

Dear RSS Family, Friends, and Staff:

This will be the first of many semi-annual newsletters from the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. As a board and as an organization, we hope to engage more with you and the community by providing timely and relevant information.

This year we were put to the test on many fronts. We navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatened so much of what we hold dear. I am immensely proud of our RSS team for supporting each other and constantly pivoting and innovating to stay relevant and hopeful for the community we live, play, and work in. Many of our residents and staff received their vaccinations. We strongly encourage all to receive the vaccination for us to beat this pandemic. We have come a long way, but we still have more to face with the various variants. For the safety of the residents and the staff, thank you for wearing masks when appropriate and working with the group home managers to keep everyone safe.

Another change at RSS is our new Executive Director, Cal Calton. With the passing of Jim Uecker, we were blessed with Cal, who rose from the ranks within our organization. If you have not met him in person, I encourage you to call him to introduce yourself. He has a strong vision for the future of RSS, and as a board, we feel lucky to have him.

We remain steadfast in our mission to build healthier and stronger group homes. The Board of Directors would like to invite you to serve with us to ensure our residents will always have a safe place to call home. For many of us, the fear of who will take care of our disabled child or sibling consumes our time and emotions. Being on the Board has helped me alleviate many of these anxieties. We have room on the Board if you want to play a proactive role and help shape this great organization. The meetings occur on the second Wednesday of every month from 4:30 to 5:30 at the RSS main office.

If you do not want to serve on the Board, we count on your support through other means. The summer was filled with many activities. Many of our residents attended a Mustangs baseball game and enjoyed hotdogs, while others enjoyed group-home barbeques. We also had outings to various state parks and the fair! It's vital that our residents feel like they belong in the community. Without your support, the options to get our residents out become limited. As we head towards the end of the year, please consider how you can help by donating tickets (Mustangs, the Fair, events at the Metra, etc.), cash or gift cards to the staff during the Christmas celebration, or capital improvements to the group homes.

Finally, please find and "like" Residential Support Services on social media outlets. Here, you will be updated on the latest news, events, job openings, and photos of our residents and staff in action.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns, please call Cal at the main office—or, better yet, attend a board meeting.

Sincerely,

Seth H. Blades

Residential Support Services, Inc, Chair of Board of Directors