's Jewelry Sale Participants  
Villa Park VFW Jewelry Sale Participants  
Peter Zakos

**Benefactor (\$500 and over)**

American Legion Jewelry Sale Participants  
An "Anonymous" Corporate Donation  
Fall Benefit 2015 Attendees and Supporters  
Knights of Columbus Bishop James E. Fitzgerald, Council 14649  
Christ the King Knights of Columbus, Council 11027  
Silverado Chili Sunday 2016 Attendees and Supporters  
St. Joachim Knights of Columbus, Council 15296  
St. Matthew Knights of Columbus, Council 9893

***Mark your calendars!***



***Please join us for our Annual Fall Benefit  
October 2, 2016, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm,  
at Empress Banquets,  
200 East Lake Street, Addison, IL***

***Admission and Raffle Tickets  
will soon be available!  
More details next issue.***



**An anonymous donation allowed RRAF to receive handyman services for much needed repairs and primping. These were completed by:**

Frank and Son  
Handyman Services



**We look so much nicer!**

## UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (October, 2015 through February, 2016)

*IN MEMORY***Dennis Aldred**

Ray and Genie Urick

**Patricia Assaf**Elaine Abraham  
Roger and Sandy Davis  
Ralph and Linda Hallquist  
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Ron and Liz Schoeberlein  
Mary Sichz  
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Ron and Lynn Samuel

**Brooke Davis**Key and Costello  
Charles Darragh  
Michelle Scales  
Pete and Lori Sylvester  
Ann Yurik**Roger, Sandy and  
Brooke Davis**Patricia Ellington  
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Mark and Lisa Grzywa**Bonnie Habura**Tracy Behrens  
Joanne Brodd  
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Jack and Sue Raida**John and Dee Mulkerin**

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**Andy Santos**

Anthony Pittacora

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Roger and Sandy Davis**Steve Stojanovic**

Al and Judi Stojanovic

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Richard Haas  
Betty Joens  
Kenneth Olson**Ann Yurik**

Roger and Sandy Davis

*IN HONOR***Kara Altman**

Ken and Kathy Altman

**Beth Carpenter**Catherine Carpenter  
David and Diane Carpenter  
Kevin Hermanek  
Julie Jilek  
Mike and Sally Schmidt

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## Where Reality is Respect, Appreciation, and Fulfillment

### **Newsletter, February 2016**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Roger Davis**  
**Marilyn Flanagan**  
**Thomas Flanagan**  
**Sally Field Mullan**

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**Marilyn Flanagan**, Sr. Vice President; Executive Director  
**Thomas Flanagan, Esq.**, Vice President; General Counsel  
**Zachary Slaughter**, Vice President, Day Services

**ACCREDITED BY:**  
**THE COMMISSION**  
**ACCREDITATION OF**  
**REHABILITATION FACILITIES**  
**(CARF) THROUGH DECEMBER 2018**



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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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.