

Over 30
years
of Service
1974—2007

Edition 9

Group Scoop Review
Rumford Group Homes, Inc.
RGH, Inc. is Nationally Accredited by the Council on Accreditation

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Rumford Group Homes, Inc. Administrative Office



Administration
By Shannon Welch

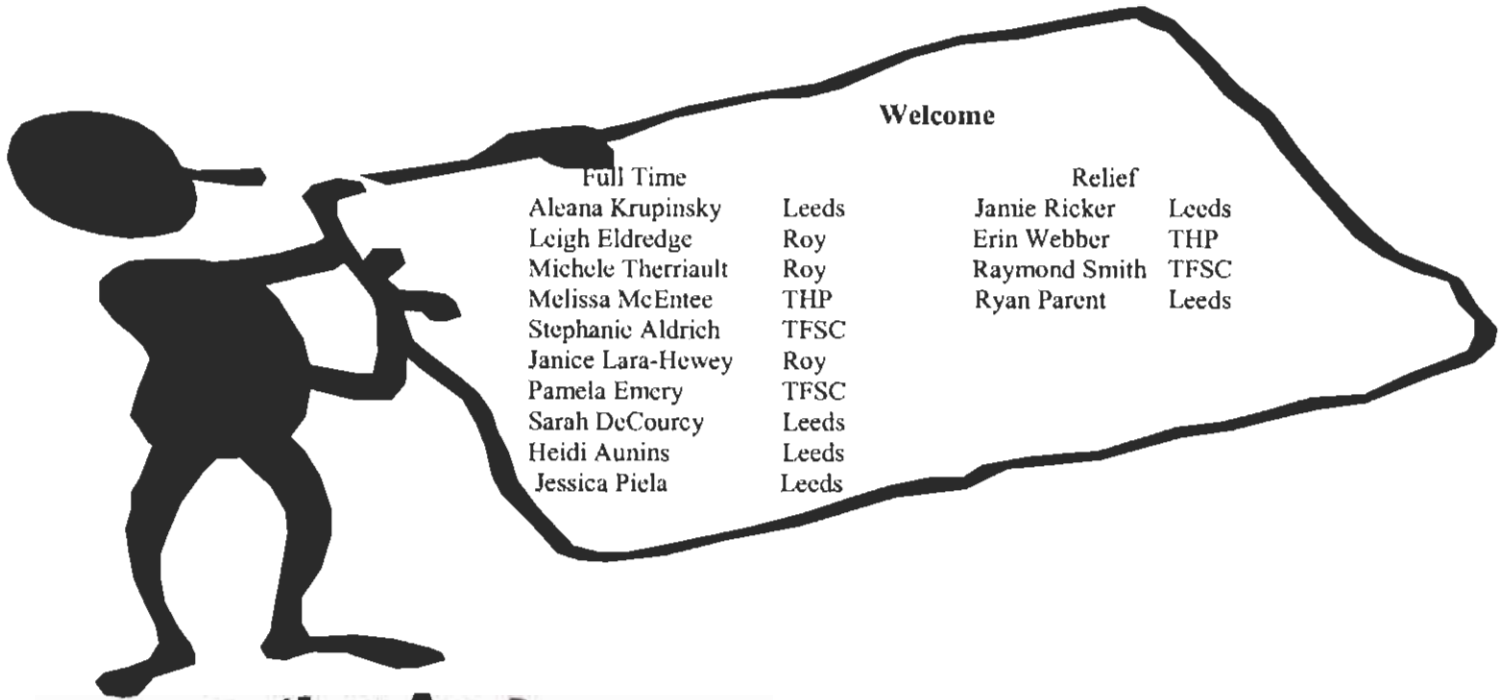
The moment you all have been waiting for . . . the featured article on Administration!!! Where do I begin . . . There have been many changes since I began working here in November of 1995. When I began at Rumford Group Homes, we had three programs: Transition House, Roy House, and the original "Boys Home" on Pine Street (now known as the Greenleaf House). The Administrative Offices were located in the basement of the SILP apartments. The staff of the Administrative Offices consisted of the Executive Director, the Business Manager, the Bookkeeper, and me as an Administrative Assistant. Today, it is a very different agency. The programs have more than doubled and now include community-based programs; the staffs have more than doubled; and the paperwork requirements have increased tremendously.

The staff in the Administrative Office have been employed for a variety of years ranging from 20 years to one year. The current staff is a great team! Al Monier, Executive Director, has been around for 20 years, and oversees the entire Agency happenings and reports to the Board of Directors; I've been here for 11+ years, and handle the Human Resource functions; Phil Mills, Director of Operations, has been here for nine years, and oversees the day-to-day operations; Pat Morse, Administrative Assistant, has been here for eight+ years, and provides support to Roy House, Leeds Home, Greenleaf House, and Homeless Youth Outreach; Gail Belyca, Administrative Assistant, has been here for eight years, and provides support to Turner, THP, and Administration; Brenda Hall, Business Manager, has been here for six years, and oversees the Finance Department and budgeting; Carol Palmer, Staff Accountant, has been here for five years and is responsible for payroll and accounts payable; Diane Howe, Staff Accountant, has been here for three years and is responsible for billing and accounts receivable; and Paula Paladino, Executive Assistant, has been a member of the team since January 2006. Paula works directly with Al on development and grant writing. I want to welcome Sue Forkus as the Director of Programs. Sue has worked with the Agency for four years as the Program Director of the Roy House.

We all play a part in holding the line and enforcing the policies and procedures. We are constantly looking to improve our processes within the Administrative Offices. We strive to be helpful, knowledgeable, and pleasant in assisting with your needs. We enjoy seeing you and the kids when you stop by the office.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for what you do every day. You are making a difference in the lives of the children you serve, and you should be proud of that fact!!





Welcome

Full Time
 Aleana Krupinsky
 Leigh Eldredge
 Michele Therriault
 Melissa McEntee
 Stephanie Aldrich
 Janice Lara-Hewey
 Pamela Emery
 Sarah DeCourcy
 Heidi Aunins
 Jessica Piela

Leeds
 Roy
 Roy
 THP
 TFSC
 Roy
 TFSC
 Leeds
 Leeds
 Leeds

Relief

Janie Ricker Leeds
 Erin Webber THP
 Raymond Smith TFSC
 Ryan Parent Leeds

Other Duties As Assigned



Your Health

Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for U.S. adults? But there's also some good news. According to the American Heart Association the rate is declining because many people now pay more attention to taking care of their heart. Knowing the cause and the risk factors for heart disease can help you prevent it and keep your heart healthy.

The ADA suggests taking the following steps to help keep your heart strong and healthy:

- *Quit Smoking.*
- *Watch your diet.*
- *Get Moving.*
- *Visit your doctor.*



**Clover and Fred
 Admin Mascots**



Agency Christmas Party



St. Patrick's Day Legends and Stories

The legends say that Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland and that they went into the sea and drowned. In America, Saint Patrick's Day is basically a time to wear green and party.

The first American celebration of Saint Patrick's Day was in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737. As the saying goes, on this day, "everybody is Irish!" Over 100 U.S. cities now hold Saint Patrick's Day parades, the largest is held in New York City.

Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Leprechauns are connected with this holiday. The stories about Leprechauns tell how they are very clever little creatures. They are Irish fairies. They look like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall). They are often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and leather apron.

According to the stories, leprechauns are unfriendly and unsociable. They live alone and pass the time making shoes...they also own a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by listening for the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If you catch one, you can threaten to hurt him if he doesn't tell you where the treasure is. But, you must keep your eyes on him every second. If the leprechaun tricks you into looking away, he will disappear. Then you have no hope of finding the treasure.

What is good luck on Saint Patrick's Day?:

- Find a four-leaf clover (that's double the good luck it usually is).
- Wear Green. (School children started this tradition of their own and used to pinch classmates who don't wear green on this holiday).
 - Kiss the blarney stone.

AN IRISH BLESSING TO TAKE WITH YOU TODAY:

"May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow
and may trouble avoid you where ever you go!"



Dude, School Rules!

Learning CAN be fun. You don't believe it? Well, just ask the gentlemen at Roy House School. Imagine that you are a boy in middle school. Now imagine that you come into school one day and there is a note on your desk that says, "Dude, go park your car." Wow, a car of my very own, what does this mean?!

It means you have earned enough behavior stickers to choose your very own car. Well... from pictures from a magazine. But you get to cut out whatever car you desire and place it in your very own parking space. This is a black square of construction paper on a prominently displayed bulletin board in the classroom. The board is dressed up like a city highway and has our parking spaces in the middle. Roy House students are enthusiastic about earning their cars.

By the way, did you know that CARS is the Roy House Mission Statement? Caring, Awareness, Respect, Safety. Now, instead of just reciting these words every school morning along with the pledge to our flag, we are putting CARS into *action*, in more ways than one!

But, this is just the beginning. The boys have also made their own U. S. geography game. Using a very large old map discarded by the US Census Bureau after the year 2000 census, we have developed an interactive learning tool that does not use batteries. The boys cut out shapes from colored plastic, (each chose their own specific color.) They then wrote the two letter postal designations for all fifty states on them. Next they attached "Velcro" tabs to the backs of the colored plastic shapes. The corresponding "Velcro" tabs were placed on each of the fifty states on the wall map. Someone shuffles a deck of US state cards and deals them out to their peers. Then the fun begins. Taking turns, each boy turns over their top card and must then choose the correct two letter identifier from his pile. He then takes the colored, "velcroed" plastic game piece to the map and places it on the proper state. The first boy to get five states touching each other wins the game. We call this Five State Rummy.

Another recent development is The Allowance Game. This board looks sort of like "Monopoly," except the squares we can land on have real life situations that kids in rural Maine might encounter. Some squares say, "Go Fishing. Buy worms. \$2.00" or "Go Fishing. Dig your own worms." Then there are spaces that say, "Oops," "Chance," and "Opportunity". These spaces mean that you draw a card with that name from the middle of the game board. The boys, themselves, wrote the cards. "Chance" cards are a mixed bag of situations. Sometimes they say, "You received a Birthday card from Aunt Hilda with \$10.00 in it." Other times, "You had to take your cat to the vet. You have to pay \$13.85 for a Rabies shot." "Opportunities" cards tell of positive things that come up in day to day living. The things sometimes cost money and sometimes allow us to earn money. For instance, some opportunities that the boys developed include, "The neighbors are going on vacation and they asked you to feed and walk their dog. They will pay you \$6.50 per day. They will be gone 6 days." This, of course requires some multiplication as well as counting of money. Another "Opportunity" might be, "Your friends are going to the fair and ask you to go along. You need to bring enough money to cover

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Attack of the Skeleton People

by R.S. "Stine"

I was sitting on the couch watching Corneal & Bernie. It was raining outside and there was nothing else to do. My sister came in from outside. She was dripping wet.

She had just come back from the mall. She had a big smile on her face and yelled out, "Robert!" I almost jumped out of my skin. I said, "Can't you see I'm busy? Corneal & Bernie is on." She ignored me and said, "Well I found something better than Corneal & Bernie, look!" I looked. It was a play-station game. "Attack of the Skeleton People," I read aloud.

"Can I play it?" I asked.

"Sure," my sister replied.

I played it for about an hour. When I was done, I saw my reflection. I was a skeleton!

"Oh, crap!" I exclaimed. "How the heck did this happen?" The game... The game was cursed, I realized. "Great! Because of the stupid game, I'm a blistering skeleton! How do I get rid of this curse?" I had to find a way.

I tried everything. I tried make-up, plastic surgery...

About a week went by. I was racking my brain figuring out what I had to do. I had to destroy the game. That was when I found out I was rotting away. It took me about an hour to find the game. When I found it, I threw it in the fire.

About an hour later, I started to feel strange. I felt my organs growing back. My flesh was returning. "Yippee!" I cried out.

I went back in the living room and found my friend, Brandon. He was holding the play-station paddle, waiting for a game to load. I asked, "What game are you playing?" in a tiny voice.

He said, "I found this game in your fireplace. I put out the fire and luckily the game didn't melt away completely yet. It seems to be working, fortunately."

"Nooooo!" I cried aloud as Brandon started playing

Attack of the Skeleton People.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; its about learning to dance in the rain."
unknown



HOLIDAYS AT THE AGENCY



**Pie Making
at the
Greenleaf
House**



YUM! YUM!



Roy House Caroling at Administration



BEIBNG PART OF A PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL

By: Michael Altmaier

Probably one of the greatest honors of my life was being an official part of the funeral of the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman. I was reminded of this experience again with the recent death of President Ford. Ironically, President Ford also died on December 26, just as President Truman had.

In 1972, I was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, not far from Independence, Missouri, which was the home of President Truman. While at Fort Leavenworth I worked in the United States Disciplinary Barracks, which is Army talk for prison. Fort Leavenworth was also the home of a National Cemetery. It is an awesome experience to view a National Cemetery. Probably the most famous person buried at Leavenworth was Thomas Custer, brother of General George Armstrong Custer. Thomas Custer was killed alongside his brother at the battle of Little Bighorn.

Soon after arriving at Forth Leavenworth in March 1972, President Truman in his late eighties and in failing health, I attended meetings and trainings on plans for the death and funeral of the President. As the closest military post to Independence, Fort Leavenworth would be heavily involved in the funeral. President Truman had decided not to lie in state in Washington D.C., but instead he would be buried at the Truman Library in Independence a few days after his death.

President Truman died on December 26 and was buried on December 28, 1972. It was a much quicker and simpler mourning period and funeral than recent state funerals. My unit was bused to Independence and used in a support capacity. We were used as security, guarded the gravesite and even served meals to the people attending the funeral.

A few weeks after things returned to normal at Fort Leavenworth, I received a certificate for the Fifth Army Headquarters thanking me for helping with the State Funeral of President Truman and it is something I have always treasured.

In 2001, I took a trip around the country and visited the Truman Library. As luck would have it, they were doing work on the garden and I couldn't visit the gravesite, but being at the library made me think of the very small part I once played in the State Funeral of a President of the United States.

Message from Pat

I truly enjoy the coordination of the Group Scoop Review. But with each issue it gets harder and harder to complete. It is OUR newsletter! Lets make it about us! The above article from Mike shows that we all have something to share with others! We have heard about each of our programs, now let's hear about some of the people that work in the programs.

Help me keep the Group Scoop fun!

Pat Morse

(Continued from page 4) Dude, School Rules

your rides. Rides cost \$3.28 each. You want to take 8 rides. How much do you need to take with you?" The "Oops" cards tell about a situation where you made a mistake that you need to pay a fine for, or buy something to replace something you accidentally broke or lost. The scenarios the boys came up with are sometimes humorous, sometimes serious. Nonetheless, it all came from their own experiences and they are certainly **engaged** in the learning process. Every one of them can't wait to have math class, each day!

12 days of Christmas Ultimate Raffle



Paula Paladino drawing the winning ticket

