



**Proudly providing unparalleled services to children, adults and families living with disabilities.**

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*Angelwood is grateful to the following individuals whose service on the Board of Directors recently concluded. We are a better organization because of their efforts.*

Vilma Consuegra  
Ivy Suter  
Mark Thompson  
David Vails  
John Wagner

Dear Friends,

Each week Kyleen Jones, Senior Program Director, and I are privileged to receive phone calls from families, most of whom are not currently served by Angelwood. Sometimes they are looking for residential placement, sometimes career direction for their son, daughter or sibling. Sometimes they just need to talk to someone. However, many times they are asking questions that don't directly relate to a service we offer.

Someone told me I need to become a guardian for my child. Is that true?  
How do I sign up for Medicaid Waiver services?  
Do you know a doctor who will understand developmental differences?  
I can't do this alone anymore, am I a bad parent?

We are always happy when we can directly serve someone when that is best for the family. Yet we also welcome being a sounding board or making referrals when appropriate.

This month we are excited to add a new opportunity into our tool box. For families who are looking to save and protect the financial resources of their loved ones, we can refer them to a Pooled Trust. This is a resource that helps individuals receiving funds to save some money, without jeopardizing service funding, for those higher cost items that aren't fully covered yet would enhance the quality of life of their family member.

As our mission so wonderfully states we are here to serve the whole family. If you know someone who may need to touch base with us, please tell them to give us a call.

Have a happy holiday season,

*Diane*



Diane Tuttle  
Executive Director

**Welcome to Our New Board Members**



**Jim Mainwaring** earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting at the University of South Florida and a Master's degree in Finance from the University of St Thomas in Houston, TX. He began his career in Houston, where he became a Texas Certified Public Accountant. Jim has worked in the Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods Manufacturing, Professional Service, Industrial Service and Telecommunication industries for Dresser Industries, Sonat Inc., Uncle Ben's Rice Company, Vinson and Elkins LLP, and Verizon. Jim was born in Ohio, grew up in Florida and has been a Jacksonville resident since 2007.

**Meg Rose**, Vice President of Field Operations for Firehouse Subs of America, LLC oversees operations and compliance for the 1100+ fast casual restaurant chain headquartered in Jacksonville, FL. In the course of her 30 years of restaurant industry she has had experience with some of the largest chain concepts in the nation. Meg's monumental accomplishments and passion for serving others earned her the 2011 Culture Award for her work on behalf of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. In 2015 Meg was named one of the "Women of Influence" by the Jacksonville Business Journal, received her CFE (Certified Franchise Executive) from the International Franchise Association and is a member of the Leadership Jacksonville class of 2017. Meg is an avid golfer and sports fan, loves to travel and spend time at the beach.



Over the last 40 years, **Don Wilford** has built over 4000 luxury custom homes in Florida. He spent 25 of those years as President of ICI Homes in Jacksonville, FL. Recently, through succession planning, he became President of ICI Homes, Custom Homes Division. Don also uses his talents to help others. He has been helping the Jacksonville community for years through his volunteer efforts with Builders Care and Angelwood. He lives with Lou Ann, his wife of 47 years. They have 3 sons and 7 grandchildren.

# Angelwood Family Highlights

## Gina

by Gina's mother, Mitzi Vergenz

It's hard to believe that our journey with Angelwood began 21 years ago!

By the time Gina was 12 years old she still wasn't sleeping through the night, so neither were we. While she physically could walk and run as other children, she didn't have the ability to understand danger. We were constantly needing to be extra vigilant to make sure she didn't wander off, turn on a stove or happen on another way to get hurt. By necessity, some of the responsibility had to fall on her older brother who was a young teen himself. When we finally found Angelwood, I knew I was at the end of my rope.

One of my biggest surprises happened early on when Gina came home for a family visit. Her nails were painted and hair styled. I couldn't figure out how anyone could get her to sit still long enough to pamper her this way. Yet they had. Between the fatigue and the needs of our family, attending to her more feminine side had been out of the question. What a treat for our daughter.

With Gina at Angelwood the dynamics of our family changed. As parents we could focus some attention on our three sons. For the first time in nearly 12 years I was able to sleep, go back to work to help support our family, and simply breathe knowing someone was awake all night just in case Gina needed something. What a life saver for her dad and me. **Best of all, Gina has thrived. She is happy and healthy and very active in the community with her housemates.** Our daughter is able to have a healthy relationship with her family who continue to love her with our whole hearts.



## Taylor

Theresa and Keith Parenteau love having their adult son, Taylor, living at home with them. Yet, they know that if he didn't have a place to go during the week, Taylor would be content to sit on a sofa and do very little. After looking at many places in Jacksonville, they found the Angelwood Career Development & Education Center. The interactions of Angelwood staff with the people in the program was the biggest draw to Angelwood. "The staff looked like they really care," says Theresa. "Kenya Daniels [Career Development Director] is a gem. She embodied that caring in all her interactions with our family."

She also commented that it is important for Taylor to have a purpose to his life and getting up each morning with someplace to go is a part of that.

**One way she knows Angelwood is a good fit for Taylor is that each morning he gets out of the car and runs into the building, happy to begin his day.**

Something that Taylor's parents have recognized is that Angelwood has given them the gift of time. While Taylor is with Angelwood, his parents are able to continue working. More than that, they are refreshed. When the Angelwood transportation van pulls up to the home in the afternoon, mom says she is able to fully engage with her son giving him the attention he deserves.



## Resident Government Committee

In April the Angelwood Resident Government Committee was formed with the goal of providing residents expanded opportunities to be involved in decisions regarding their services. It also provides education on self-advocacy, legislature, and laws affecting people living with disabilities. Elections were held and one elected peer now represents each of Angelwood's six group homes. Committee members recently attended the Jacksonville Zoo's "Spirit of the ADA" to celebrate the signing of the American's with Disabilities Act.



## Making a Splash at Summer Camp

Since 2002, Angelwood has been providing an enriching, welcoming, and fun place for children to flourish during the summer months when school based resources are not available. Summer Camp 2019 was no exception! This summer included a range of arts and craft projects, music, recreation activities with outdoor water days, and special activity days. Many of our campers are already looking forward to another fun summer in 2020!



## Angelwood Sporting Clay Shoot

It was a beautiful day at Jacksonville Clay & Target Sports for the 4th Annual Angelwood Sporting Clay Shoot on February 11th. Thank you to our Co-Chairs Tera & Jeff Lageman and Congressman John Rutherford as well as all who participated in the shoot to show their support of Angelwood and those we serve!

Registration for the 5th Annual Angelwood Walter "Chuck" Foster Sporting Clay Shoot presented by ChopHouse Thirteen is now open!



## Possibilities Soared at the Annual Gala

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees for helping to make the Angelwood Gala: Soaring Possibilities such a success! We are so grateful to the team of volunteers that brought together robust live and silent auctions, and the new 'Keys to The Closet' raffle for this elegant evening. One highlight of the night was the award videos featuring a few of our many outstanding Angelwood community members. Congratulations to our 2019 award winners:

**Corporate Partner of the Year**  
Arlington Toyota

**Employee Excellence Award**  
John Riego

**Soaring Possibilities Award**  
Heather Zumwalde

## 1st Annual Taste of the Town

The 1st Annual Taste of the Town benefitting Angelwood was a huge success! The crowd of over 250 people enjoyed tastings from 25 eateries and restaurants from the Town Center, live music, raffle drawings, and a surprise performance with the band by two of our Angelwood residents. Congratulations to The Capital Grille for winning the People's Choice award. This inaugural event was hosted by The Markets at Town Center, and we are already looking forward to next year!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
February 27, 2020

**SAVE THE DATE**  
August 2020

**SAVE THE DATE**  
October 17, 2020

Check out all the event photos and stay updated on Angelwood news on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @angelwoodjax

# Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. – Helen Keller

This year, Angelwood volunteers have logged almost 6,000 volunteer hours -that's an average of almost 500 hours a month! **Thank you to our incredible team of volunteers for being part of our caring community; together we can do so much!**

## UNF Psychology Department - Growing & Learning Together

A pilot program designed and implemented in 2012 between University of North Florida (UNF) and Angelwood has provided an opportunity for peer-to-peer experiences for our residents and day program participants, while giving students an opportunity for interactive, immersive learning. This program has expanded to include practicum students participating at the Angelwood Career Development and Education Center and Angelwood Summer Day Camp. Through these activities, an accredited Community Based Learning program was added to the UNF course offerings, which continues to allow students to partner with Angelwood for college credit.

"Angelwood clients provide my students an amazing opportunity to apply course content, but more importantly, they teach UNF students the value of friendship, volunteerism, and empathy." said Dr. Nicholson-Bell, Associate Professor of Psychology at UNF, "Every year I read through my reflection papers and have students say this was the best assignment they have ever completed in their time at UNF. **This is not a compliment to me, but to Angelwood and its clients. I'm grateful to Angelwood for helping me to provide this experience to my students to contribute to their professional and personal development.**



## FSCJ & Angelwood: A Learning Lab Partnership

Occupational therapy helps to develop and maintain meaningful activities of daily living, and can help facilitate inclusion in home and community life for individuals with developmental differences. Students in related healthcare fields from Florida State College at Jacksonville are placed with Angelwood day program participants to provide an enriching learning experience for both partners. **Since 2016 the**

**buddy program has allowed students to observe first hand the unique needs and abilities of those they will work with in the future, while Angelwood participants benefit from the individualized interaction with their student buddy.**

A recent student participant shared, "The employees were very kind and they treated the clients as adults. All of the clients were so positive and excited to be there. This was a great experience and I am so happy that I was able to participate."

**Angelwood programs hosted 373 college students who volunteered for a total of 2,181 hours in the last Fiscal Year.**

Thank you to our many community partners that volunteer throughout the year to help maintain and improve our group homes. We also thank all the volunteers who help us organize and run our fundraising events. **We are grateful you are part of the Angelwood community!**

**Angelwood is fortunate to have wonderful and long lasting partnerships with a number of local businesses and organizations in the greater Jacksonville area. We are grateful for our 2019 Community Partners.**

Ace Hardware  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 129  
Bank of America - DAN Group  
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Celebration Church  
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Christ's Church  
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Florida State College Jacksonville  
Generation W  
Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church  
Jacksonville Beach Church of Christ  
Jacksonville University  
Lakewood Methodist Church  
The Markets at Town Center  
Mayo Clinic  
North Florida School of Special Education  
Presbyterian Social Ministries  
Riverside Presbyterian Church  
Riverside Presbyterian Day School  
Rotary Club of Jacksonville  
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Sunset  
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The Bolles School  
The Outdoors Show  
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Dr. Robert Colyer

### **Vilma Consuegra**

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Kelli and Drew Prusiecki

### **Lisa and James Goodbread**

Chase Cole  
Donald Woods, III

### **Christopher Griswold**

Judith Foist

### **Matthew Nelson**

Cynthia Nelson

### **Riverside Presbyterian Church Women Coordinating Team**

Joanne and James Caraway

### **Gina Vergenz**

Barbara Powell  
The Vergenz Family

### **Robin Wahby**

Marie Perry

### **Selah Wainer**

David Wainer and Family

### **The marriage of Kim and Bill Wendell**

Patti Bass  
Tracy Berning  
Joanne Caraway  
Diane Drinkwater  
Jenny Harley  
James Moorehead

## Donations from October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019.

## Leadership Team Updates

We are pleased that **Damara Farwell** and **David Vails** have joined the Angelwood family as employees this past year. Damara is our new Chief Development Officer and comes to us with extensive experience in development and fundraising. For many years Damara volunteered for the Angelwood Fashion Show so she was very familiar with the mission and vision of Angelwood prior to employment. David is our Senior Staff Accountant and was formerly on the Angelwood Board of Directors. He earned an MBA from the University of Niagara. Prior to employment with Angelwood, David has worked as a math and science school teacher and a Senior Finance Analyst with FIS. He is married to Kenya and has three children, two who have enjoyed our summer camp.



## JOIN US FOR A TOUR

**Visiting one of Angelwood's programs is the best way to see how your support directly impacts the people we serve every day.**

Tours are available in our group homes, Career Development and Education Center, and Summer Day Camp in 2020.

Please contact Damara Farwell to arrange a tour.

dfarwell@angelwoodjax.org  
904-288-7259

All efforts were made to ensure inclusion and accuracy in recognition of gifts at the time the newsletter was printed. We regret any unintentional omissions or errors.

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United Way  
of Northeast Florida

***Start off the holiday season with the joy of music as The Bells of Angelwood perform!***

**Holiday Melodies: A Community Concert of  
Bells, Chimes, and Singing**

Join us for a collaborative community concert featuring  
The Bells of Angelwood, Brooks Rehab Chimers,  
and North Florida School of Special Education Singers.

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Jacksonville University's Terry Concert Hall  
2800 University Blvd N., Jacksonville, FL 32211

**Jessie Ball duPont Center Holiday Performance**

The Bells of Angelwood will be playing holiday music in the  
lobby of the Jessie Ball duPont Center for all to enjoy.

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Jessie Ball duPont Center  
40 E Adams St, Jacksonville, FL 32202

*Both concerts are free and open to the public.  
Please join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our  
dedicated musicians!*

