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RRAF CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE TO KEEP SERVICES IN OPERATION AND THE AGENCY ALIVE.

UPDATES AND RECENT EVENTS

- We learned on April 15th that our request for expedited payments has been approved and entered into the Comptroller's system. Between April 16th and April 23rd the Comptroller released \$27,675.19 in payments into our checking account. This will keep us able to pay bills and salaries through the end of May. Our future will solely depend on the State's commitment to actually expedite our payments on a monthly ongoing basis.
- Our accounts receivable levels remain at significantly high levels. To compare - at April 30, 2008, the State owed us less than \$25,000 - today at April 30th that amount is just under \$120,000.
- Donations have been pouring in from families, friends, and our community partners. These truly have kept us alive while awaiting the approval of our hardship request from the State and dealing with the only \$646 worth of payments released to us since our last substantial monthly amount on January 5th. In the eight month period between July 2009 and February 2010 total donations received was \$39,209. In March, a much needed and welcome donation of \$10,000 from the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus, Council 9893, brought that month's level to \$14,040. And, after word got out of almost non-existent payments from the State, friends, families, and community partners raised \$14,672 during the month of April. Our utmost thanks to everyone who got out the word and who responded to our needs. From \$5.00 to \$1,000.00 or more - every donation brought a smile and thanks that went straight to my very soul.
- On Sunday, April 18th we were highlighted in the Daily Herald. A follow-up article was published by the Lombardian newspaper on Wednesday, April 28th. The realities of a small agency were discussed in both.
- Families, friends, and Board members have worked overtime to get our message of financial need out to our legislators, local politicians, advocates, media, etc. So many responded with letters, phone calls, and inquiries as to how they could help. These efforts from all are commended and have been so appreciated.
- In the midst of all these financial priorities, another ray of blessing and hope. We are pleased to say that an Eagle Scout project is being done on our behalf, the committed efforts of scout, Michael Weinberg. He is working towards the completion of a gazebo in our back yard. The calls for supplies and donations is reaching as far as the Village of Lombard, whose employees are holding a bake sale on our behalf.

Our struggle continues. The future is still very uncertain. Temporary or permanent closure remains a possibility so long as the State of Illinois fails to remit regular payments to RRAF.

"WHERE REALITY IS RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND FULFILLMENT"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

These past weeks have been, to say the least, unprecedented from anything that I have experienced in my almost twenty years of leading this agency as it's Executive Director. And, it has brought out a lot of questions, concerns, and thoughts on my part, as well as from those people I have been in contact with - media, bankers, donors, and advocates. Here are a few that I think we should all consider - not just from an agency perspective, but from a personal perspective as being a citizen of Illinois.

I take pride in the fact that our website details so much information that anyone who takes the time to review it can see how transparent we run this organization. It has been commented to me routinely these past weeks that it is often hard for lenders, donors, etc. to find out the clear financial and quality standard information that we clearly set out for all to see. Why is that the case? And, wouldn't it give donors and lenders more comfort in working with non-profit organizations if all of them would be transparent in how we use our funds? After all, we all run on so little as it is. Letting that be clearly shown could only be a benefit.

I have also learned from banks that we are not a good credit risk as we are funded primarily through the state. Understandable at this time in Illinois, but a shame. But, when talking with lenders that work with non-profits, we hear that we are not "needy" enough as we have put in the struggles to own property and work towards further growth and potential to buy a home for residential programming. So, in effect, we are punished for running ourselves in ways that corporate America is expected to run themselves. Somehow, that just does

not make sense. Being non-profit should not mean on the edge of bankruptcy - it should just mean running in a fiscally conservative method without personal gain to any internal stakeholder.

It also confuses even me when I hear the varied comments about payments as discussed across various agencies in the media. One says that they have been notified that they will no longer be paid "on time". What does "on time" mean. For us, payments for services being provided several months ago seems to be "on time". But, another agency recently said that "45 day payment cycles are routine". I do not see how our having November payments expedited to be paid in April is meeting a "45 day payment cycle". It would be so helpful if the State could give us a clear picture of what will be paid when and how these decisions are made. At least then all agencies would be on the same playing field, whether big or small; whether performing state-only funded services or performing those funded with federal Medicaid matched dollars. At least then business plans could be developed and contingency plans set in place. That would make so much more sense than forcing agencies to submit hardship requests when at the end of their rope.

I sat in my office with a reporter and showed her from the State's own Comptrollers website the dates payments were released to me. It verified that the information she was publishing on our behalf was truthful. The Comptrollers website, which is public and able to be linked to through the State's website (il.gov) can easily be used by any citizen to keep track of what services are being provided, to whom, at what cost, and when payments are being made for those services.

With only a phone call or letter request

to an agency to disclose their FEIN , which stands for Federal Employer Identification Number (or corporate social security number), an individual has all the information they need to use the States' website. And, if a person is creative and internet savvy, they can use public websites to look up the tax returns of non-profits - which must be publically disclosed and so are available on-line. Those tax returns clearly show the FEIN on page one.

In my opinion, it is long overdue time that a thorough review of State funding for human services be undertaken. When reporters want to know how decisions are made by the State, how agencies are working together so that we do not duplicate services, how agencies are able to supplement the funds they receive from the State, what rules limit how we can do that, and what proportion of funding comes from Medicaid matching dollars and from State funded only programs well, that leads me to believe that all of us as Illinois citizens are also asking those same questions.

These are difficult economic times and, I believe, the more transparency and education we can fully disclose, the more cooperation we would expect to find from our legislators and the citizens of Illinois. It is our responsibility to those we serve to provide them the best services we can. Likewise, it is also our responsibility as an organization that has been blessed to receive a non-profit status, to fully disclose the work we do and how we do it. I would also challenge the State to do the same, so that all of us can see the simple facts. Agencies such as ours should not have to ever find ourselves in the position we have been facing these past months.

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (April, 2010)

IN MEMORY

Al Forest
Roger and Sandy Davis

Emma Hughes
Roger and Sandy Davis

Joseph Masick
Barbara Sturz

Herb Sturz
Barbara Sturz

GENERAL

Friend (\$10—\$49)

Sponsor (\$50—\$99)

Centurian (\$100—\$499)
William and Mary L'Hotta
Ron and Sue Metty

Benefactors (\$500 and above)
Knights of Columbus,
Bishop James D. Fitzgerald,
Council 14649
The Lombard Lions Club
St. Matthew's Council of
Catholic Women
Dr. and Mrs. E. Turcotte



Contributions raised in April totaled \$14,672! Thank you to each of our friends and families who work so hard to keep programming services alive and without disruption.

IN KIND

Costume and Antique Jewelry

Bernie Dooley
Grace Eaton
June Novakowski

IN HONOR

Kara Altman
The Kevin Flanagan Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Craig, GERALYN, Marissa and
Shaun Frederick
William Funke, Jr.
Margaret Gettings
William Kinsella
Michael Kudia
Chris Miller
Todd and Dorothy Raclaw
Anne Rashford
Mary Slowik
Marguerite Tully
Pat Tully

Jack Buckingham
Kathy McGinnis

Beth Carpenter
Dave and Diane Carpenter

John Conroy
John and Carol Conroy

Brooke Davis
Richard and Mary Ellen Kelly
Pete and Lorraine Sylvester

Bonnie Habura
Addison Dairy Queen
David and Patricia Allison
Dolores Bartels

Tracy Behrens
Tom and Linda Bretzing
Joanne Brodd
Dan and Jeanie Brown
Polly Freeman
Eve Genovesi
Ed Habura
Joe Habura
Paul and Cindy Habura
Adam and Brianne Hagg
Keith and Debbie Havlik
Geraldine Hinton
Dieter and Helen Holz
Susanne McGinnis
Ed and Loretta Natonski
Evelyn Osmanski
Mr. and Mrs. Patel
Frank and Kathleen Pater
Thomas Piehl
Scott and Sharon Ridley
Jenny Saenz
Jackie Spejcher
David Tucibat, Jr.

Mrs. Patrick Hughes
Roger and Sandy Davis

Ron and Sue Metty
Roger and Sandy Davis

Josh Robison
Charlie and Roberta Robison

Carol Setecka
Lorraine Morrall
Carol O'Donnell

Steve Stojanovic
Alex and Judi Stojanovic

Elizabeth Vrona
Rita Vrona

UPCOMING COSTUME AND ANTIQUE JEWELRY SALES:

- June 12, 2010 here at RRAF in the 619 South Main Street Building. A chance to visit RRAF and see our programming facilities and shop for jewelry at the same time. (And, if all goes well, see the gazebo being built, as well!)

- July 11, 2010 during the Elmhurst Garden Walk, "An Afternoon in the Garden" program. Hours will be from 10 am thru 4 pm. Location: directly in front of the Wilder Mansion in Elmhurst, facing Cottage Hill Road.

