

613 S. Main St. * Lombard IL * 60148-3341 *
 Phone/Fax: 630/495-RRAF/7723 * Web Site: RRAF.ORG * Email: RRAF@RRAF.ORG

Our Annual Fall Benefit held October 3rd was a huge success!

Total Net Proceeds
\$20,600

Raffle Proceeds
\$13,335

Donations
\$4,800

Guests in Attendance
275

Raffle Prizes Given Away
200+

RRAF Peers in Attendance
for their annual “party!”
14

RRAF Families with
guests in Attendance
18

RRAF Families
supporting this event
before and the day of
22

This event was truly a
celebration of

Not one lost day of
programming services
due to the State’s
dire financial picture.

Yes, we are
STAYING ALIVE
thanks to each and
every one of you -

THANK YOU!

Zach Slaughter gave the “staff perspective” during the Benefit—”A Year of Turmoil and Fulfillment”

When I was first told about the State cutbacks and that there was a real chance that we might close, I’m not going to lie, I was a little worried, but, as it sank in, and the more I thought about it, the more I realized just who was really affected. Really, it affected our folks the most and, you the families. This would mean a cut-back in services – or - in some cases a loss of all services. All if we closed, and other places like us, too.

It was a concern of the staff. But with Marilyn leading us I felt like we would get through it – that no matter what - we would find a way to keep going and keep giving services to our folks.

And, thanks to you – the families and people who donated, and with the fat cats finally giving us a little money - we pulled through the really tough times and we continue to do so. Because of you who said no – we are unyielding, unwavering, and unwilling to go gently into the night – we say thank you.

“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. It will speak for itself.

Zach said it dead on right. What we do is not about us – it is about those we serve. But, I respectfully disagree with his last statement. It is not that I do not want to take vacation days – it is that I cannot. Since I cannot clone myself the work we need to do is not yet done – even after twenty years. And, yes, I have now been at RRAF over twenty years – all but a few months of that as Executive Director. Amazing how time flies.

But, how do I stop? In that time we have gone from a per person rate of \$12.56 per hour in 1991 to a current rate of \$10.39 per hour. Let me repeat that. In that time we have gone from a per person rate of \$12.56 per hour in 1991 to a current rate of \$10.39 per hour. And, in 1991 we were able to charge families a small fee to help cover the costs the State knew they were not covering in total. Now fees are forbidden with Federal Medicaid rules meaning a loss in income for us of very much needed money – I estimate close to \$100,000 a year for our size budget. So, in that same time frame we have gone from a staffing ratio of one staff per 2 persons to a staffing ratio of one staff per 5-6 persons. The system is broke and it needs to be fixed. But that is up to the powers that be. We are but a small cog in a big, very big wheel. And, we desperately need to move into providing other services – including residential to those we serve and others. How can we say that we are fulfilling our mission when the only new person we have been able to add in over two years is a part-time private pay that has recently exited the school system?

Goodness knows that over these past twenty years we have had our difficulties and challenges. As I said, we were forced by the State to use Federal Medicaid waiver funding, which

allows the State to receive 50% matching dollars of federal monies that the State can then use for programs other than Human Services. This has forced us to provide the same levels of service at a decreased rate of funding. Also, we've had to spend much needed program dollars to fulfill accreditation requirements and while this is a worthy achievement and something I've fought for us to continue even though it is no longer a requirement, because it shows our business partners that we are both an exemplary service agency and a well-run business, having to channel these program dollars into other budget areas is very distressing. Further, we've often lost staff members that might have stayed with us had we been able to pay them a wage that they really deserved. How many times Zach asks me when he is going to get his 210% raise. I simply tell him he – and others – will get theirs – when hopefully I will get mine too. The pay scale mandated by the State for those who do what we do is abysmal.

When I was hired in 1990 I took an almost 50% cut in my salary in order to become program director. It was a HUGE discussion at our house and I am so thankful that Tom bought into my dreams then and even more so over the years. A mere eight months later when the final Founder, Rosemary Lapertosa, passed away, I accepted the big raise to \$22,000 to accept the Executive Director role. And last fiscal year had to not pay myself \$12,000 in order to make sure my staff always got paid on time and we could afford our CARF survey for accreditation.

Since 1990 we have expanded several times over, raised our census, accepted all the challenges handed us – and today –

WE ARE STILL ALIVE – thanks to staff, Board, families, friends, and our community supporters. What can I say? It has been a wild, often tumultuous ride, often hard physically, especially during the remodels, and a very hard mental ride. But, through it all I am so glad that we have been a really good team. To those who read a phrase in a newsletter and know I am OK or really needing you. For those who understand the transparency that we try to give in our newsletters and web site. For those who have believed in us when even we were afraid to believe in

ourselves

I am going to go out on a limb and say that I do not think I can clone myself. And, although I've been honest with the Board that we need to think of my tenure in a ten year window for good planning, who knows if that will really be five or another twenty years. What I do know is that I want to leave this organization getting it as far as I can and leaving it able to go wherever it needs to go. That will go beyond what the State is willing to invest in us. It will mean more than what families are able to give. To be honest – to those community partners among us? We need you now more than ever. We have so much more we want to do – AND – I REALLY NEED a long vacation. A clone – no – just a chance to reconnect, get my thoughts together – and then do what I think I do best (with you behind and beside me) – grow this place.

This room combined is our mission. Let's make it happen. Together.

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

CONGRATULATIONS 2010 LAPERTOSA AWARD HONOREES!

State Representative Bob Biggins

Laura Fitzpatrick

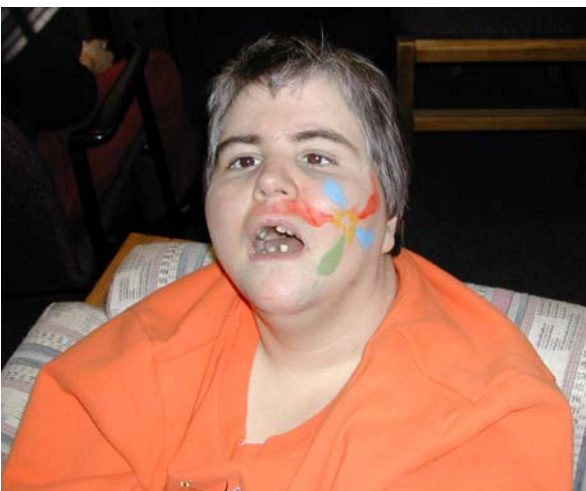
Knights of Columbus,
Bishop James E. Fitzgerald
Council No. 14649

Knights of Columbus,
District Deputy,
Terry Folliard

Knights of Columbus,
Saint Matthew
Council No. 9893

Marguerite Tully

Michael T. Weinberg



Halloween just demands a PARTY !!!!

**Painting Pumpkins ...
Face Painting ...
And utter amazement at the
treats, music, and fun in abundance.**

**These pictures should help you
recreate the enjoyable day that was had by all.**

**Top - left to right:
John Conroy, Kara Altman and Carol Setecka
Middle - left to right:
Sandy Harris, Mary Urick and Christine Kermend
Bottom:
Brandi Jalowiec**

A Family Perspective



The lack of payments to RRAF earlier this year brought it perilously close to having to close its doors. The closure of RRAF would have been devastating for the 28 disabled adults that attend this program and their families.

Our kids require constant one-on-one attention and care. Many of them function at a very low level and have difficult behavior problems. As care-givers our time is totally consumed with caring for our adult children; keeping them busy, on the move, out in the community. So, other than when they are at RRAF, our lives are all about caring for our kids. It's a difficult life which requires many sacrifices.

RRAF is a life saver for a group of stressed out, aging parents that have their severely disabled adult children living at home with them. We are so fortunate to have RRAF in our lives. It is a superb program and a great fit for our kids. RRAF is a great group of people who do a wonderful job providing a beneficial program for us. The thought of having our kids at home all day long - every day (if RRAF had to close) was difficult to contemplate.

Many of us with our kids living at home feel that this is the best choice for now, as long as we feel we can care for them. Our kids are happy at home with their families; but for both our mental health and theirs, we need the break that the day program at RRAF provides. They need the caring environment with structured activities to participate in that RRAF provides.

Caring for our kids is a relentless, overwhelming, exhausting, stressful job. This day program allows us to keep our sanity by giving our children a place to go to during the day 5 days a week; where they work on developmental training and it allows them social time with their peers.

Programs and services for our kids, the most vulnerable and neediest of our society, are critically important. We so greatly appreciate the donations that we get from our family, friends, and charitable organizations. RRAF couldn't survive without their support; but we need to remind our politicians and voters that it takes more than family, friends, church and charity to take care of our kids. The community at large needs to realize that a situation like ours can happen to anyone in the blink of an eye. It is in everyone's best interest to make sure that we have a system in place to care for those that truly need that support. Illinois needs to make sure it has the revenue needed to fund the necessary services for our developmentally disabled citizens. Let's remind our politicians and voters to do the right thing and keep funding programs like RRAF for people with developmental disabilities. It's the humane thing to do.

**Diane Carpenter
(daughter Beth)**

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (July through September, 2010)

IN MEMORY

Bill and Janice Brand
Penny Anderson

Janet Fairbanks Dammann
Ray and Genie Urick

Scott Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Grant Ellington
Roger and Sandy Davis

Steven Gadbaw
Ray, Genie, and Mary Urick

Marilyn Hilliard
An "Anonymous" Donor
Jim Bourne
Patti Carlson
Lucy Catlow

Lou and Rose Canonaco
Larry and Marcia Dellefield
Frances Frederick
Sue Froese
Mary Ella Grady
John and Jenifer Kehoe
Mike Kudia
Marty and Patti Maibuecher
Judy Olszowka
Dorothy Ostrego
John and Kathy Schnoor
Ellen Skerrett
Wendy Stack
George and Marguerite Tapling
Bill and Eileen Tully
Jerry and Sissy Tully
Jim and Cheryl Tully
Patricia Tully

Chester "Chet" Kochanek
Barbara Gurevitz
Dolores Kochanek
Virginia Schuettpeiz

Lorraine Letzter
Ray and Genie Urick

Thomas McGinnis
Maureen Eichenold

Aaron Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Marvin and Helen Nelson
Roger and Sandy Davis

Raymond Pelletier
Ray and Genie Urick

Dolores Rice
Dolores Bartels
Paul and Cindy Habura

Jose Saenz
Paul and Cindy Habura

Bud Schmatz
Ray, Genie and Mary Urick

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Fall Benefit.

This event netted us over \$20,600 of much needed programming dollars.

The room was filled with almost 300 guests - and - about 200 raffle prizes!

It was a wonderful day filled with new and old friends.

IN HONOR

Kara Altman
Bree Altman
An "Anonymous" Donor
Jim Bourne
Patti Carlson
Lucy Catlow
Lou and Rose Canonaco
Larry and Marcia Dellefield
Frances Frederick
Sue Froese
Mary Ella Grady
Dominic Grimaldi
John and Jenifer Kehoe
Mike Kudia
Marty and Patti Maibuecher
Howard and Mary Manning and
The Manning Family Trust
Judy Olszowka
Dorothy Ostrego
John and Kathy Schnoor
Ellen Skerrett
Wendy Stack

George and Marguerite Tapling
Bill and Eileen Tully
Jerry and Sissy Tully
Jim and Cheryl Tully
Patricia Tully

Dolores Bartels 90th Birthday
Ruth Marks

Jack Buckingham
Kathy McGinnis

Beth Carpenter
Julie Jilek

Diane and Beth Carpenter
Mike and Sally Schmidt

John Conroy
John and Carol Conroy

Brooke Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis
Patricia Ellington

Ron and Sue Metty
Lee and Barbara Kennedy
Bob and Donna Resuali
Pete and Lorraine Sylvester

Roger and Sandy Davis
Patricia Ellington

Tracy Davis
Patricia Ellington

Al and Tania Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Dennis Mullan
David and Sally Mullan

Bob and Donna Resuali
Roger and Sandy Davis

Josh Robison
SuperValu/Osco Drugs, Franklin Park,
Associate Casual Days,
Compliments of Joyce Pawlowski

Carol Setecka
Lorraine Morrall

Mark and Kelly Stibal
Patricia Ellington

Steve Stojanovic
Alex and Judi Stojanovic

Mary Urick
Josephine DiPrima
Bruce and Nandy Brockmeier

Elizabeth Vrona
Barbara Sturz



IN KIND

Costume and Antique Jewelry
Kate Bialecki
Helen Carnes
Laurel DiPrima
Kristen Elkins
Kathy Sweeney

Miscellaneous Program Supplies
Rich and Mary Ellen Kelly
Drew Paul
Rod and Dolores Schwartz
Lee and Mary Ann Walper
Nada Vetter

Window Blinds / 619 Building
Evelyn Janicek

GENERAL

Friend (\$10-\$49)
Joe and Nancy Sykora

Sponsor (\$50-\$99)

Centurain (\$100-\$499)
Carson's "Community Day"
Sale Participants
Friendly Ford, Roselle

Benefactors (\$500 and above)
Elmhurst Garden Walk Jewelry Sale
Participants
Fall Benefit Participants
Dr. Ernie and Joan Turcotte



Join us in congratulating our
Executive Director and President,
Marilyn Flanagan
on her 20th anniversary at RRAF ...

on being presented the
President's Community Service Award
by the Village of Lombard

and on being recognized with Resolution
HR1373 offered to the State of Illinois House of
Representatives 96th General Assembly by
Representatives Bob Biggins, Sandra M. Pihos,
Dennis M. Reboletti and Franco Coladipietro.

**Our Newest Community Partners
The Bishop Fitzgerald Knights of Columbus, Council #14649
Downers Grove**

During our Fall Benefit we were able to thank the members of this Knights council for their recent donation through the presentation of a Lapertosa Award to them. They also came out to visit RRAF recently and wrote a very nice article in their newsletter introducing us to all of their members. Below are a few of the comments they put in their article after having spoken to our Executive Director, Marilyn Flanagan. They speak to the philosophy of RRAF and the uniqueness we try to bring to those we serve.

“Imagine the simplest things in the world, suddenly, became hard to understand - if every time you heard a loud noise, you panicked. You would still know what it’s like to be happy and sad - to love and be loved, but you couldn’t verbalize your feelings. Imagine the frustration, fear and loneliness you would feel. How important would it be for you to find a place where you would feel safe, a place where you felt valued and loved in spite of your disability?”

“Take away what you think they can’t do, and look at who they are and recognize that they still have perceptions and opinions and belief systems.”

“They might not understand you the way that you think they should, but they do understand you.”

Thank you new friends for your hours of service to the community, for your support of RRAF, and for putting into words what often we cannot say ourselves. We appreciate you immensely.



**Left: “Doctor” Andy Santos
Right: Our Director,
Marilyn Flanagan
Bottom Left: Staff,
Zach Slaughter
Bottom Right: Staff,
Mona Elery with an
amazed Beth Carpenter
looking on.
Isn’t Halloween fun
(and creepy!?!?!)**



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

Dorothy Altman
Amalfi Ristorante, Bloomingdale
Angelo's Ristorante, Elmhurst
Anyway's Restaurant, Oakbrook Terrace
Banner Moulded Products Corporation
Steven Bartels, Artist
Big Bowl
(Chicago/Lincolnshire/Schaumburg)
Nancy Brockmeier
Harry Caray's Restaurant, Rosemont
Carol Stream Ice Rink, Carol Stream
Carrabba's Italian Grill, Woodridge
Central DuPage Foot and Ankle Assoc.
The Cheesecake Factory
The Chicago Blackhawks
The Chicago Bulls
The Chicago Cubs
The Chicago Slaughter Professional Indoor Football Team, Hoffman Estates
The Chicago Wolves
The Chicago White Sox
The Click Chick Photography, Arlington Hts.
Cuneo Museum and Gardens, Vernon Hills
Deborah Davis Day Spa, Elmhurst
Rich and Kathy DiPrima
The Discovery Center Museum at Riverfront Museum Park, Rockford
Joe and Bernadette Dooley
Eaglewood Resort & Spa, Itasca
Egg Harbor Cafe
Epic Buffet, Hollywood Casino, Aurora
Roy and Lucy Fisher
Francesca's Amici, Elmhurst
Grand Geneva, Lake Geneva, WI
Graue Mill and Museum
Dave Grazenia

The Hair Parlor, Glendale Heights
Hollywood Blvd., Woodridge
Hub 51 Restaurant, Chicago
Thomas D. Huyvaert
The Improv Comedy Club, Schaumburg
Kevin Irving
Ki's Steak and Seafood, Glendale Hts.
Krage's Quick Lube Bay, Addison
Pat Kreibich
L.A. Tan, Glendale Hts.
La Hacienda De Los Fernandez, Deer Park
La Magdalena Restaurant, Addison
Len's Ace Hardware
Aniela Levin
Lombard Roller Rink, Lombard
Lou Malnati's
Lynfred Winery, Roselle
Lynfred Winery, Wheeling
Maggiano's, Old Orchard
Marcus Theatres Corp, Wisconsin
Mike's Market, Villa Park
Morton Arboretum, Lisle
Naper Settlement, Naperville
June Novakowski
Odyssey Greek Tavern, Lombard
Panera Bread
Pilot Pete's, Schaumburg
Platt Hill Nursey, Bloomingdale
Tim Plauck
Prosek's Greenhouse, Winfield
Raven Theatre, Chicago
RealTime Sports Bar & Grill, Elk Grove Vlg.
Rooster's Barn & Grill, Bloomingdale
The Second City, Chicago
Shannon's Irish Pub, Glen Ellyn
St. Andrew's Golf and Country Club

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Our 2011 Fall Benefit will be October 2nd,, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm, at the Empress Banquets, 200 E. Lake St., Addison, IL

The Schaumburg Flyers
Shedd Aquarium, Chicago
Kathi Stellman
Tasting de Vine, Wheaton
Tasting de Vine Cellars, Naperville
TownePlace Suites by Marriott, Lombard
Tree-Guy's Pizza and Pub, Itasca
Tom Tully, Artist
Village Tavern, Carol Stream
The Westin, Lombard
theWit Hotel, Chicago
Gail Williams
Zanie's Comedy Nite Club, Chicago
Zanie's Comedy Nite Club, St. Charles
ZaZa's Italian Steakhouse, Addison/St. Charles
Zigfield Troy Golf, Woodridge
Zinco USAZio Tony's Pizza, Addison
-and-
the Families, Staff, and Board of RRAF

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO OUR 2010 FALL BENEFIT!

Peter and Maria Barry
Banner Moulded Products Corporation
Ismael and Idabina Bonilla
Frank and Connie Bruno
Dina De La Cruz
Roger and Sandy Davis
Gregorio and Estela Deloria

Don and Bonita DeVale
Steve Domzalski
Roy and Lucy Fisher
Felix and Edna Ganon
Virgil and Leona Gulliford
Diane Hodges
Janet Howat (Memory Ruby Howat)
John and Kathy Irving
Joe and Kathy Jalowiec
Victoria Jalowiec
Lee and Barb Kennedy
Douglas and Virginia Krajnovich

Don and Patricia Kreibich
Lombard Chamber of Commerce
Robert and Bonnie McLaren
Richard and Lorraine Morrall
Marjorie Nystrom
Tony Pittacora
Kathi Radzicki
Rey and Zelda Sacro
June Seestrom
Coleen Schwartz
Alex and Judi Stojanovic
Tree Guy's Pizza Pub, Itasca



Thank you families, friends, and supporters of RRAF. We couldn't do it without you!

NEEDS LIST

New roof on our 619 Building
Window Wells with Installation
Awnings over back peer entries
Antique, Retro and Costume Jewelry
Draw String Kitchen Garbage Bags
Disposable Plastic Silverware/Cups

Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet Paper
Prepaid Gasoline Cards
Copy Paper - Pastels
C-Fold Paper Towels
409 and Pledge Refills
Paper Shredder

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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, 2010

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 2012**

***FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND
FAMILIES:***

***IF YOU EVER QUESTION THAT
EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS***

***DURING FY'10 WE RECEIVED
CONTRIBUTIONS THAT TOTALED
ALMOST \$58,000!!***

***AND, FOR THOSE WHO JOINED IN
OUR VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS - YOU
HELPED US NET OVER \$26,000!***

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

JEWELRY LOVERS:

Join us November 6, 2010, at the American Legion, Post 187, Annual Craft Show in Elmhurst, IL. (310 West Butterfield Road.) Our “Jewelry Cartel” will have it’s usual grand display of refurbished costume and antique jewelry available for sale. Mark the date!

