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TWO WONDERFUL EVENTS WE WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT.

First, our Annual Fall Benefit, held October 4th, was a huge success. Secondly, we have again been awarded a three year accreditation award from CARF in the area of Community Services: Community Integration. Read on for more details.

RRAF has received its fifth consecutive three-year accreditation award through CARF, International. Strengths the surveyor noted were:

- ⇒ A definite strength is the commitment of the board of directors and program staff to ensure that RRAF continues to provide specialized services to persons served in lieu of historic financial challenges faced by the entire Illinois service delivery system. The leadership has made personal sacrifices to ensure program success, demonstrating its commitment to provide services in difficult times.
- ⇒ RRAF is recognized for the extremely high level of satisfaction expressed by the families of persons served. Families expressed comfort in knowing that their loved ones are being well cared for. This belief in RRAF and its mission is further supported by families who donate personal time, services, and money to assist the organization.
- ⇒ The knowledge, insight, and enthusiasm of the executive director and staff create a program atmosphere of comfort and safety for persons served with challenging behaviors while at the same time offering learning activities that are individualized and integrated into the community.

- ⇒ The safety elements and cleanliness of the organization's buildings utilize furniture placement, lighting, and personal equipment to create an environment conducive to the sensory and behavioral issues of persons served.
- ⇒ RRAF is commended for the use of comprehensive reports detailing the progress of individual service plans that are sent to parents and guardians at least quarterly throughout the year. At this time, input is sought from families to determine if there is a need for any modifications to the service plan prior to scheduled team meetings. In addition, progress datasheets are sent home weekly that indicate individual goal progress and community activities attended. These forms of communication are seen as positive ways to share information with families / guardians and garnish input on an ongoing basis.
- ⇒ The open-door management philosophy of RRAF is exemplified by sharing the organization's financial information with all families and guardians of persons served at least quarterly. This proactive sharing of sensitive information promotes a team approach to addressing challenges faced by both the organization and vested families.
- ⇒ The positive behavioral supports provided by RRAF are impressive to say the least. The respect shown to

persons served, nurturing environment, and use of correct body positioning to avoid negative physical interactions using Gentle Teaching techniques were obvious when dealing with challenging behaviors. The philosophy of RRAF is that these challenging behaviors are, in fact, methods of communication, and the program's charge is to assist the individual by understanding his or her needs and desires.

- ⇒ The use of pictures as learning tools is prevalent throughout program services. This teaching technique is used when explaining individual rights and promoting choice of community activities, in addition to step-by-step emergency evacuation procedures.

In summary the CARF report concludes: by saying:

"RRAF has earned a Three-Year Accreditation. The organization is recognized for its efforts to provide individualized developmental training for persons with challenging needs. Positive behavioral intervention techniques and a strong involvement from leadership and families have contributed to the unique services offered by the organization."

We are very proud of this achievement.

"WHERE REALITY IS RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND FULFILLMENT"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

To our readers. This is the speech I presented at our recent Annual Fall Benefit. Hopefully, it will speak for itself.

“All of you in this room know from the news and your own lives how the economy of this nation and our state has impacted you recently.

And, a majority of you know through the recent Illinois budget negotiations and our newsletters, etc., how devastating these past months have been on social service agencies, RRAF included.

From our perspective, as a smaller agency, this has meant living on our checkbook, without the hope of a line of credit to help handle the high level of unpaid bills owed us by the State of Illinois. Difficult decisions needed to be made, but, all of my staff got their paychecks on time and, most importantly, RRAF is still “staying alive”.

It's also relying heavily on each of you - our extended network of supporters. Both community and family. And, I can only imagine how difficult the decisions have been for each of you to decide who to give to and how much to give. Truly, I understand.

I know that when I personally donate to a charity I am extremely critical of their programming percent compared to administrative costs, and other financial and mission oriented results. After all, I live this day by day. I've looked at fundraisers of other organizations where there was a negative net result. Nope! Not acceptable.

So, now I would like to answer to each of you here today your questions in a public way on behalf of everyone here at RRAF. And to do so, I will tell you about this event today.

Before the doors even opened this is what I knew about the costs and success of this event.

Table prizes? Handmade with material donated by family and friends.

The DJ? A Board member donation.

Special events and treats for our youngest guests? Family and corporate donations.

All of our guests? Again, family and Board donations to say thank you for being here.

And our raffle? The tickets themselves - every prize - even the wrapping supplies - all donated by supportive corporations, by families, and by friends.

But wait! I know you're saying all but the top prizes. Nope!

\$50 Cash prize - family donation.

\$250 Cash prize - family donation.

\$500 Cash prize - family Board member donation.

\$1,000 Cash prize - possible due to collective family and friend donations.

Even the late entry 4th prize - a family donation.

The impact? The reality. The bottom line?

Every single dollar raised through the raffle - 100% available for programming services.

Every dollar raised above the dinner cost. Again, 100% available for programming services.

And, every dollar donated today. Yes, 100% available for programming services. In fact, before today we already had over \$2,000 in donations available 100% for programming.

How many agency CEO's can proudly all that?

So, the next time you look at our wish list or our request for funds letter or our grant request - please, don't just look at our financial statements alone for they truly do not give the complete picture. Instead, remember the picture of this room that you see today. What you are seeing is the collective philosophy and mission that is RRAF.

This is not a top down agency. This is a bottom up dream. And, somehow we will get back to our future dreams - especially residential.”

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

CONGRATULATIONS 2009 LAPERTOSA AWARD HONOREES!

Jeff Davis

The DuPage Community Foundation

Knights of Columbus, Christ the King
Council No. 11027

Knights of Columbus, St. Matthew
Council No. 9893

The Lombard Lions Club

Father Gavin Quinn, O. Carm

Bill Schaper

UBS Financial Services, Inc.

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (July through September, 2009)

IN MEMORY

George G. Bartels
Geri Bartels

Leroy Bartels
Dolores Bartels
Paul and Cindy Habura

Patricia Budgell
Doug, Cindy, Julie, and
Peterson
Ray and Genie Urick

Don Clyncke
Nancy Brockmeier
Ray, Genie and Mary Urick
Lorraine Vercillo

Phil and Marge Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Grant Ellington
Roger and Sandy Davis

Janet Erickson
Mary and Catherine Michalak

Helen Gacek
Cathy Askin
Patricia Bernardo
Fred and Tina Blasberg
Charyl Camerson
Mark Connolly, M.D.
John and Eileen Cora
Dave and Bira Coronado
Bruce Cratty
Ron and Eulalia De Santo
Dean and Shirley Diaz
Ed and Joy Dornbos
Julia Dye
Suzanne Farber
Joseph and Leona Gibas
Bill Izquierdo

IN KIND

Costume and Antique Jewelry
Jean Paprocki

Jigsaw Puzzles
Mr. and Mrs. Christensen
Steve and Joan Domzalski



Gerry and Heide Kenny
Joseph and Bernadine
Kolodziejczak
Laura Lucostic
Richard and Sherry Mendelson
Monica Mendoza
George and Mary Kay Mitchell
George and Beth Nielsen
Michael and Kathleen O'Connell
Branko and Marie Oplanic
Mike and Debra Soja
Mike and Jackie Soja
Jim and Sandy Spaulding
Don and Denise Stanczyk
John & Marlyn Steury and family
Jack Stoecker
Ed and Mary Szafarczyk
Bill and Pat Wantuck
Ed and Pat Wodarski

John and Jane Irving
Roger and Sandy Davis

Lee and Lorraine Kennedy
Roger and Sandy Davis

Chip Kiszner
Penny Anderson

GENERAL

Friend (\$10-\$49)
Epiphany Lutheran Church

Sponsor (\$50-\$99)

Centurain (\$100-\$499)
Ron and Sue Metty

Benefactors (\$500 and above)
The Lombard Lions Club

Charles "Karl" Klein
Paul and Cindy Habura

Ken Marks
Penny Anderson
Tracy Lee Behrens
Phyllis Cooper
Michael and Rhonda Mack

Aaron Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Marvin and Helen Nelson
Roger and Sandy Davis

Rick Nelson
Paul and Cindy Habura

Sharon Noble
Roger and Sandy Davis

Abdul Rizk
Marianne Black
Ray and Genie Urick

James Swieca
Paul and Cindy Habura

IN HONOR

Jack Buckingham
Kathy McGinnis

Brooke Davis
Patricia Ellington
Ron and Sue Metty
Rod and Dolores Schwartz
Pete and Lorraine Sylvester

Father David Dillon, O.Carm
Roger and Sandy Davis

Mr. and Mrs. John Mulkerin
Roger and Sandy Davis

Dennis Mullan
David and Sally Mullan

Mr. and Mrs. William Scales
Roger and Sandy Davis

Carol Setecka
Lorraine Morrall

Steve Stojanovic
Alex and Judi Stojanovic

Mary Urick
Eleanor Petrick
Lorraine Vercillo

Elizabeth Vrona
Rita Vrona



FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It would be an understatement to say that this has not been a difficult year. I cannot remember a time in my nineteen year tenure where the stress and uncertainty has been so prevalent - and on an almost daily basis. Budget uncertainties. Working at lower than desired staffing levels. Preparations for CARF taking additional time on top of the routine tasks of running a business. A less than sufficient number of senior level staff available to do case coordination and needed other tasks. But, as I look at these last final weeks of 2009 there is still so much that I have to be thankful for.

- Tremendous family and community support that kept employee paychecks on time and bills paid when due. This agency would not be alive today without the outpouring of financial and volunteer support received during this past year.

- A CARF survey report that clearly underscores the level of quality services RRAF strives to provide each and every day. I always know that mission and philosophy are what keeps me motivated to continue and what keeps our dreams foremost in my mind with every decision I make.

- A Board of Directors that gives above and beyond the call of duty, making themselves available to me at a moments notice, whatever help I need. From morning to night they are

there to support me, keep me focused, and are always there with thoughts and suggestions.

- And, our peers, who always impress me with their flexibility and patience. They have accepted busy schedules, new staff training, and the realities of weather and other things that just always seem to change our plans. All while still growing, enjoying their days, and making sure we all get to laugh and relax together.

I can't imagine doing anything other than what I am. It is a wonderful job; a tremendous adventure. But, please cross your fingers with me that 2010 brings with it a "little" less excitement!

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*



(Above) The tradition of RRAF's "Famous Raffle" continues on. 210 prizes this year made for many happy raffle winners!

(Right) Our "Count the Candy" contests are always a big hit. Peg Barth won the Candy Kisses and Richard Kelly the Starbursts.



(Above) Even our youngest guests have a raffle just for them!



(Below) Gary Disterheft was our lucky door prize winner.



(Above) Zach Slaughter and Michael Hodges had "A Dialogue" about program activities. Outings to Willowbrook Wildlife Haven, making grilled cheese sandwiches, and needing to often "count money" came up!



(Left) Father Gavin Quinn, O. Carm inspired the room with his words of compassion, special parents, and special lives that touch.



(Right) David McGowan of the DuPage Community Foundation was honored as a Lapertosa Award honoree. Since 1996 the Foundation has partnered with RRAF, granting over \$34,000 to keep us strong and growing.



(Left) Derald Fitch and Rudy Caselli, Grand Knight, accepted a Lapertosa Award honoring the Christ the King Knights of Columbus Council No. 11027. They have been ongoing supporters of RRAF since we moved into Lombard in 2001.

(Below) Ron Metty, Grand Knight, accepted a Lapertosa Award honoring the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council No. 9893. Their tremendous support has been there for us since 1991.

(Right) Marilyn Flanagan, President, gave the "Fiscal Perspective". Her words can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT HELD OCTOBER 4, 2009.

ENJOY!



(Right) Bob Lehman, Secretary and Candy Day Co-Chairman for the Lombard Lions Club, accepted a Lapertosa Award. This group has been our Lombard friends since 2001.



(Right) Tom Flanagan, our emcee for the day, kept things flowing and smooth. There was ample time for the RRAF "Famous Raffle"!



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED RAFFLE PRIZES AND OTHER ITEMS FOR OUR BENEFIT!

Addison Dairy Queen
 Alfie's Inn, Glen Ellyn
 Amalfi Ristorante, Bloomingdale
 Amy and Dorothy Altman
 Angelo's Ristorante, Elmhurst
 Anyway's Restaurant, Oakbrook Terrace
 Baci Salon Boutique, Indian Head Park
 Banner Moulded Products Corp.
 Steven Bartels
 Belvedere Events for the
 Superossa Restaurant Group
 Best Western Harbor Shores, Lake Geneva
 Carole Bronec
 Susan Campbell
 Carrabba's Italian Grill, Woodridge
 Carol Stream Ice Rink
 Carson, Pirie, Scott, Stratford Square
 Casey's, Lombard
 Central DuPage Foot and Ankle Assoc.
 Cheesecake Factory
 The Chicago Cubs
 The Chicago Slaughter Professional Indoor
 Football Team, Hoffman Estates
 The Chicago White Sox
 The Chicago Wolves
 Lynne Connolly
 Crossroads Tavern & Eatery, Wood Dale
 Cuneo Museum and Gardens, Vernon Hills
 Dairyland Greyhound Park, Kenosha
 Dave & Buster's, Addison
 Rick and Kathy DiPrima
 Dairy Queen, Lombard
 Egg Harbor Cafe
 Epic Buffet, Hollywood Casino, Aurora
 Roy and Lucy Fisher
 Fox and Hound Pub, Bloomingdale

Francesca's Amici, Elmhurst
 Glendale Lakes Golf Club
 Graue Mill and Museum
 Holly Habura
 Hollywood Blvd., Woodridge
 Thomas D. Huyvaert
 Illinois Physical Medicine
 The Improv Comedy Club, Schaumburg
 Itasca Bank and Trust Co.
 The Kane County Cougars, Geneva
 Ki's Steak and Seafood, Glendale Hts.
 Pat Kreibich
 Len's Ace Hardware
 Sheila Lewis
 Lou Malnati's
 Lynfred Winery, Roselle
 Lynfred Winery, Wheeling
 Marcus Theatres Corp, Wisconsin
 Phyllis Matic
 Metropolis Performing Arts, Arl. Hts.
 Stephanie McDade
 Ron and Sue Metty
 Morning Star, Lombard
 Morton Arboretum, Lisle
 Nancy's Pizza, Elmhurst
 Naper Settlement, Naperville
 June Novakowski
 Panera Bread
 Lisa Paprocki and Life Spa at
 Lifetime Fitness, Schaumburg
 Mark Paprocki
 Michelle Pitello
 Platt Hill Nursey, Bloomingdale
 Rooster's Barn & Grill, Bloomingdale
 St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club
 The Schaumburg Flyers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**Our 2010
 Fall Benefit
 will be
 October 3rd,
 11:30 am - 3:30 pm,
 at the
 Empress Banquets,
 200 E. Lake St.,
 Addison, IL**



The Second City, etc., Chicago
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago
 Six Flags Great America, Gurnee
 Tasting de Vine, Wheaton
 Tasting de Vine Cellars, Naperville
 Traverso's, Naperville
 Tom Tully, Chicago Artist
 Winnie Tully
 Gail Williams
 Zigfield Troy Golf, Woodridge
 Zinco USA
 -and the Families, Staff, and
 Board of RRAF

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO OUR 2009 FALL BENEFIT!

Addison Dairy Queen
 Banner Moulded Products Corp.
 Dan and Judy Boyer
 Frank and Connie Bruno
 Dina De La Cruz
 Greg and Estela DeLoria
 Don and Bonita DeVale

Jim and Sue Eilers
 Roy and Lucy Fisher
 Virgil and Leona Gulliford
 Janet Howat
 (in memory of Ruby Howat)
 Don and Carol Jacobsen
 Fernly Johnson
 Marian Johnson
 Wally Johnson
 Lee and Barbara Kennedy
 Don and Pat Kreibich
 Robert and Bonnie McLaren

John and Dee Mulkerin
 (in honor of the Davis Family)
 Clyde and Shirley Nelson
 Marge Nystrom
 Joe and Lucy Pelletier
 Anthony Pittacora
 Zelda Sacro
 Lyle and June Seestrom
 Don and Carolyn Story
 Zorina Thompson

Thank you families, friends, and supporters of RRAF.

We couldn't do it without you!

NEEDS LIST

New Shingles on 619 Building
 Tree Trimming
 Window Blinds with Installation
 Awnings over back peer entries
 Mini Refrigerator
 Wireless connection 613 to 619
 Window Wells with Installation
 Prepaid Gasoline Cards
 Copy Paper
 Small Branch Clippers
 -or- A couple hours of your time!

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“WHERE REALITY IS RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND FULFILLMENT”

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.

Newsletter, October, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kathleen Altman **Roger Davis**
Jill Mueller **Thomas Flanagan**
Roberta Robison

OFFICERS:

Marilyn Flanagan
Executive Director and President
Thomas Flanagan, Esq.
Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel
Jill Mueller
Treasurer
Roberta Robison
Assistant Treasurer

**ACCREDITED BY THE
REHABILITATION
ACCREDITATION
COMMISSION (CARF)
THROUGH AUGUST 2009**



A great day was had by all!

(Above) Bina, Rene, and Ishmael Bonilla enjoy the company of friends and family.

See inside for more great pictures of this wonderful event!

OUR FALL BENEFIT 2009

(Right) Kathy, Amy, and Kara Altman take time out for a picture.

**\$19,000
raised - and
ALL for
programming
services!**

