

**Where Reality is Respect,
Appreciation, and Fulfillment**



**VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS ??
WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU !!**

Our Very Own “Jewelry Cartel”

Our ongoing thanks go to those a part of our “Jewelry Cartel.” These dedicated volunteers, who clean, repair, price, and package for display donation after donation of old and broken jewelry. This group of volunteers efforts have now raised over \$60,000 since 1995, with more than 65 sales over the years!!

Jack Island / The Silverado Grill

Our annual Silverado Grill Chili Sunday Event also had its 25th anniversary in 2019!! Jack Island’s generosity has helped us raise \$65,000 over the years. This event is always a casual afternoon of friends and great chili!! Jack’s hospitality has been a welcome Sunday event looked forward to by so many.

Knights of Columbus Councils

We have also had the good fortune to have received the support of the knights of St. Matthew Council 9893, Knights of Columbus, Glendale Heights. One of the members of that council has had a daughter in our program for many years. The other members of St. Matthew council have a special attachment to RRAF, for this, and other reasons. Over the 29 years that Council 9893 has been supporting RRAF with the proceeds of their ID Drive, they have donated more than \$172,000. Other nearby council K of C councils have also heard of us, and have taken us under their wings as well. Over the years Knights of Columbus Councils in total have donated almost \$220,000 to RRAF.



Think of the many payrolls that have been met, mortgage payments made, van repairs completed, and unanticipated emergencies avoided with these funds. All so those we serve may look forward to another day of services at RRAF. Our people very much dislike varying from their daily routines. These donations - all donations - have made it possible to avoid troublesome interruptions. Thank you everyone. And, let’s always remember,

**When it comes to community support,
Not everyone can do everything,
But almost everyone can do something.**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

WHAT LIES AHEAD

As I write this, so much is up in the air with our county services, our state services, and beyond – throughout every state I’ve been blessed to visit as a CARF surveyor. Life as we know it is changing.

Here in Illinois, on the county level, DuPage transitioned to a new Independent Service Coordination organization as of July 1st. While many employees formerly of DayOne PACT were hired by Service, Inc., gaps in case load assignments, getting Personal Plans completed on time, and having people who know our folks and their families are evident to all of us a part of RRAF, staff and families. This transition also has come with lawsuits and counter suits from all sides. So, definitely not the multi-month transition with full disclosure we had hoped for. So, all of us on each side are punting, knowing this period is chaos in motion. My thanks to those service coordinators who are giving it their very best.

Our sister county that we serve, Cook, had another minimum wage increase take effect at July 1st. Chicago proper is now \$13/hour. Collar cities \$12/hour. While DuPage county remains at \$11/hour. Looking for staff in open positions, when we are only being reimbursed at rates that reflect \$11/hour? The challenges are impossible and will only get more so over time.

In Illinois, our state employees know that their job is to get all of us to a place that CMS (the federal Medicaid agency) approves our statewide implementation plans and expectations, including such things as increased community integration, and non-facility-based programming. All while knowing full well that to do that – all of us who are very comfortable with the status quo will have to comply. Kicking. Screaming. I and staff talk about this almost daily. Changes are needed. Baby steps. But, we must evolve.

These are the facts as I know them now....and perceive them to be.

However, I have hope. (One must always have hope.) I have hope that in time, wise heads will prevail and we, in Illinois, will look to our neighbor states (all 49 of them!) for ideas to see and decide our future. To see what has worked. What has not. And, to learn from those organizations that dove in, have the scars to show for it, but, are settling in to the new status quo now in place for their state.

I have now spent 8 years, in 36 states, at over 115 organizations, seeing the OVERWHELMING STRENGTH AND PASSION of those in our field. Seeing the sacrifices, the reality of decisions made, and the end game. Seeing the D-Day moments. And, often being able to go back to see the outcomes in those areas years later. Every survey strengthens my resolve that those of us who work in social services, do great things, but, with very little recognition. So, here are a few kudos and successes that I’ve seen. Ideas to motivate. Things to help us think, how do we change for the better.

An organization – the only one in its county – had to close its only option – a sheltered workshop. In time I got to visit a nearby county organization that had expanded its footprint to help take up some of the slack and provide services to part of that county, as well.

Continued on Page 3 - What Lies Ahead

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: May through August 15, 2019

**IN MEMORY**

Dolores Bartels
Paul and Cindy Habura

Connie Bruno
Roger and Sandy Davis

Phil Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Scott Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis

Kathy DiPrima
Richard DiPrima

Gerry Habura
Paul and Cindy Habura

Bruce Halverson
Paul and Cindy Habura

Margaret M. Koss
Paul and Cindy Habura

Jerianne Miller
Rhonda Mack

Al Mitton
Roger and Sandy Davis

Helen Nelson
Roger and Sandy Davis

Lisa Vetter
Roger and Sandy Davis

**IN HONOR**

Brooke Davis
Roger and Sandy Davis
Barbara Kennedy
Ron and Sue Metty
John and Dee Mulkerin
Ron and Lynn Samuel

Collin Grzywa
Joanne Chmela
Mark and Lisa Grzywa

Bonnie Habura
Tracy Behrens
Paul and Cindy Habura
Thomas Piehl

Ron and Sue Metty
Roger and Sandy Davis

Dennis Mullan
David and Sally Mullan

Mary Urick
Richard DiPrima
Ken and Mary Sichz

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

619 Jewelry Sale Participants

JEWELRY !!

Thank you to our
recent jewelry donor:

Laurie Fischer
Dolores Kochanek

From Page 2 - What Lies Ahead

An organization at the end of its first year in “managed care.” Fearful beyond belief of the upcoming rate changes for year two. Decreases expected. In time I got to visit another organization in the area. They were so VERY PROUD to tell me of the 7-tier rate structure now in place to ensure BOTH 1:1 needs AND community outing needs are met.

An organization that BOASTED (and rightfully so!) that its old workshop was now a sensory themed suite of rooms for those with autism and other challenges, there was a fitness room with a golf simulator, a rec room with a pool table, and a full ADA accessible kitchen. Individuals selected activities and priorities as they would a college course commitment.

We have much we can do in Illinois – if we come together to talk and strategize. Mediate and negotiate. Look at the requirements – look at who can do what – who has to change – and how we can help “bureaucracy” put all of that on paper – documented – that this is what Illinois wishes to be for those citizens we serve with disabilities. It’s a daunting task. But we can do it. And, we must. But, as the examples highlight - thinking outside the box is key!!

*Thank you,
Marilyn Flanagan*

A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST YEAR

In April, 2019, the state once again found us 100% compliant during our annual Licensure survey.

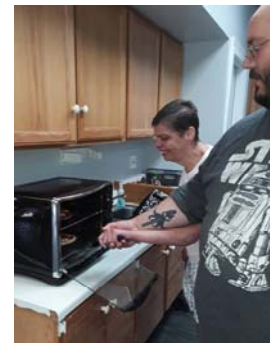
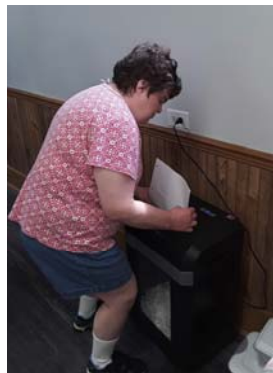
In October, 2018, we had our 3-year CARF survey. We are pleased to say that we received another 3-year accreditation award, through December, 2021, in the area of Community Integration. However, both the level of staffing we can accomplish with our current funding rates, and thus the number of outings we can provide ongoing were noted as recommendations that we need to address. As our surveyor so rightfully pointed out - at least we should document what we should be doing, so the powers that be can plainly see what we cannot do.

The number of community outings did increase by 7% in FY'19, however, that is not nearly enough to provide full inclusion for everyone. So, this outcome continues into FY'20, as the focus is to increase this each year, as able. We are also now billing community outing time separate from onsite time, in order to help the state see our ability to offer this, or not, based on staff, etc. More data to help them, hopefully, set better rates and expectations.

During FY'19, family and friends donated almost \$50,000! Fundraising netted \$17,150. This means 28% of our income came from non-state funded or private pay sources. Yet, we ended up running a deficit of almost \$38,000. A state increase of 3.5% for this year, and a similar increase made to our private pay rate will help some, but not enough to really improve community integration outcomes. Advocates continue to remind the state and our legislators that rates have to be raised to take into account the years that no increases were given, and the cost of living just kept going up and up.

We have recently streamlined and upgraded our vans. Instead of always seeming to need an extra van to help when one is in the shop? Now we have two newer model year vans that fill the need for our current census. A shout out to Friendly Ford of Roselle for finding us a 15-passenger, high quality, low mileage, current year van in a very short turn-around time!!

Some Activities Offered and Learned at RRAF





The date is coming up quickly !!
Please join us for our Annual Fall Benefit

October 6, 2019, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm,

***Empress Banquets,
200 East Lake Street, Addison, IL***

Admission and Raffle Tickets are now available !!
Admission ticket - \$35 ; Raffle tickets - \$2 each or 3 for \$5

1st Prize - \$500 Cash
2nd Prize - "Night on the Town" Package
3rd Prize - \$125 Cash



Join Us !!!!!
Jewelry!! Jewelry!!

!! VINTAGE JEWELRY SALE !!

Antique - Costume - Retro

Large beautiful selection - all at low prices!

FRI. OCT. 11 & SAT. OCT. 12

9AM - 4PM

619 S. MAIN ST., LOMBARD

Free Admission

We hope you can come!!!

**ALL proceeds benefit people with autism
& developmental disabilities @ RRAF**

**HERE'S A PEAK AT SOME
OF THE PRIZE DONORS
A PART OF THE FALL RAFFLE!**

Bricks Wood Fired Pizza Café, Lombard
 Fire and Wine, Glen Ellyn
 Cooper's Hawk Winery
 Fingers-n-Face Salon, Lombard
 Fringe Boutique Salon & Spa, Lombard
 Glendale Lakes Golf Club, Glendale Heights
 Improv, Schaumburg
 Jewel
 Ki's Steak and Seafood, Glendale Heights
 Lou Malnatti's
 Lynfred Winery, Roselle
 Naper Settlement, Naperville
 Pinot's Palette, Naperville
 Platt Hill Nursery, Bloomingdale
 Shannon's, Lombard
 Shedd Aquarium
 Target
 The Westin, Lombard
 US-99
 Zanie's Comedy Nite Club, Chicago
 Zanie's Comedy Nite Club, St. Charles
 Ziegfield Troy Golf, Woodridge
 -and- Friends and Families

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY ????

Administration/Programming
613 South Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone/Fax: (630) 495-RRAF [7723]
E-Mail: RRAF@RRAF.ORG

Programming Annex
619 South Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148

Where Reality is Respect, Appreciation, and Fulfillment

Newsletter, July, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS:

Roger Davis
Marilyn Flanagan
Sally Field Mullan
Jessica Vandermeir

OFFICERS:

Sally Field Mullan, President
Marilyn Flanagan, Sr. Vice President; Executive Director, Secretary
Zachary Slaughter, Vice President, Day Services
David Mullan, Treasurer

ACCREDITED BY:

**THE COMMISSION
ACCREDITATION OF
REHABILITATION FACILITIES
(CARF) THROUGH DECEMBER 2021**



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.