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To paraphrase Mark Twain:

“Rumors of our death have been greatly exaggerated”

But we still have a lot of work to do.

**Contributions and
Fundraising**

**Year 2009 - \$87,283
(or 22% of
actual expenses)**

**Year 2010 - \$116,824
(or 30% of
actual expenses)**

**A 30% increase in 2010 over
2009 which kept us able to pay
our bills - even with the
continued slowdown in
reimbursements from the
State of Illinois.**

**Family and Family Contacts
Contributions**

Year 2009 - \$41,655

Year 2010 - \$65,886

**An increase of
\$24,000 - or -**

**over 50% more than
one year earlier -**

the reason we are:

“STAYING ALIVE!”

**And, the ultimate “oxymoron”
current status of RRAF ??**

**Our balance sheet strength as
an agency has improved ...**

**But,
we continue to question
day to day
whether we will continue
to be able to have the
cash on hand
to weather
the continuing
State payment problems.
Only time will tell.**

Our Newest Community Partners:

The Alfred Bersted Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

A representative for this wonderful foundation came to visit us last year after our having submitted a grant request for additional funds to help us not only survive but move forward.

In December we learned that we had been selected as a grant recipient in the amount of \$10,000. These funds are available to us for General Operating Expenses and have already allowed us to strengthen our staffing levels with more senior level capabilities for future case management.

We are humbled, blessed, and so appreciative of the Alfred Bersted Foundation and all who are a part of their organization and their mission to support the needs of organizations in the human service field, among others. We welcome and thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

“WHERE REALITY IS RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND FULFILLMENT”

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As I write this we are just coming off a week where I had to watch our snow plow contractor try to move and find space for over 20” of snow. Our parking lot is now surrounded by a wall of snow, but the middle is salted down to safe pavement so that the day to day can go on as safely as possible for those we serve. And, I have to honestly say that I am not looking forward to this bill!

But, what an analogy of what this past year or so has been. On one side we have a wall of accounts receivable that just doesn't go down. Every month they just inch up a little bit further.

On another wall are our State leaders who just cannot seem to get down to business. And there are current talks

about funding cuts, no agreements as to borrowing, and a recent income tax hike that has us still unsure of when our next payment may come.

The third wall has been having to live with fewer staff than preferred, less community outings than our peers would like, and just - less of just about everything. I have to say that these past months have tried my soul more than any other period in my twenty year tenure here. There have been so many sleepless nights, so many times when I really needed an extra hand, and so many seven day weeks that followed with another seven day week. Tired is an understatement.

But that fourth wall - the one that they carved out niches for our vans to pull in and out of? That wall also represents our future. Those glimmers of hope that maybe the other walls will melt and that we will be on secure ground both inside and outside RRAF. That is my hope.

That maybe not in a week or two (or more!) when the snow will melt - but, at least, sometime in the near future when the other three walls of snow start melting that we will be OK again.

Oh, to be looking at those better days when the grass is green and the sunny days look rosy again. When budgets can actually be used to plan - and I am just not looking at the balance in the checkbook to make my decisions. When there are enough staff so that I don't have to plan my personal life around what happens if someone calls in. When we can again start talking about our future and how we will get there. I have so many supporters behind me ready to help me get us there. If only the walls of snow would melt and the winter of this agency would move to the spring of our future.

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

A Personal Perspective:

I have been a part of this organization for twenty plus years and I have always said - I am still learning. Now I am learning a lot of things on a personal level and I would like to give my thoughts and concerns as it relates to our population. My mother has been progressing through the stages of dementia and Alzheimer's these past months and I have been dealing with that on top of the everyday challenges of RRAF. What has made it more unique is that my mother lives in Texas; me in Illinois. We could not get help for her in Texas without Adult Protective Services taking action until the third case was opened when mom tried to walk herself across seven lanes of traffic. Finally. A court mandated committal to a psych hospital and after my getting temporary guardianship of an incapacitated person a transfer to a locked Alzheimer's unit. Since then I have gone from temporary guardianship of person to full permanent guardian of person and estate. What does that mean? For SSI payments - a lot - if you have medical documentation also. But, otherwise, not much. Only a Power of Attorney helps. I am spending loads of time and attorney fees subpoenaing banks, life insurance companies, etc. so they cooperate in helping me determine my mom's estate. I need to pay my lawyer, my mom's guardian ad litem attorney, and other court costs and no one will talk to me. How frustrating when I have spent my life counseling families to go to ISSA's, ORS, DHS, and the court system. I am getting the humbling episode all of my families have gone through. I have said so many times in the past few months that I know this process once funding is in place - I have no idea of what it takes to get that process in place. But, I also fear for my families who have done the initial steps - with no understanding that at the end no one will still listen to you. We need to come together as we age together and help each other out. Clearly there are rules and regulations that even the best of us do not know about. And doing this at a time when you want to visit your loved one when they can still say they love you and when you can still get them nice clothes to wear and their hair shampooed is most important. As we move together towards residential we need to hear stories of these transitions, the difficulties, and make plans for how to move past them into positive care plans for those we serve. I never expected to learn so much from an ailing family member. I have. I am blessed to have a mom - and her family - who have all been there to help me through these times. Yes, I know my job - but my final job description has not yet been written. *Marilyn J. Flanagan*

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: (October, 2010 through January, 2011)

Mary Becker
Ray, Genie and Mary Urick

Mark Bingaman
Roger and Sandy Davis

Phil and Marge Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Scott Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Grant Ellington
Roger and Sandy Davis

Norma Garbarino
Ray, Genie and Mary Urick

Jim Giacalone
Roger and Sandy Davis

Ron Grabanski
Paul and Cindy Habura

Evelyn Heagy
Joe, Jan and Frank Gehrman

Mary Lou Johnson
Roger and Sandy Davis

Elaine Marose
Penny Anderson
Paul and Cindy Habura

Joseph Masick
Barbara Sturz

Pat Patrick
Michael and Sally Schmidt

Bill Scales
William and Kathleen Scales

Herb Sturz
Barbara Sturz

Rev. Franklin Tasker, O.Carm
Roger and Sandy Davis

Mike Vrona
Rita Vrona



This page demonstrates the snow ball of effect of generosity that leads from family to family friends to community partners. Thank you everyone!

IN MEMORY

Kara Altman
The Chicago Community Trust and Eva Penar
The Manning Family Trust
Thomas and Mary Jane Tully

Peter Barry
Roger and Sandy Davis

Jack Buckingham
Maureen Eichenold
Ruth McBride
Kathy McGinnis

Beth Carpenter
Margot Clark Brown
Catherine Carpenter and Kevin Hermanek
David and Diane Carpenter
Julie Jilek
Michael and Robin Schmidt
Mike and Sally Schmidt

John Conroy
John and Carol Conroy

Brooke Davis
Keay and Costello
Lee and Barb Kennedy
Eric and Aniela Levin
Michelle Scales
Michael and Suzanne Schwartz
Pete and Lori Sylvester

The Davis Family
Patricia Ellington
John and Dee Mulkerin

Joe and Bernadette Dooley
Roger and Sandy Davis

Bonnie Habura
Tracy Lee Behrens
Joanne Brodd
Barb Gurevitz
Phyllis Kupperman
Marguerite Piekarz

Brandi Jalowiec
Bridge Port Rangers
Ronald and Gloria Jalowiec

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Levin
Roger and Sandy Davis

John Mulkerin
Roger and Sandy Davis

Dennis Mullan
David and Sally Mullan

Joseph Pelletier
Roger and Sandy Davis

Josh Robison
Clyde and Shirley Nelson

Andy Santos
Anthony Pittacora

Mr. and Mrs. William Scales
Roger and Sandy Davis

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schwartz
Roger, Sandy, and Brooke Davis

Carol Setecka
Lorraine Morrall
Tom Setecka

Steve Stojanovic
Al and Judi Stojanovic

Joseph Tully
George Tapling and Marguerite Tully

Mary Urick
Marianne Black
Dan and Judy Boyer
Elaine Brockmeier
Josephine DiPrima
Ken and Linda Olson
Lorraine Vercillo
Nancy Wilson

Elizabeth Vrona
Rita Vrona

Jennifer Westman
Mort and Ellen Westman

IN HONOR

IN KIND

Costume and Antique Jewelry
Lucy Fisher
Julie Jilek

Miscellaneous Program Supplies
Rich and Mary Ellen Kelly
Rod and Dolores Schwartz
-and-
The Families of RRAF

GENERAL

Friend (\$10—\$49)
Don and Ann Yurik

Sponsor (\$50—\$99)
Dr. Ernie and Joan Turcotte

Centurain (\$100—\$499)
Bennett Law Firm

Christ the King,
Knights of Columbus,
Council 11027, Lombard

Ron and Sue Metty

St. Matthew's Church Council of
Catholic Women
Peter Zakos

Benefactors (\$500 and above)

Our American Legion, Elmhurst,
Jewelry Sale Participants
Our Annual Fall Benefit
Guests and Donors

An "Anonymous" Donor

Jim and Pauline Ashbaugh

Bishop James E. Fitzgerald,
Knights of Columbus,
Council 14649, Downers Grove

Our Carson's "Community Day"
Fundraiser Participants

The Dawn Carol Fund of the
DuPage Community Foundation

The Lombard Lions Club



Who does RRAF serve? Some statistics.

Primary Diagnosis:

Autism - 52%
Cerebral Palsy - 19%
Devel. Delay - 22%
Other - 7%

Severity of Disability:

Mild - 11%
Moderate - 22%
Severe - 41%
Profound - 26%

Length of Admission:
4 months to 23 years

Ages: 22 to 48 years old

