

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

STORIES *of* PROGRESS



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

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MISSION

To improve the health status of Central Louisiana.

VISION

Central Louisiana will be positively impacted by the Foundation deploying resources to improve key factors of health status.

STORIES OF PROGRESS

MESSAGE *from* THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

In 2022, we were in the midway point of our six-year Strategic Grantmaking Cycle. At this point in the cycle, many grants had been awarded to carry out the strategies under our priority areas, and that gave us the unique opportunity to see stories of progress emerge from our work.

Improving the health status of an entire region takes time. We often say that change is generational. What we do today is intended to impact the Central Louisiana of the future. But we also know that individual lives are being positively impacted every day.

In support of our mission, The Rapides Foundation's work focuses on root causes impacting health status – access to healthcare, healthy behaviors, education and income.

In this Annual Report, you'll hear from Central Louisiana residents whose lives have improved – from having access to chronic disease medications, having cancer detected at an early stage through life-saving screenings, receiving knowledgeable nutrition and exercise counseling to improve diabetes and other medical conditions, and participating in programs that lead to higher levels of education and family income.

Their stories show us that progress is measured not only in how quickly these generational issues impacting health status can be reversed or eliminated, but also in the paths and opportunities provided to help people live longer, healthier lives.

In addition to testimonials from local residents, you'll read highlights from our Healthy People, Education and Healthy Communities priority areas and from our 2022 Symposium, which focused on Early Childhood Literacy and featured special guest Malcolm Mitchell, a Super Bowl champion and author who founded the Share the Magic Foundation to transform children's lives through literacy.

We can't talk about 2022 without mentioning how honored we were to have been selected for a one-time, unrestricted financial gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The unsolicited donation of \$14 million followed Scott and her team's rigorous research into our longstanding and proven track record.

Scott selected organizations after careful analysis for indicators of high potential for sustained positive impact, including stable finances, multi-year track records, measurement and evidence of outcomes, and experienced leadership representative of the community served.

In the same way that we have approached development of our grantmaking strategies in the past, we will be intentional and deliberate about the best way to use this funding so that it translates into improvement in health status for Central Louisiana residents.



Joseph R. Rosier, Jr., CFA, CPA (Inactive)
President and CEO



Benjamin Close, M.D.
Board Chairman

HEALTHY PEOPLE

The objective of the Healthy People priority area is to improve access to healthcare and promote healthy behaviors. This work is implemented through the Healthcare Access and Healthy Behaviors Initiatives.



STORIES of PROGRESS

Ykeisha Govan-Sykes, LMSW, Behavioral Health Care Manager at Access Health in Woodworth:

"The grant from The Rapides Foundation has allowed Access Health to improve and provide better care to our patients through integrated collaborative care management. Patients who have a diagnosis of depression and/or anxiety are able to receive primary and behavioral health care at the same location."

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

The Healthcare Access Initiative fosters the establishment and expansion of primary, behavioral and quality patient-centered services through integration with community health clinics; and addresses screenings, medication access and related medical manpower.

- Access to quality healthcare is important to reduce health disparities and improve health status for people in The Rapides Foundation's service area. Factors limiting care include financial barriers; personal and cultural barriers; not knowing what to do or where to go; physical or geographic barriers; and shortages in healthcare professionals and facilities. The initiative has a four-component approach to improve healthcare access in the region.

PRIMARY CARE ACCESS, INCLUDING INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

This component seeks to support and increase the capacity of Community Health Centers to integrate behavioral health services and provide quality patient-centered care.

The Foundation offers the Integrated Behavioral Health Implementation Grant to increase access to, and improve the quality of, behavioral health services within the primary care settings of Federally Qualified Health Centers. The goal is to improve health outcomes for patients with behavioral health conditions, including mental health and substance abuse. These multi-year grants are the second of a two-part funding opportunity that begins with an assessment and planning grant. In 2022, Access Health Louisiana was awarded a \$300,000, three-year implementation grant to improve health outcomes for patients presenting with behavioral health conditions at its Woodworth clinic.

The Rapides Foundation continued to monitor 2019 recipients of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Grant, which has the goal of improving chronic disease management at community health centers. These grants assist centers with

their efforts to improve specific quality-of-care measures or health outcomes and disparities in their clinic populations, such as improving hemoglobin A1c levels for diabetes patients and controlling blood pressure levels for heart patients.

MEDICATION ACCESS

The Foundation provides a grant to the Cenla Medication Access Program to address the cost barrier to accessing prescription drugs. CMAP's Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Programs provide free or low-cost prescriptions for uninsured patients of private-practice physicians, rural clinics and health centers, and for Medicare patients who do not have prescription coverage or need prescriptions not covered under their current plans. In addition, Rapides Regional Medical Center contracts with CMAP to provide free or reduced-cost medications to HP Long Clinic clients.

CMAP filled 13,461 prescriptions through its Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Program for a wholesale cost savings of approximately \$8.3 million. An additional 1,043 prescriptions were filled through CMAP's VRx card for patients at the HP Long Outpatient Clinics with an average copay paid by the patient of \$4. Through its CMAP Extra prescription drug benefit card, participants filled 304 prescriptions for retail savings of \$61,074.

EARLY CANCER SCREENING

The Foundation promotes early screening among adults in the areas of colorectal, cervical and breast cancers.

Through a partnership with the Partners in Wellness Program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center at LSU Health Shreveport and CMAP, a mobile cancer

HEALTHY PEOPLE



PAP and CMAP Office Supervisor Crystal Watts, left, and Patient Assistance Program Specialist Kelly Bentley greet clients at the PAP office at Rapides Regional Medical Center.

screening van travels throughout Central Louisiana to offer breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening to uninsured and Medicaid patients. Follow up services are available to patients who qualify under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program guidelines. In addition, CMAP staff distribute take-home colon cancer tests at health fairs, clinics and pharmacies. In 2022, a total of 444 patients received 484 cancer screenings on the van, with 26 patients requiring follow-up screens.

CMAP's Community Health Advisor Program uses a lay health advisor to increase awareness of screening guidelines and help residents in the region overcome challenges to participating in regular screenings. The Foundation implements a multi-media cancer screening awareness campaign to deliver key messages to promote awareness and the benefits of screening and early detection.

MEDICAL MANPOWER

The Foundation offers grants to address the shortage of healthcare professionals in Central Louisiana, particularly in the areas of nursing, behavioral health and allied health.

The Healthcare Occupations Program Grant seeks to increase the number of healthcare graduates prepared to meet the basic level of licensure or certification required by employers for initial hire of high-demand healthcare occupations. In 2022, the Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling \$5.3 million under the grant, which provides funding to postsecondary institutions to add and expand current healthcare program offerings and concentrations to meet the critical workforce needs of local employers.

To complement the Healthcare Occupations Grant, which is geared toward postsecondary students, the Foundation in 2022 offered a new grant opportunity designed to reach students in grades K-12. The Future of HealthC.A.R.E. (Career, Academic Readiness and Exploration for Students) Grant seeks to develop a pool of K-12 students who are interested in pursuing healthcare careers and are academically prepared to succeed in postsecondary training programs. The Foundation awarded five grants totaling \$4.5 million under the Future of HealthC.A.R.E. program.



A portrait of Dominique Teasley, a Black man with a beard and short hair, wearing a green polo shirt. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred industrial setting with metal structures.

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

The Healthy Behaviors Initiative addresses tobacco prevention and control, substance and alcohol abuse prevention, healthy eating and active living.

STORIES of PROGRESS

Dominique Teasley overcame his addiction and now shares his story through the Foundation's counter-marketing campaign to be a positive influence on others and raise awareness about substance and alcohol abuse prevention.

"What I was dealing with was addiction. It wasn't a moral failure. I wasn't a bad person. I was a person that had the disease of addiction. I'm a father, I'm a husband. I am not my mistakes."

HEALTHY PEOPLE

The Rapides Foundation addresses tobacco use, substance and alcohol abuse, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity. These health behaviors are directly linked to premature death and disability from heart disease, stroke, diabetes and certain types of cancer. The four-component Healthy Behaviors Initiative is an integrated, comprehensive, multi-level and multi-target initiative that focuses on health behaviors with the goal of having a meaningful impact on chronic disease prevention in the region.

SCHOOLS

School is a chief part of most young people's lives and therefore provides a critical setting for prevention and intervention efforts. Activities that fall under this Initiative component build upon the Foundation's long-standing and strong relationship with Central Louisiana school districts and advance school-based efforts to improve health behaviors.

Districts are invited each year to apply for Healthy Behaviors School District Partnership Grants that are used to fund projects and activities that positively impact students and school personnel in the areas of tobacco prevention and control, substance and alcohol abuse prevention, physical activity and nutrition. The goal is to provide students, staff and teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to make better and more informed behavior decisions leading to healthier lives.

In the 2022-23 school year, Central Louisiana students from 103 K-12 schools in nine parishes participated in evidence-based projects that addressed these health behaviors, reaching close to 40,000



students. Activities included participation in Take Down Tobacco Day, National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, and school-based Youth Health Advocates Clubs.

Students and teachers from 53 schools participated in The Rapides Foundation's 11th annual Youth Summit on Healthy Behaviors, an event where participants learn how to become advocates for healthy choices and policy change in their schools and communities. The summit was made up of six regional in-person events held in multiple parishes throughout Central Louisiana during the month of October. About 550 students and teachers from nine Central Louisiana parishes participated in the summit events held in Pineville, Natchitoches, Leesville and Oakdale.

COMMUNITY

The Foundation provides a grant to CMAP to administer the Healthy Lifestyle Program, a physician referral, lifestyle coaching program aimed at fighting chronic disease in Central Louisiana by providing clients with demonstration and education on proper nutrition and physical activity for good health. Staff provide free nutrition and physical activity planning, goals and support for clients over a six-month period. In 2022, 655 people participated in the coaching program.

The Healthy Lifestyle Program also offers 12-month group sessions for residents at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Groups are led by Healthy



City of Pineville Chief of Staff Doug Gann, Mayor Rich Dupree and Finance Director David Humphries at the newly renovated Kees Park Playground, funded in part by a Healthy Behaviors Mini Grant.

Lifestyle Program staff, who have been trained to use the nationally approved PreventT2 curriculum. Participants learn skills to make lasting changes that will help prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. Eleven individuals graduated from the program in 2022 while 41 others began attending groups offered in Avoyelles, Rapides and Vernon parishes. PreventT2 is part of the National Diabetes Prevention Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Healthy Lifestyle Program in 2022 earned national recognition for bringing PreventT2 to Central Louisiana.

Research shows smoking cessation services are an important part of a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program. The Foundation provides a grant to CMAP to provide free cessation counseling and medications to help Central Louisiana residents quit tobacco. This service is provided by CMAP in partnership with the Smoking Cessation Trust. CMAP's Certified Tobacco Training Specialist provided individual and group counseling services to 35 residents in 2022.

The Foundation continued to monitor recipients of the Healthy Behaviors Program Grant, which are three-year grants of up to \$225,000 each that fund projects designed to change people's behaviors so they lead healthier lifestyles and adopt healthy habits for life. There were nine active, multi-year Healthy Behaviors Program Grants totaling \$1,375,778 in 2022. Projects include farmers

markets, community gardens, walking trails and healthy food preparation demonstrations and tastings.

The Foundation also monitored 11 Healthy Behavior Program Mini Grants that were awarded in 2021. Mini Grants, which are up to \$25,000, fund projects aimed at preventing and reducing obesity by improving access to physical activity opportunities within the community. Many of these projects were constructed and completed in 2022.

The three-year Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program Grant funds implementation of evidence-based, community-driven solutions for preventing substance and alcohol abuse. There were four active multi-year grants totaling \$1,050,000 in 2022. This grant opportunity supports projects that reverse or reduce risk factors associated with substance and alcohol abuse.

MARKETING/COUNTERMARKETING

The Healthy Behaviors Initiative includes marketing campaigns designed to raise awareness of the importance of diet and physical activity, to counter tobacco advertising and to provide awareness and resources in the areas of alcohol and substance abuse. These campaigns also provide information and tools to facilitate healthy behavior choices.

The "SHIFT: See How I Face Tomorrow" campaign was launched in 2022 to provide resources for people dealing with substance and alcohol abuse. The campaign features personal stories from local residents who have overcome addiction.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Policy and advocacy efforts are addressed under Healthy Behaviors activities in schools and communities. The Foundation forms partnerships with local, state, national and federal agencies to coordinate Healthy Behaviors campaign rollouts and other advocacy efforts.



EDUCATION

The objective of the Education priority area is to increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status. This work is implemented through the School Readiness, Effective Schools, and Career and Postsecondary Readiness components.



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Kathy Melbert of Oakdale attended Math to Build On workshops with her granddaughter, Pazely Davis, 4. "She reads a whole lot more and asks to read every night. She's always at the table doing things she learned in class when she gets home, and she asks a lot of questions."

SCHOOL READINESS

The School Readiness component of the Education Initiative focuses on increasing kindergarten readiness through the support, expansion or establishment of high-quality early childhood programs to support the teacher-child and family-child interactions.



Children who attend high-quality early childhood programs before kindergarten are more likely to complete high school and go through their school careers without repeating a grade. Research shows the most effective strategies are those that focus on improving the quality of existing early education settings. Additionally, high-quality teacher-child interactions are essential for children's learning and development. The School Readiness component has three subcomponents to ensure more children are ready to enter kindergarten.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS

The Rapides Foundation provides a grant to The Orchard Foundation to build the capacity and quality of Pre-K, Head Start and childcare centers in the region by administering School Readiness training institutes throughout the year.

School Readiness training institutes are presented by Teaching Strategies

and Teachstone, and they are open to any early childhood provider within the Foundation's nine-parish service area. Trainings include Teaching Strategies Gold, the state's Birth to Kindergarten assessment tool; and Teachstone CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Observation Reliability training, which prepares an observer to conduct a CLASS observation. Orchard administered 29 School Readiness trainings in 2022, reaching 467 participants.

The Orchard Foundation also offers two Early Learning Center Director Institutes aimed at childcare and Head Start centers and customized for the Central Louisiana region. Participants were selected through an application process with groups limited to 15 participants in each institute. The Instructional Leadership Institute (ILI), led by AnLar, focuses on instructional leadership using CLASS and TS Gold. The Business Leadership Institute (BLI), from the Early Learning Leadership Institute, focuses on business management of a childcare center. In 2022, 10 participants completed ILI and 13 participants completed BLI.



Adler Snyder, 3, at a Math to Build On workshop with his mom, Billi Harrelson. The workshop was led by The Orchard Foundation's Early Childhood Program Coordinator Jamila Farris. Harrelson said Adler developed a love for books and reading. "He's learning how to do patterns and shapes. He loves the friends he made, and he loves Ms. Jamila."

EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

The Rapides Foundation provides a multi-year Early Childhood Literacy grant to The Orchard Foundation to administer two programs based on best practices that develop literacy skills in children before they enter kindergarten: Read to Soar and Math to Build On.

Both programs feature 8-session workshops for children from birth to age 5 and their parents or caregivers. Read to Soar family sessions help develop and strengthen a culture of reading at home by educating parents, building a child's home library and increasing awareness about community resources to help ensure the child has the tools for school success. Math to Build On is a mathematics literacy program where children develop and strengthen math skills through reading and activities, and families learn how to continue and reinforce the learning at home.

For each program, children earn a

certificate of participation and up to 40 books for their home library while parents come away with tips and resources that help them teach their young ones.

The Orchard Foundation administered 14 Read to Soar workshops and 15 Math to Build On workshops in 2022, reaching 316 children from 270 families. In all, 7,980 books were distributed to children to add to their home libraries.

INCREASE ACCESS FOR THE BIRTH TO THREE POPULATION

This subcomponent seeks to increase the number of at-risk children ages 3 and under who are enrolled in an early childhood education program. Foundation staff participate in Early Childhood Care and Education Community Networks and Ready Start Networks within the Foundation's service area. These Networks implement strategies to increase access and improve the quality of early childhood care and education programs.



EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

The Effective Schools component of the Education Initiative focuses on enhancing the instructional core in the nine public school districts within the Foundation's service area by supporting instructional leadership and professional development.

STORIES *of* PROGRESS

Pollock Elementary School Principal Amy Merrell:

"The work we do in Aspiring Leaders and Leading for Better Instruction is so meaningful, it applies to what we do every day. We know the purpose behind our work, and that is important."

EDUCATION



The Rapides Foundation's Effective Schools component provides grants to individual school districts and to The Orchard Foundation to address professional development for teachers and strengthen the leadership capacity for administrators.

The Effective Schools Grant supports district-wide school improvement plans that seek to increase educational attainment and improve student achievement. Districts use these funds to deepen their work by enhancing professional development for educators. These district-level grants fund coaching and mentoring of teachers; leadership development for administrators; and participation in institutes provided by The Orchard Foundation. Each district is assigned a technical assistant to guide and assist the progress of their grant. Technical assistants provide on-site visits, relevant research and a national perspective. During the 2021-22 school year, 3,553 educators participated in professional development trainings and 810 participated in leadership development.

In addition to district-level grants, The Rapides Foundation provides The Orchard Foundation with grant funding that is used to administer professional and leadership development opportunities for teachers, administrators, district leaders and superintendents.

Orchard administers regional institutes from the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership (CEL) that provide Cenla educators the opportunity to receive instructional leadership training

throughout the school year. The two-year Aspiring Leaders program prepares educators for administrative roles while the three-year Leading for Better Instruction program is available for current administrators. In the 2022-23 school year, 105 educators attended CEL institutes.

The Orchard Foundation partners with The Center for Literacy & Learning to provide ongoing support in professional development for district leaders and superintendents with a focus on literacy. This work includes content training, school walk-throughs and work group breakout sessions, providing school district leadership with expertise around the critical goals of kindergarten readiness and third-grade student mastery level achievement. Forty-five leaders took part in this training in the 2022-23 school year.

To help address teacher shortages for STEM subjects in middle schools, The Orchard Foundation in 2018 received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Quality Partnership Program, with in-kind matched funding from project partners including The Rapides Foundation, to administer the Central Louisiana Instructional Partnership. CLIP is a teacher residency program that trains, supports and retains math and science teachers for high-needs middle schools in the region. CLIP graduated 10 residents from its third cohort in 2022 while the fourth and final cohort began its work in the summer of 2022. By the end of the five-year project, it is expected that 35 new highly prepared teachers will be in Cenla middle schools.



CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS

This component of the Education Initiative focuses on achieving career and postsecondary success through implementation of counseling, credential and advance credit programs.



WEE CAMP
ELEMENTARY
Workplace Experience Exchange Camp



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Nicholas Gross, West Leesville Elementary School teacher:

“WEE Camp is a great experience for any level of an educator to see the education, opportunities and training Cenla has to offer. We were able to see and be a part of the technology and preparation in nursing, welding and plywood programs, and we did experiments with energy that I brought back to my third graders. I would recommend it to other teachers.”

EDUCATION

- The Career and Postsecondary Readiness component offers counseling, skill development, credential and advance credit programs for middle and high school students so that they can achieve success beyond high school. This work is carried out through three subcomponents.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Rapides Foundation funds Career and Technical Education programs to give Cenla residents the opportunity and support to earn a credential or degree that will put them in a position for a higher-wage job that offers a good quality of life. This work is implemented through the Cenla Work Ready Network, a system designed to link education and workforce development efforts and align them with regional economic needs.

Through the network, high school students and unemployed or under-employed adults are able to earn a nationally recognized certificate that demonstrates their work-ready skills to a potential employer. They receive preparation through the ACT Career Ready WorkKeys curriculum and then take the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, which leads to the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate. In the 2021-22 school year, Central Louisiana high school students and adults earned 4,713 National Career Readiness Certificates.



CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY COUNSELING

The Orchard Foundation provides career counseling for Central Louisiana students through a partnership with Career Compass of Louisiana, a nonprofit education organization with coaches across the state. Career Compass staff work with guidance departments in area schools to act as an added resource and a liaison between the students of Central Louisiana and postsecondary institutions in the state. Career Compass employees are educated on all of the postsecondary schools in the area they serve and the programs each offers, thus helping students find the right school for their needs.

These services include seminars for middle school and high school students in public high schools. In

EDUCATION



addition, all seniors receive one-on-one coaching to help guide them in the college application process. In all, 29,871 students received some type of career and postsecondary counseling during the 2021-22 school year.

The Orchard Foundation offers events to connect local businesses with high school students and educators. The Students Exploring Career Opportunities expo is an interactive career expo where 10th graders can learn about different career fields. More than 2,400 students attended the 2022 expo, visiting 60 hands-on, interactive displays at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria over a two-day period in November.

The Orchard Foundation also implements Workplace Experience Exchange (WEE) Camps for teachers to learn about trends, skill requirements and opportunities in industries within the region, and how externships can work for educators and students.

In 2022, The Orchard Foundation began offering WEE Camp Elementary for teachers of PreK-6 students in addition to its WEE Camp for teachers of grades 7-12 and WEE Camp II, an in-depth program offered for educators who completed WEE Camp I. Forty-three educators attended one of the three WEE Camps in 2022.



The Orchard Foundation presents WEE Camps (top photo) and SECO to offer opportunities to learn about different career fields.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The objective of the Healthy Communities priority area is to improve economic opportunity and family income; and to enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations. This work is implemented through the Economic Development and Social Environment initiatives.



STORIES of PROGRESS

LSUA student Kaley Whatley:

"Beyond Graduation has been a big help to me because there is so much that goes on. They are there to help us with anything that we need, especially when you're 18 years old and just getting out into the world. I've been very thankful that I've had people like Beyond Graduation to help me along the way."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Initiative addresses median household income through workforce development; business startups and expansions; and support of regional economic development.

The Economic Development Initiative makes the link between healthy economies and healthy people. Healthy economies with low unemployment rates and higher-wage jobs provide people with the means to purchase medical insurance, make better healthcare choices and live healthier lifestyles. The goal of the initiative is to raise the household income of people living in Central Louisiana by improving the region's capacity to produce higher-wage jobs for all income levels and generate more wealth in its communities. The initiative consists of three components.

BUSINESS STARTUPS AND EXPANSIONS

The Foundation supports a comprehensive and coordinated entrepreneurship support system focused on businesses that have the potential to sell products or services outside of the region. It provides a grant to Louisiana Central for continued support of the Business Acceleration System, which provides training, technical assistance, coaching and mentoring support services for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.

In 2022, BAS worked one-on-one with 69 clients enrolled in the BAS coaching program, which helped them grow their businesses and increase revenues. BAS also offered 15 trainings for the general public, reaching 317 participants interested in starting businesses or increasing existing businesses.

WORKFORCE SKILLS AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation supports efforts to

build a cohesive and effective workforce development system in Central Louisiana that meets the demands of employers, has the capacity to quickly respond to change, and provides training opportunities and career paths for employment and advancement for Cenla residents. This includes efforts to fill workforce gaps identified in the areas of manufacturing workforce and healthcare.

In 2022, the Foundation continued to monitor a \$2 million matching grant to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Foundation that allowed the Central Louisiana Technical Community College to establish the Central Louisiana Manufacturing Technology Center and to add and expand high-quality, state-of-the-art manufacturing programs on campuses throughout the region. This grant supports CLTCC's ongoing pursuit to meet the workforce needs for Central Louisiana by offering technical training programs that produce graduates and employees for high-wage, high-demand jobs in the region.

The Workforce Opportunity Grant is an ongoing funding opportunity for accredited postsecondary institutions in Louisiana to partner with Central Louisiana businesses to address training needs. The Foundation continued to monitor Workforce Opportunity Grants that were awarded in 2021.

A \$1.4 million grant to Career Compass of Louisiana addresses the high number of Central Louisiana young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor pursuing an education. The Beyond Graduation Project addresses this

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Business Acceleration System Executive Director Gary Perkins leads a BAS workshop for Central Louisiana entrepreneurs.

gap by funding career coaches to assist high school students with successfully transitioning to a local two- or four-year university or technical community college, and coaches at partner institutions to work with students during their college tenure.

The multi-year grant is being piloted in LaSalle, Natchitoches and Rapides parishes through a partnership with the public school districts, Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Northwestern State University, LSU of Alexandria and Bossier Parish Community College's Natchitoches campus. The Rapides Foundation plans to expand to all nine school districts in the Foundation's service area.

The first group of 297 Beyond Graduation students began working with their college coaches in the Spring/Summer of 2022, and completed their first semester of college in the Fall of 2022. Approximately 60 percent of the participants are first-generation college students.

The Foundation in 2022 released the Reconnecting Cenla Program grant opportunity to complement Beyond Graduation. While Beyond Graduation is a retention strategy, Reconnecting Cenla is a reconnection strategy that creates local

community systems to reconnect young adults ages 16-24 who have dropped out of the education system or workforce to meaningful education and employment opportunities. Reconnecting Cenla grants were awarded in 2023.

BUSINESS CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Foundation provides a matching grant to Louisiana Central in support of its workforce and economic development activities. Louisiana Central continues to serve as the vehicle to build cooperation, coordination, teamwork and social cohesiveness for regional economic development objectives.

Louisiana Central also works with the Foundation's Education Initiative to support the Cenla Work Ready Network, a system designed to link education and workforce development efforts and align them with regional economic needs. Louisiana Central works with business and industry partners to encourage them to use and recognize the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate, which demonstrates a potential employee is prepared for technical and highly skilled jobs within their companies.



SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The Social Environment Initiative addresses social capital by supporting leadership and nonprofit development and increased community and civic engagement.



**YOUTH
VOLUNTEER CORPS**

BUCKEYE HIGH SCHOOL



STORIES of PROGRESS

Paige McCrory, Buckeye High School Social Studies teacher and Youth Volunteer Corps Club sponsor:

"My YVC members have been able to grow in ways that I know would not have happened without the funding from The Rapides Foundation. I have students that do not participate in sports or in other clubs, and therefore are not given the opportunity to volunteer during or after school. The sense of pride they feel from helping others is life-changing, and earning a volunteer endorsement on their diploma opens the doors to college scholarships or helps them to stand out when applying for a job. I believe that YVC is a crucial part of helping students become successful in the future."

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



The Social Environment Initiative provides an integrated approach to enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective nonprofit leaders and organizations. This approach seeks to foster increased civic engagement, develop enhanced leadership skills and improve the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations so that they will operate with greater success as they work to achieve their missions. Community Development Works, a program of The Rapides Foundation, implements most of the activities under the Social Environment Initiative. The Initiative consists of two components.

BUILDING NONPROFIT CAPACITY

This component seeks to build the capacity of nonprofits by focusing on the skills of the individuals in the organization

and on the organization as a whole.

To build the capacity of nonprofit leaders, CDW offers Cenla Boardbuilders, a leadership development program for emerging leaders to become active in their communities as members of local nonprofit boards, and for newly seated board members to seek training. In 2022, 15 professionals graduated from Cenla Boardbuilders, joining a group of 239 Cenla Boardbuilders alumni.

To build the capacity of nonprofit staff and volunteers, CDW offers free workshops and webinars on topics related to nonprofit management such as grant writing, financial management, fundraising, evaluations and staff development. In 2022, more than 400 individuals attended CDW classes, which are offered in the spring and fall.

The CDW Learning Lab, located on the



Instructor Leroy Divinity Jr., standing, works with Lisa Delaney and Bo Pride at a CDW workshop.

second floor of The Rapides Foundation Building, provides free access to nonprofit resources, potential funding opportunities, statistics, journals and periodicals, as well as other pertinent information to the nonprofit landscape. Central Louisiana residents also can access some CDW reference materials online.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

To increase civic and community engagement, the Foundation offers My Civic Life, a program that provides high school students with leadership and volunteer service opportunities through participation in school-based community service Youth Volunteer Corps Clubs. YVC clubs are implemented through the Youth Volunteer School District Grant. In the 2022-23 school year, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parish school districts participated in this grant opportunity.

After joining as a national affiliate of Youth Volunteer Corp in 2016, Central Louisiana YVC Clubs have been in 21 schools, with 1,400 students participating

and recording more than 20,000 service hours in their communities. Projects have included food drives, reading to young children, volunteering at nursing homes, sending packages to deployed service members and delivering chemo bags to cancer patients. The Central Louisiana affiliate is a Gold Level YVC Affiliate, a designation that indicates exemplary status.

In addition, YVC Clubs offer leadership development opportunities for youth volunteers and an online platform to connect young people with nonprofits in their communities.

The Foundation in late 2022 released the 2023 Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant, a funding opportunity designed to provide participating partners with grant funds to implement community-based service opportunities during the summer months for youth ages 11 to 18. Organizations attended an informational webinar to learn more about the grant, with awards of up to \$5,000 announced in 2023.



RAPIDES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Community Benefit Report

As a 26 percent owner of the Rapides Healthcare System, The Rapides Foundation provides oversight to the community benefit delivered by Rapides Regional Medical Center. The hospital is committed to providing excellent medical care to its patients, and through an investment in its community benefit programs, RRMCC extends its focus by working for the better health of all who live in the area it serves. It provides many free and low-cost services and collaborates with local partners to improve access to care.

The hospital employed 1,900 individuals with a payroll of \$103.7 million in 2022. It admitted 13,718 patients, delivered 1,489 babies at Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital, treated 61,280 patients in its Emergency Department and performed 6,489 surgeries.

RRMC operates multiple HP Long Clinics to take on the urgent, specialty and primary care previously offered through the state-run Huey P. Long Medical Center. In 2022, there were 26,460 visits to the clinics, which serve Medicare, Medicaid, uninsured (Self-Pay) and insured patients. Services include primary care, general surgery, cardiology, orthopedics, gynecology, ophthalmology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, dental care and urgent care.

The hospital contracts with The Rapides Foundation's Cenla Medication Access Program to provide free or low-cost medications to clinic patients. In 2022, CMAP filled 6,388 free

prescriptions for HP Long patients through its Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Program. An additional 1,043 prescriptions at a reduced cost of \$4 or less each were filled through a pharmacy card program offered at the clinics. Eligible patients also received free diabetic testing equipment and supplies through CMAP.

Rapides Healthcare System provided over \$4.4 million in financial support to the LSU Family Medicine Alexandria Residency Program based at RRMCC and sponsored by LSU Health Shreveport. Eighteen residents were in the program in the 2021-22 academic year. Six family physicians graduated at the end of the academic year, bringing the total number of graduates to 143 since the program began in 1997.

RRMC is a designated teaching hospital with residencies in Family Practice, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ophthalmology, Gynecology and General Surgery. In 2022, it supported 68 residents in these programs from LSU, Tulane and Willis-Knighton Health System.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

Rapides Regional Medical Center was recognized as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Vascular Care, according to research by *Healthgrades*. This achievement reflects RRMCC's outstanding clinical outcomes for vascular surgery and places it among the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for vascular surgery.

Rapides Regional Medical Center's other Healthgrades honors include:

Vascular

- Recipient of Healthgrades Vascular Surgery Excellence Award
 - Five-Star Recipient for Repair of Abdominal Aorta for 2 Years in a Row (2022-2023)
 - Five-Star Recipient for Carotid Procedures
- Orthopedics**
- Five-Star Recipient for Hip Fracture Treatment for 3 Years in a Row (2021-2023)

Critical Care

- Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of Diabetic Emergencies

The hospital was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a "high-ranking" hospital in the areas of heart failure, heart attack, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney failure for 2022-2023. U.S. News & World Report looked at data from approximately 5,000 medical centers with special attention given to items such as patient survival, nurse staffing and volume. Only 164 hospitals ranked in at least one specialty.

Rapides Regional Medical Center received two American Heart Association Achievement Awards for ensuring cardiovascular patients receive efficient and coordinated care. It is the second straight year RRMCC has received the following Achievement Awards:

- Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Target: Stroke with Honor Roll Elite
- Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.

It also is the fifth consecutive year RRMCC has earned Get With the Guidelines stroke awards by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and rapid treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

The hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit was ranked No. 2 and its 3A unit was ranked No. 4 among facilities owned by the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) in HCA's annual Units of Distinction. This was the sixth year HCA has recognized its top nursing units, and the sixth year RRMCC had multiple nursing units honored for excellence in patient care.

Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital has received Louisiana's Birth Ready Designation by the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative. This designation was created to recognize participating facilities and to create a system of sustained evidence-based change. Hospitals that receive the designation are known for consistent, thoughtful healthcare improvement work. The Newborn ICU at Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022.

In August, RRMCC added to its teaching hospital status by welcoming 17 students from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. RRMCC provides these third-year medical students the opportunity to rotate with specific specialty members of the medical staff as part of their learning experience.



Six family physicians graduated from the LSU Family Medicine Alexandria Residency Program based at RRMCC in 2022.

PHILANTHROPIC OBJECTIVES PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Rapides Foundation provides funding for projects which effectively address the following Philanthropic Objectives.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND TO PROMOTE HEALTHY BEHAVIORS.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS: The Healthcare Access Initiative fosters the establishment and expansion of primary, behavioral and quality patient-centered services through integration with community health clinics, and addresses screenings, medication access and related medical manpower.

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS: The Healthy Behaviors Initiative addresses tobacco prevention and control, substance and alcohol abuse prevention, healthy eating and active living.

EDUCATION

TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT AS THE PRIMARY PATH TO IMPROVED ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HEALTH STATUS.

SCHOOL READINESS: The School Readiness component of the Education Initiative focuses on increasing kindergarten readiness through the support, expansion or establishment of high-quality early childhood programs to support the teacher-child and family-child interactions.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS: The Effective Schools component of the Education Initiative focuses on enhancing the instructional core in the nine public school districts within the Foundation's service area by supporting instructional leadership and professional development.

CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS: The Career and Postsecondary Readiness component of the Education Initiative focuses on counseling, skill development, credential and advance credit programs.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND FAMILY INCOME; AND ENHANCE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT: The Economic Development Initiative addresses median household income through workforce development, business startups and expansions, and support of regional economic development.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT: The Social Environment Initiative addresses social capital by supporting leadership and nonprofit development and increased community and civic engagement.

2022 GRANTS LIST



HEALTHY PEOPLE HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Access Health Louisiana – Integrated Behavioral Health Implementation Grant

To support Federally Qualified Health Center's efforts to increase access to, and improve the quality of, behavioral health services and improve health outcomes for patients presenting with behavioral health conditions by integrating behavioral health services within the primary care setting.

\$300,000/3-year grant

CMAP Express – 2022 Cancer Screening Project and Community Health Advisor Program

To coordinate, recruit and schedule appointments on a mobile cancer screening unit offering breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening to the uninsured and underinsured residents in the Foundation's service area, and to support efforts to increase cancer screenings by raising awareness through a Community Health Advisor program.

\$200,000

CMAP Express – 2022 Medication Access and PAP Program

To provide free or low-cost prescribed medications to uninsured and underinsured patients through a Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Program.

\$539,000

LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport – 2022 Mobile Cancer Screening Unit

To provide a mobile cancer screening unit offering free breast, cervical and colorectal screenings to uninsured and underinsured patients in The Rapides Foundation's nine-parish service area.

\$135,000

2022 GRANTS LIST



Future of HealthC.A.R.E. Program Grant

To support projects designed to address shortages in the Central Louisiana healthcare workforce by developing an ongoing pool of K-12 students within the Foundation's nine-parish service area who are interested in pursuing healthcare careers and are academically prepared to succeed in postsecondary training programs.

5-year grants totaling \$4,450,025 were awarded to the following organizations:

- **Catahoula Parish School Board** for the CARE-ing for Catahoula program.
\$453,500
- **Central Louisiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** for the A-HEC of a Career in HealthC.A.R.E. program.
\$1,120,000
- **Louisiana Central** for Healthcare Career Central.
\$600,000
- **Louisiana State University of Alexandria** for the Creating Excitement and Passion for a Career in Healthcare Among CENLA Youth program.
\$1,110,000

- **Northwestern State University** for the Healthcare Academic and Career Exploration program.

\$1,166,525

Healthcare Occupations Program Grant

To support projects to help meet the healthcare workforce needs of employers in Central Louisiana by increasing the number of healthcare graduates prepared to meet the basic level of licensure or certification required by employers for initial hire of high-demand healthcare occupations.

3-year grants totaling \$5,267,573 were awarded to the following organizations:

- **Central Louisiana Technical Community College** for the Central Louisiana Rural Nursing Network.
\$1,000,000
- **Central Louisiana Technical Community College** for the Cenla Rural Nursing Network II.
\$540,000

2022 GRANTS LIST

- **Central Louisiana Technical Community College** for the Central Louisiana Rural Allied Health Network. \$1,000,000

- **Louisiana Christian University** for the Social Work Behavioral Healthcare Education and Workforce Improvement Project. \$167,700

- **Louisiana Christian University** for the BSN Support Strategies to Retain, Graduate and Prepare Traditional and Accelerated Students to Ultimately Pass the National Council Licensing Examination. \$229,053

- **Louisiana State University of Alexandria** for the ASN Support: Building a Pipeline of Healthcare Professionals for the Central Louisiana Workforce program. \$266,662

- **Louisiana State University of Alexandria** for the ASN Accelerated Momentum for Completion and Holistic Achievement program. \$223,960

- **Louisiana State University at Eunice Foundation** for the Surgical Technology Central Louisiana Expansion. \$348,998

- **Northwestern State University** for the Increasing the BSN Workforce in Alexandria by Expanding Clinical Admissions program. \$719,600

- **Northwestern State University** for the ASN Support: Increasing Nursing Workforce in CenLa through the Intentional Intervention of At-Risk Students program. \$96,600



- **Northwestern State University** for the Establishing a Sonography Education Program to Increase Medical Sonographers within The Rapides Foundation Service Area project. \$675,000

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

CMAP Express – 2022 Healthy Lifestyle Program

To provide demonstration and education on proper nutrition and physical activity for good health aimed at fighting chronic diseases in Central Louisiana at the community and individual levels through one-on-one counseling with registered dietitians and an exercise specialist, a group Diabetes Prevention Program, as well as development and distribution of nutrition and fitness education materials. \$470,700

CMAP Express – 2022 Smoking Cessation Project

In partnership with the Smoking Cessation Trust, CMAP provides one-on-one and group tobacco cessation counseling and medications to assist with quitting. \$47,000

2022-2023 Healthy Behaviors School District Partnership Grant

To implement a work plan of healthy behavior activities designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use, substance and alcohol abuse, and overweight/obesity by providing students, staff and teachers with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to empower them to create a healthy school environment and make better and more informed behavior decisions leading to healthier lives.

2022 GRANTS LIST

Activities are conducted district-wide, with the following school districts participating during the 2022-2023 school year: Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

\$383,200

EDUCATION

2022-2023 District Grant for Effective Schools

To support school district plans during the 2022-2023 school year to address professional development for teachers and strengthen leadership capacity for administrators in Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

\$1,500,000

The Orchard Foundation – 2022-2024 Operating Grant

To support The Orchard Foundation in its Mission to improve academic achievement for Central Louisiana students by promoting best practices; recruiting, retaining and rewarding excellent and innovative teachers; building school leadership; and strengthening school and community relationships.

\$1,188,000/3-year grant

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Louisiana Central – 2022-2024 Business Acceleration System

To support a comprehensive and coordinated entrepreneurship system through the Business Acceleration System. The system will address entrepreneurial technical assistance, coaching and mentoring targeted at business

growth, and development of a general entrepreneurship infrastructure in the region.

\$1,125,000/3-year grant

Louisiana Central – 2022-2024 Infrastructure Matching Grant

To provide continued support of regional economic development activities by matching corporate and private individual contributions to Louisiana Central.

\$1,500,000/3-year grant

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

2022-2023 Youth Volunteer School District Grant

To increase civic engagement and leadership skills among high school students through implementation of youth volunteer clubs at participating high schools using a best practice model developed by Youth Volunteer Corps. The following school districts participated in the Youth Volunteer School District Grant during the 2022-2023 school year: Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

\$55,950

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Foundation will award grants to organizations which are tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3) and are not a private foundation as described under Section 509(a). Public agencies that meet additional criteria may also receive grant awards.

More information about funding opportunities available from The Rapides Foundation may be found on the Foundation's website under the "Grants" tab.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMBINED FINANCIAL SUMMARY For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2022

REVENUE	2022	2021
From Financial Investments	(45,687,650)	41,515,242
From Program Investments	4,328,070	5,744,672
Contributions	14,777,200	1,184,054
TOTAL REVENUE	(26,582,380)	48,443,968

EXPENSES		
Healthy People	8,687,924	3,048,829
Healthy Communities	4,857,012	3,102,334
Education	2,888,107	4,770,233
Administration	2,670,000	1,876,416
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,103,043	12,797,812

NET CHANGE IN FINANCIAL POSITION	(45,685,423)	35,646,156
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ASSETS		
Financial Investments	284,456,719	329,564,356
Program Investments	41,515,346	37,861,503
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,592,750	1,246,685
TOTAL ASSETS	327,564,815	368,672,544

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Grants Payable	9,229,933	4,418,839
Other Liabilities	1,191,591	1,424,991
Net Assets	317,143,291	362,828,714
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	327,564,815	368,672,544

The most recent IRS Forms 990 for The Rapides Foundation and its subsidiaries, which provide more detailed financial information, are available on our website at www.rapidesfoundation.org.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM

An annual gathering around a topic of importance.



2022 Focus: Early Childhood Literacy

The Rapides Foundation's ninth annual Symposium focused on Early Childhood Literacy and featured Super Bowl Champion, author and Share the Magic Foundation Founder/CEO Malcolm Mitchell sharing his personal story about the transformational power of reading.

The Foundation hosts the Symposium each year as a way to gather around a topic of importance and to recognize its creation on September 1, 1994.

The Rapides Foundation President and CEO Joe Rosier said the Foundation's School Readiness Initiative strives to prepare young children for school success and to improve literacy skills. Students who are not reading at grade level by the third grade will struggle academically and are among the most vulnerable to eventually drop out of school. In Central Louisiana, 60% of third graders are at risk for academic and literacy challenges.

"Why does a health foundation work in the area of education? The answer is simple," Rosier said. "As a health foundation, we know that access to care and healthy behaviors are important.

But we also know that over time, the level of educational attainment is a strong driver of health status in a community. With higher levels of education and training, people are better able to have higher incomes, health insurance, purchase a home and educate their children. All of those contribute to improved health outcomes."

In his Symposium presentation, Read to a Better Future, Mitchell described his own literacy challenges in the hopes of inspiring others. In 2016 he established Share the Magic Foundation to transform children's lives through literacy just like his life had been transformed.

Prior to his Symposium presentation, Mitchell traveled to nine schools in the Foundation's service area to provide a "Read with Malcolm Reading Rally," a high-energy pep rally-style assembly that included a read-along and magic show. Almost 3,500 students participated in the rallies, with each student receiving a copy of Mitchell's book, "The Magician's Hat."

The 2022 Symposium concluded with Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Superintendent of Education, who discussed the state's emphasis on reading and literacy under his leadership.



2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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The Rapides Foundation

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Vice President, Community
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Red River Bank

Mark Thompson
Consultant, Owner and
Administrator of home health
agencies and nursing homes

Matthew T. Whitehead, DDS
Dentist

2023 APPOINTED:

Bruce Barton, MD
Physician

Edwin Urbi, MD
Physician

THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION STAFF



**Joseph R. Rosier, Jr., CFA,
CPA (Inactive)**
President and CEO

Shondrika Collins
Receptionist

Abid Dyer
Accountant and Building
Services Coordinator

LaWanda Franklin
Executive Assistant to the
President and CEO

Kiydra Harris, PharmD
Program Officer

Courtney Keys
Programs Assistant

Matthew LaBorde, MBA
Program Officer

Tammy Moreau
Director of
Communications

Brooke Morrow
Administration Assistant

Dallas Russell
Program Officer

**Kayren Segall, MBA,
CPA (Inactive)**
Director of
Administration

Akeshia Singleton, MBA
Director of Evaluation

Raven Smith
Communications
Assistant

Ashley Stewart, MPH
Director of Programs

CENLA MEDICATION ACCESS PROGRAM

Wendy Roy, MHA
Executive Director

Kevin Brown, PharmD
Pharmacist in Charge

Kira Davidson, RDN, LDN
Healthy Lifestyle
Program Coordinator

Kayla Edwards
Cancer Screening
Specialist

Stephanie Heinen
Healthy Lifestyle Program
Administrative Assistant

Pamela Jones, RDN, LDN
Healthy Lifestyle Program
Coordinator

Lydia Kozlowski
Healthy Lifestyle Program
Exercise Specialist

Crystal Watts
PAP and CMAP
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Kelly Bentley
Ponda Broadway
Sunnie Broussard
Mindy Clingan
Joni Longlois
Dawn Rajewski
Patient Assistance
Program Specialists

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Marjorie Taylor, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Kim Ducote
Administrative Assistant

Jamila Farris
Early Childhood Program
Coordinator

Aubrey Flynn
Program Manager for K-12

Lindlay Howell, MBA
CLIP Field Coordinator

Rebekah Simpson, M.Ed.
Program Manager for
Early Childhood

Kayla Suire
Program Manager for
Early Childhood

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Felicia Walker
Training Specialist



THE STORY BEHIND THE RIPPLE ICON

The Rapides Foundation's ripple box icon dates back to its 1994 beginnings. The Foundation was created through a joint venture partnership between Rapides Regional Medical Center and HCA (formerly called Columbia/HCA). This partnership extended the hospital's ability to provide quality healthcare in a changing environment and created a wellspring of Foundation resources dedicated to improving the health status of Central Louisiana.

Through its ripple box icon, the Foundation seeks to embody this perpetual pool of resources through the representation of a rippling body of water.

The rippling effect is also symbolic of the way the Foundation's grantmaking, initiatives, programs and capacity building can be a catalyst for change and improvement across the communities it serves.

Finally, the element of water has geographical connection based on the Foundation's location near the historic Red River Rapids, the namesake for our parish, hospital and Foundation.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SERVICE AREA

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