



Angelwood

Special
30th Anniversary
Edition



(904) 288-7259

Spring 2023



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

www.AngelwoodJax.org

Dear Friends,

One of the life lessons my mother taught me was “There will always be someone who is better off than you but there will, also, always be someone worse off than you. Your job is to be the best you and be content.” I don’t think this lesson is just about individuals.

As I think about how I would apply it to Angelwood, I ask, how are we the best we can be? To me the answer speaks to who we are.

1. We value the individuals and families we serve for who they are and not what they can do. Many need lots of help to fully experience the world.
2. I marvel as so many of our staff tirelessly work as though they are serving the most important people in the world. We are family.
3. Many individuals in our care live life with joy – and when there is a bad day (which we all have) the next day is a fresh start. How much more joy-filled would life be if we all set aside yesterday’s frustrations and approached each day as an opportunity?
4. The Angelwood Board of Directors is strong and involved. There’s no way that our organization could be where we are today without these tireless workers. The experience, resources, time, and energy they have given to us are immeasurable.
5. Our community supports us in MANY ways. Whether it is painting a group home, teaching a craft, playing music, or other activities, our volunteer corps is remarkable.
6. Rather than stagnate in “we always do it that way” we want to continue to grow and learn. To that end, we continue to seek best practices in service delivery and caring for our employees.

I love Angelwood and where we are in this moment. Sure, we can always compare ourselves to bigger/smaller, better/worse organizations. We have new endeavors that are just around the corner for us. In everything, if we continue to be the best we can be, we can be content. There is still so much to do for so many families, ways to do things better, ways to engage our community more..... and lots more.

As Angelwood turns 30 this year my mother’s lesson rings true. I can say there is contentment, not to sit back and relax, but in the knowledge that we are on a good path that celebrates where we have been and looks forward to a bright future.

Thank you for walking along side us.

Diane



Diane Tuttle
Chief Executive Officer

A Look Back in Time.....

Sally Fox was a woman with determination, spunk, and a drive to care for her children in ways she never dreamed about when she first became a mother. Her daughters, Noelle and Heather, were both living with developmental differences, and she was raising them as a single mom.

Sally worked hard to provide for her children, but by the time her youngest was 12, she knew she couldn’t do it alone any longer. She began taking steps to open Angelwood. It wasn’t easy, though. She soon realized she would need to give up her career in broadcasting as a morning anchor on a local TV show to devote her full-time efforts to opening a home for her daughters and other children who would have someone to care for them 24 hours every day.

“It was a total leap of faith on her part,” said Bob Willis, a longtime Angelwood board member. “She had no background or specialty other than what she learned from raising her own kids. She had no financial support. Her success came from her willingness to go into the community and ask people for help. She told me once that this was what she felt called to do with her life. She did it by pure force of will.”

That was over 30 years ago. After 5 years of ‘round the clock’ work, Sally left the everyday work at Angelwood. This allowed her to focus again on her creative side and enjoy living out her favorite role as mom. Throughout the rest of her life, Sally remained connected to Angelwood, often collaborating on new ideas and possibilities.



Sadly, in 2013, Sally died in her sleep from natural causes. While she is missed, her dream for Angelwood lives strong. In 1993 when Angelwood opened our doors, there were 3 children who called it home. Over the years, Angelwood has continued to respond to growing community needs by opening additional homes and offering community-based services and activities to children, adults and families.

Since that first home had a wooded yard and Sally liked the idea of angels watching over those we served, the name Angelwood was chosen. Sally’s thoughts still ring true.

Sally holding her young daughter, Noelle.

A Family Photo Album



Resident Government visits the State Capital to self-advocate during Florida's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day.



Catie and Bubba enjoying a special dinner hosted by Resident Government to kick off the celebration of our 30th anniversary year.



Beverly sharing the gift of music at a community concert in December 2022. The Bells of Angelwood began in 2017.



Berlynn and Michelle participating in a holiday themed Angelwood Community Explorers (A.C.E.) outing in November 2022.

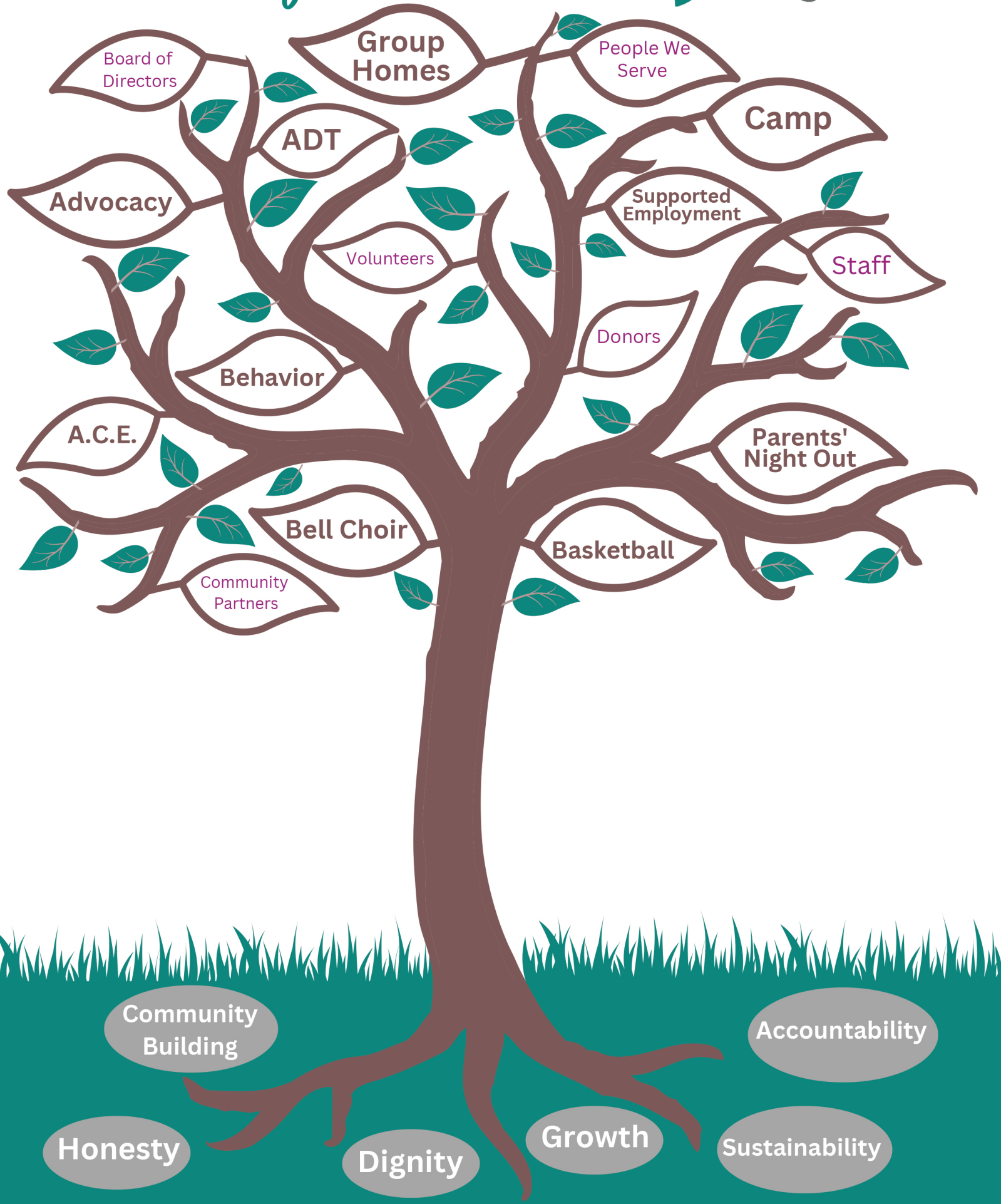


Tyler and Israel, members of 2022-23 Inaugural Season of the Rising Stars Basketball Team, practice offensive skills with Volunteer Coach Michael Moore.



Mark watering plants in the sensory garden as part of the Adult Day Training gardening program. The sensory garden opened in 2022 with additional improvements planned.

30 Years of Growth



By the Numbers:

Angelwood provides supervised, awake residential care **24** hours a day, **365** days a year for our **five** Group Homes



33 individuals from the community and our group homes receive behavior services through Angelwood

We have over **90** employees across our many programs and services



65 Employees are medication administration trained and validated by the Healthcare Coordinator each year

Angelwood has provided a summer day camp for school aged children for almost **20** years and recently included siblings for an integrated camp experience



Approximately **100** families can continue working due to the services and supports Angelwood offers

In 2022, **178,000** medications were administered to group home residents



On average over **400** medical appointments for the group home residents are attended annually

Angelwood's fleet of vehicles log more than **26,000 miles** per year transporting our clients



We are on track to log over **2,000** volunteer hours this year

Impact in Action: The Parents' Perspective

With Gina at Angelwood the dynamics of our family changed. **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.

– Gina's mother, Mitzi Vergenz



Summer camp was always one of my very favorite activities as a kid – such fond memories! I wanted that so much for our son, Zack but never thought I'd find a place where he would have the same experience and truly be included – but where I knew he would also be safe. When I found Angelwood I was instantly a fan! **He has been attending Angelwood since the day he turned 5 and we wouldn't dare miss it!** Thank you so very much for providing this opportunity to ALL of us!

– Zack's mother, Jennifer Campbell

Five years ago when James left home to move into an Angelwood group home it was the hardest thing and broke my heart. **It was the most loving choice I could make for him then, and it would be the most loving choice I could make for him now,** for him to live with Angelwood. I love Angelwood and they are my home, too.

– James' mother, Lisa Goodbread

Catie is the love of my life and I have entrusted her with you, not because I don't want to take care of her, but because it's not the right thing for Catie.

– Catie's mother, Marge Holtsinger

My daughter's biggest successes and **her biggest accomplishments in her mind have occurred because she is an independent person and that is through Angelwood.** To see how awesome she is today – it is what you want - it was not what I thought I would see. I love Angelwood.

– Heather's mother, Susan Zumwalde



A Family Legacy....

Nadine Gramling has had a unique viewpoint of Angelwood's growth. Just over 30 years ago, Angelwood founder Sally Fox walked into her office to tell her about an idea she had for an organization that would help her two daughters and other families like hers. Nadine recalls, "She came in and said that she didn't have an appointment with me, but my banker had told her to go see Nadine – she helps people." After learning more about the need and the plan to open what would become Angelwood's very first group home, Nadine was all in. She called her banker and said, "Well, we're going to go look at houses!"



3 Generations of the Gramling family
enjoy the 2019 Annual Celebration

Since helping to secure the funding for that first home Nadine has helped to support Angelwood in countless other ways. She has served on the Board of Directors and is now a Director Emeritus, has been involved with the planning and sponsorship of many fundraising events, and volunteered on projects. Nadine continues to be an advocate and champion for Angelwood in the community by connecting companies and individuals to the important work that Angelwood does. **"What people don't realize, is all the help we needed then, and continue to need now. I'd try to get a little bit of anything donated. If we needed a new roof, I'd try to find roofers and ask for help. If we needed a new refrigerator, I'd ask someone else. When everyone helps a little, it goes a long way!"** This is an ideal she has instilled in her family as well. Her son and daughter-in-law Scott and Kelly Gramling have been Co-Chairs of the Annual Celebration since 2020. Her grandchildren have modeled in the Fashion Shows and, now in their teens, volunteer at workdays and at the Celebration. They all have, as Nadine puts it, "Grown up Angelwood".

And that is one of reasons Nadine, and now three generations of Gramlings, continue to be part of Angelwood's mission of care. It feels like extended family. **As so many other donors, the Gramling family has never had a loved one that would need the types of services Angelwood provides. What they do have is a sense of belonging to a broader community that cares for those who need help.**



Robin Wahby and Nadine Gramling at an
Angelwood fundraising event in 2004

When asked what made her want to get involved all those years ago, she replied, "There was such a need. The kids didn't have any place to go where they could get the care they needed, especially if they didn't have a family with financial resources. I just never thought about the level of care that some parents were trying to provide or find. For me, it was really about helping the parents as much as it was about helping the people who came to live at Angelwood. How would you walk in these parents' shoes? How do you go to work? How do you sleep? How do you have time for your other children and your spouse? **It was always about keeping families together. And Angelwood does that.** I'm so thankful."

In honor of the 30th anniversary of helping to care for families, the Gramling family invites you to join them in supporting Angelwood in any way that is meaningful to you; please consider volunteering, making a financial contribution, or connecting us to others in your network who are using their superpowers for good.

Planting The Seeds of Growth

Have you thought about a legacy gift? There are many ways to do it.

- Gifts of life insurance, both in whole or as a percentage or set dollar amount, are easy with a simple beneficiary designation.
- Some donors have left their homes to Angelwood as part of their estate.
- Stocks, qualified accounts such as IRA & 401K's, and real property can be a tax efficient way to leverage giving capacity.

By informing Angelwood of your planned gift you can be recognized for your generosity during your lifetime, and Angelwood is better able to plan for the next 30 years of caring for those who need us.



Pictured: Barbara MooreWedow & Dave Wedow in front of their home which they have left to Angelwood in their estate.

30 Years of Board Members

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Scott Adams | Charles Mann |
| Barbara Boone | Lyndsay Nader |
| Robert Brigham | Randy Nader |
| Perry Buffington | Lee Nix |
| Susan Chattaway | Bill O'Brien |
| Vilma Consuegra | Timothy Raines |
| Elizabeth Corley | Stephen Ramsey |
| John Cowling | Mike Rolewicz |
| Angela Cox | Meg Rose |
| Rick Doran | John Rutherford |
| Sharon Dowe | Troy Smith |
| Pauline Drayton-Harris | Ray Solomon |
| Vickie Dugan | Sandy Strickland |
| Duane Dumbleton | Odette Struys |
| David Emanuel | Mick Stuebben |
| Gerry Faircloth | Jamie Surratt |
| Sally Fox | Ivy Suter |
| Julie Fortune | Mark Thompson |
| Nadine Gramling | Billie Tucker Volpe |
| Almon Gunter | Randy Tucker |
| Lisa Hamilton | William Turk |
| John Harrington | David Vails |
| Debra Harrison | John Wagner |
| Ben Hightower | Dan Wahby |
| Rose Hutchinson | Robin Wahby |
| Lee Hutton | Kathleen Walters |
| Melissa Intemann | Paula Weatherby |
| Iris Jones | Bill Wendell |
| Brian Kelly | Kim Wheeler |
| Tram Lam | Robert Willis |
| Jeff Lane | Bill Wilson |
| Robert Loverich | Don Wolford |
| Jim Mainwaring | Theresa Yohn |

Honorary Members: Steven Wise, John Thrasher

All efforts were made to ensure inclusion and accuracy in the Board List.
We regret any unintentional omissions or errors.

Congratulations to the following staff for their long-standing tenure with Angelwood!

We are so thankful for your dedicated service.

10+ Years

Fred Brown
Lilliam Echevarria
Mary Neapolitan Gustavson
Sherita Pope
Lorthel Simmons
Kim Stephens

15+ Years

Pansy Brown
Orosco Neoh
Kecia Oruamabo

20+ Years

Jean Copeland
Kenya Daniels
Alfreda Dobbins
Kyleen Jones
Angela Stewart
Diane Tuttle





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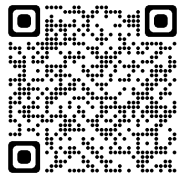
[First Name] [Last Name]
Or Current Resident
[Address line]
[City], [ST] [Zipcode]



Be Part of Our Mission!

Support from individuals, companies, community members, religious and civic organizations is crucial in providing needed services and programs to the children, adults and families we serve. Be part of our \$30 for 30 Club: Donate \$30 a month to celebrate our 30th year! Thank you for being part of our caring community.

AngelwoodJax.org/donate



We LOVE Volunteers at Angelwood!

Are you ready to get involved and support the people we serve? We have many volunteer opportunities available to you, your family, company, civic club, religious group, or organization! Please contact Sarina Steffen, Volunteer Coordinator, at ssteffen@angelwoodjax.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities. Thank you!



Save the Date!

We hope you will join us for the
Angelwood Annual Celebration:
Soaring Possibilities

Saturday, August 19th, 2023
at the Sawgrass Marriott

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, or donating auction items, please contact Damara Farwell at dfarwell@angelwoodjax.org.

Invites will be in mailboxes soon, or check out our website for more info and to purchase individual tickets:
AngelwoodJax.org/celebration.

This year we are excited to celebrate our 30th milestone year with the theme *The Family Tree*.
We can't wait to see you there!

