



Tuesday's Angels

Giving Wings to People with HIV/AIDS

By Joey Amato

Founded in 1993, Tuesday's Angels is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization that provides funding on an emergency basis to men, women and children with HIV/AIDS. 100% of funds received by Tuesday's Angels goes directly to individuals or to select organizations with clients that have little or no income.

The organization began when a few noble Fort Lauderdale gentlemen decided to give immediate medical assistance to people not covered by health insurance. Today,

their mission continues in the form of a monthly dinner. These gatherings, held the first Tuesday of the month, hence the name Tuesday's Angels, raise money for their cause.

However, dinners aren't the organization's sole fundraising initiative. Tuesday's Angels sponsors a successful golf outing in the fall, as well as, the "100 Percent Solution Bike Ride for Life," a fundraiser schedule for April 17-18. Dan Blakemore, President of Tuesday's Angels states, "This is the biggest fundraiser of the year. Since its inception, the ride has raised over \$900,000."

The organization currently consists of over 300 supporters and growing. Blakemore states, "Tuesday's Angels is fortunate to have wonderful supporters who we believe are truly heaven sent. Ongoing financial support in the form of donations is imperative to the continued success of our organization."

Chuck Nicholls, a 14-year board member and currently Tuesday's Angels Immediate Past President believed in the organization from its inception. "I truly believe in helping others who can no longer help themselves especially those who are financially struggling with HIV/AIDS to pay their bills."

Tuesday's Angels pays for a variety of expenses incurred by its clients. This includes rental and mortgage assistance, utility bills, medical and

dental expenses, transportation, cremation and funeral expenses, and other necessary needs.

Significant donations from local businesses, grants from foundations, and donations from "angels" allow the organization to continue helping those in the community. All other expenses and fees are paid either by Board Members or with interest income.

Nicholls tells *SFGN* the organization is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in Florida in terms of both the number of people it has helped over the years and the esteem in which it is held by other HIV/AIDS organizations. "Being a part of this organization along with a very supportive team of board members has given me a great deal of personal satisfaction in helping others."