



Ray Graham  
Association

*Empowering people with disabilities*

## Message from the President



Greetings!

Let me first say Happy New Year to everyone! I want to thank so many volunteers and donors that did so much to contribute to our holiday parties, Holiday Appeal, gift drive, and other festivities around the organization. I am always inspired by the kindness of so many individuals and groups that provide opportunities to make the holidays special for everyone that gets services from RGA!

As we start the New Year at RGA, we have so many exciting activities going on or in the planning phase. I am thrilled that a group of young professionals has formally come together to support us in raising awareness and much needed funds for our programs and services. Please join me in supporting their Monarch Social on February 25th at Pipeworks Brewing in Chicago.

The most common question I am asked is whether or not the state is paying us for the services we provide since we continue to have a budget impasse in Springfield. The answer is yes, thankfully! A federal judge has ordered the state to continue paying for services that are covered under the Ligas Consent Decree, which includes the majority of our services. However, it has still been nine years since we have received any cost of doing business adjustment to our rates. Every time you reach out to your state legislators on our behalf, to remind them of this significant issue, it is appreciated so very much!

As always...thank you so much for all you do to support the men, women, and children we serve!

Kim Zoeller  
President/CEO

**Winter Fun!**

This winter RGA has been enjoying festive parties, putting on plays, creating New Year's resolutions, and spending quality time with friends! We would love to share a quick look at some of the things we've been up to. Click [here](#) to see more!



## Last Call for Holiday Appeal Donations

Thank you to everyone who supported RGA's annual Holiday Appeal, which raises funds to meet daily needs such as utilities, food, educational supplies and transportation costs. To date we have raised almost \$228,000. There's still time to make a donation. Visit [www.raygraham.org](http://www.raygraham.org) or call 630-628-7172. You can also send a check to RGA, 901 Warrenville Road, Suite 500, Lisle, IL 60532. The Holiday Appeal wraps up on January 31st.

## Upcoming Events

### First Look For Charity

It's our 16th and final year participating in First Look For Charity, and we hope you'll help us go out with a bang! #FLFC17 #RGATheBestOneYet

#### Friday, February 10th

RGA's hospitality suite opens at 5:30pm  
Auto Show floor opens at 7:00pm  
McCormick Place, Chicago  
[www.firstlookforcharity.org](http://www.firstlookforcharity.org)

To purchase tickets and packages, and for more information, please visit the First Look for Charity website ([www.firstlookforcharity.org](http://www.firstlookforcharity.org)) or contact Noe Janus at 630.628.7274 or [noej@raygraham.org](mailto:noej@raygraham.org)

\*Select RGA as your ticket purchase beneficiary to gain access to our legendary suite, which features two fully-stocked bars, private coat check, delicious appetizers and more!



### The Monarch Social

On Saturday February 25th, RGA's Young Professional's Committee will host their first fundraising event - The Monarch Social. It will take place at Pipeworks Brewing in Chicago and will feature Pipeworks' beer, food provided by Goat Group Catering (of Girl & the Goat and Little Goat), and live entertainment.

Admission tickets and any raffle tickets sold will all benefit RGA!

Purchase tickets at:

<https://give.classy.org/monarchsocial>

\*\*\*Please note, The Monarch Social is a 21+ event. IDs will be checked at the door. If you purchase a ticket and you are under 21 years of age, you will not be admitted into the event. Thank you!



## Continuing Kindness

In 2015, Mr. and Mrs. Shankar Planjery's generosity resulted in the renovation and subsequent dedication of the Sarada D. Planjery Children's Respite Home, as well as the purchase of specialized sensory equipment to benefit the children. Last week, another incredibly generous gift arrived from the Planjery family. It will be used to purchase additional sensory equipment at the home which will help reduce anxiety. Want to know how you can help meet a need in one of RGA's programs?

Call Lorri Nagle, Chief Development Officer, at 630-628-7174.



## Give the Gift that Makes a Difference

A tribute or memorial gift is a meaningful way to honor or remember family, friends and colleagues. It's also a great way to say thank you or congratulations. By making a tribute gift, not only are you honoring someone special in your life, but you are also helping nearly 2,000 people with disabilities served at RGA.

There are several convenient ways to make a gift:

- On our website [www.raygraham.org](http://www.raygraham.org)
- By phone, call Margaret in our Development Office at 630-628-7172
- By mail, Ray Graham Association, Attn: Margaret, 901 Warrenville Road, Suite 500, Lisle, IL, 60532

We will send a lovely note to the recipient or next of kin that you specify, acknowledging your kind gift. Did you know that if you work for an employer with a matching gift program that your gift can be matched? Ask your employer for more details. So, go ahead, give the perfect gift that makes a difference!

## Family Shout Outs!

Life is a team effort at RGA and we could not do all that we do without the dedicated partnerships with the family members of those we support. A special thanks to:

- Ann, parent of Jesse, who is also a member of 100+ Women Who Care in DuPage County. The group recently donated almost \$12,000 for the renovation of the Common Area at Sunrise Courts.
- Kim C. who gave new winter hats/scarves/gloves to the men and women of Home 5 at the SLC.
- The Karen K.'s family for the purchase of new dining room chairs for Home 4 at the SLC.
- Bonnie and Dennis, Carol and Ron, Karla E.'s family, Christine Y.'s family, and Bob D. for donating funds for a privacy fence for Home 1 at the SLC.
- SLC Parents Group for donating new bedspreads for the ladies in home 4.
- Tim K.'s dad, George, for donating \$500 to Circle Home for some items on their wish list including a new blender/food processor, new bedding for two men, a rug, crockpot and some other kitchen items.
- Patty K., Bobby R.'s aunt, donated a Chicago Cubs clock to the Abilene Home, to celebrate the team's World Series win.
- Ron M., Jack's dad, for donating money to be used to purchase wish list items at Devine Home.
- Paul M, Dustin M, Louie H, Chris J, Mandy M, Ben D, and Angel F's families for providing the holiday party meal at Monarch Academy in Burr Ridge.
- Amey T's family for helping to cook with Monarch in the kitchen.
- Danny C and Ben D's families for donating supplies and decorations to Monarch for Valentine's Day.
- Sana K's family for treating Monarch II in Burr Ridge to lunch at Buca di Beppo and purchasing art supplies for the program.
- Ben D's family for treating Monarch II BR to lunch at The Harvest restaurant.
- Ken L., brother-in-law of Tom N. at View Home, and his staff, for being instrumental in providing pro bono services and consultation to Lorri Nagle, Chief Development Officer, as she researches the effectiveness and recognition of RGA's brand and logo.
- Card C. and Linda D., mothers of Shawn and David from Residential Services, and several other volunteers, are working on a handmade quilt that will be raffled off to benefit RGA.
- The cousins of Chris J. from Monarch Academy in Burr Ridge, who host an annual holiday family gathering and raise over \$1,000 for RGA.
- The Kalas family and Andres G's family for putting on an amazing Christmas Party at the Bell Community Learning Center.

*Thank you to these family members and all who continue to be actively involved here at RGA.*

## RGA Stars Shine

Congratulations to our Stars!

Please join me in applauding the following team members for their outstanding team work and exceptional services to the people we serve.

Their daily efforts positively impact our culture at RGA and support our mission. The RGA Stars for this Winter: Dionne Crenshaw, Erica White, Leon Washington, Stephanie Hope, LaPorcha Lofton, Tommy Webb, Marianne Hickey-Scaccia, Sarah Poi, Nicole Zimmerman, Margaret Wagstaff, Anita Kavuu, and James Vidmar. To learn more about their exceptional services [Click Here!](#)



## Shop AmazonSmile!



Do you shop at Amazon or Amazon Prime?

Why not shop and make a donation to RGA at the same

time? **Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), and select Ray Graham Association as your benefiting charity and start shopping! It's that easy.**

By selecting RGA as your benefiting charity AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to RGA. So be sure to save the AmazonSmile website in your "favorites" to shop all year long!

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