

# Family Eldercare



December 2010

## Angela Atwood Chosen as CEO

Family Eldercare, Inc. has named Angela Atwood Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Atwood has served as the Interim CEO for the past 11 months. She joined Family Eldercare in September 2007 as the agency's Chief Operating Officer with a focus on strategic leadership, oversight of all Family Eldercare programs, and building the organization's capacity. She attended the University of Michigan's School of Public Health and holds a Master of Public Affairs from The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs as well as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas. Atwood has more than 18 years of experience in nonprofit management and has served on many boards, community planning bodies and statewide advocacy groups.

"Angela Atwood is uniquely qualified to lead Family Eldercare into the future and we could not be more pleased," says John Crane, Zunker, Crane & Gibson L.L.P., and 2010 President of the Board of Directors for Family Eldercare. "She understands our complex programs from the inside out and has a proven ability to deliver high-quality services to our clients. She has significantly expanded our social entrepreneurial efforts and has worked extensively with our clients, key stakeholders, donors, volunteers and staff."

[Click here to read the full news release.](#)

## Permanent Home for Family Eldercare



Family Eldercare has purchased a new permanent home for the agency, a 23,000-square-foot facility at 1700 Rutherford Lane. Formerly occupied by the American Heart Association, the building is large enough to expand our professional trainings for health, social work and legal professionals as well as accommodate workshops and seminars

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### Thanks To Two Of Our Long-Time Funders!

Family Eldercare would like to thank the **Ruth and Paul Conner Foundation** for its generous donation of \$35,500 to the Guardianship Services Program. This grant will help Family Eldercare meet the

for the more than 100 care attendants and approximately 50 employees now working at Family Eldercare. The agency conducted an extensive Capital Campaign beginning in 2007 to build a new program center. After careful consideration, the Board chose to seek out an existing building and renovate (rather than build new) in order to maximize Family Eldercare's reach well into the future.

## Community Needs Spotlight Luncheon



Each month I Live Here I Give Here holds a Community Needs Spotlight Luncheon. These luncheons were started because many people did not realize that Austin is filled with folks who have urgent needs that are not being fully met by the community. The November 2010 luncheon focused on senior services. [Visit our website](#) to

see Angela Atwood, Chief Executive Officer, talk about the many services that Family Eldercare offers and how we are addressing the everyday needs of our senior neighbors.

## Geriatric Consultation Available

Families that come together for the holidays for a cheerful reunion may for the first time realize that a senior loved one is in trouble and needs help. Some things to look for are confusion, unkempt appearance, unpaid bills piling up, poor nutrition, missed appointments, unsteady gait, and forgetfulness - to mention a few. If you notice a deterioration in your senior loved one, help is just a click or call away. Contact our Geriatric Consultant, Dawn Lakamsani, LCSW at 512-483-3556 or [dlakamsani@familyeldercare.org](mailto:dlakamsani@familyeldercare.org).

## News at Family Eldercare

### Elders Living Well

Family Eldercare employs Service Coordinators at five low-income housing communities to help residents identify, locate, and acquire the services necessary to remain self-reliant. Recently, a letter was written to Family Eldercare praising one Service Coordinator for being helpful, willing to listen to problems, compassionate, and kind. The letter said that at first "it was a little hard to talk to her because of our age differences and our experiences in our lives." It went on to say that this barrier was quickly overcome and the Service Coordinator is now considered one of the best things to happen to the community.

### Money Management

For three years Money Management has been serving a client who suffered a brain injury almost 25 years ago. This injury was never properly treated and as a result the client had problems with his short term memory and he was extremely forgetful. Family Eldercare managed his finances, a task which was nearly impossible given his condition, but quickly realized that there was more that they could do for this man. The Program is thrilled to

increasing demand for guardianship services. This service provides care coordination and oversight for individuals who are disabled and unable to care for themselves. The Ruth and Paul Conner Foundation has been a generous contributor to Family Eldercare for many years. The Foundation has been especially generous in supporting Family Eldercare's Guardianship Services Program so that we can protect and care for some of the most vulnerable residents of our community.

Family Eldercare is grateful to the **Theodore P. Davis Charitable Trust** for a generous grant of \$5,000 to support the In-Home Care & Caregiver Services Program. Grant funds will be used to provide low income individuals with the care that they need to maintain a good quality of life while living at home. The Theodore P. Davis Charitable has been a long time supporter of Family Eldercare and we appreciate their commitment to improving the lives of low income persons in Austin, Texas.

### New Guardianship Director

We would like to welcome **Jamie MacLean** to Family Eldercare as the new **Director of the Guardianship Services Program**. He comes to us with over five years of experience as Court Investigator/Staff Attorney for the Travis County Probate Court. Mr. MacLean holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Social Work from The University of Texas at Austin. His law degree is also from the University of Texas at Austin.

### Benefit Happy Hour a Success

On Thursday, November 4th, Family Eldercare held a benefit

announce that after nearly a year of work, a Family Eldercare Case Manager has secured residence and care for him through the Mary Lee Foundation's Brain Injury Program. The program provides a home where residents learn skills to overcome their brain injuries to work towards independent living.

### **Lifetime Connections Without Walls**

Judith, a 57 year old woman who suffers from bipolar disorder and fibromyalgia, was referred by Family Eldercare's Money Management program. Her physical and mental disabilities made it difficult for her to sustain relationships with family and friends. She felt very lonely and longed for company. Judith started participating in the Lifetime Connections program by joining one of the shortest sessions offered. Today, she is participating in all of our sessions. Lifetime Connections has filled a void in her life. In one of the sessions she mentioned, "How much delight it is to be part of this. It has made such a difference - all of us visiting. It does not feel like I am living alone."

### **In-Home Care and Caregiver Services**

We would like to welcome Beth Bunch to Family Eldercare. Beth is the Workforce and Recruitment Manager for the In Home Care and Caregiver Services Program. She comes to us with over 15 years of experience in recruiting and management in the healthcare and private industry field and brings strong leadership and customer service skills.

### **Lyon's Gardens**

Thank you to Furr's Restaurant for donating two turkeys for a Thanksgiving feast. Also, thanks to Texas Cupcakes for volunteering for three hours to help clean the property. They were able to help staff clean windows, screens, and elevators.

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## **Holiday Giving Drive**

Thanks to everyone who supported the Holiday Giving Drive! Because of everyone's generous donations, we will be delivering holiday gifts to over 250 seniors and adults with disabilities who otherwise would not receive a gift this holiday season.

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## **About Family Eldercare**

Family Eldercare provides essential services to elders, adults with disabilities, and those who care for them.

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Please visit our website at [www.familyeldercare.org](http://www.familyeldercare.org).

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happy hour at Jax Neighborhood Cafe. We would like to thank Jax for hosting this event and for donating 25% of all sales that evening. We also want to thank Halleyanna Finlay and Blue Blazes for performing two great live music sets!

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