

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# PAVING THE PATH TO BETTER HEALTH

H E A L T H Y P E O P L E

E D U C A T I O N

H E A L T H Y C O M M U N I T I E S



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

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## M I S S I O N

To improve the health status of Central Louisiana.

## V I S I O N

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

## PAVING THE PATH TO BETTER HEALTH

The Rapides Foundation is dedicated to breaking down barriers that could prevent Central Louisiana residents from living a long, healthy life. Our initiatives and programs are intended to ensure that everyone, beginning at birth, is on a clear path to receive a quality education, complete high school, and secure gainful employment – factors that contribute to a person’s ability to access healthcare and make informed decisions toward healthy living.

The Foundation works in three strategic areas: Healthy People, to improve access to healthcare and promote healthy behaviors; Education, to increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status; and Healthy Communities, to improve economic opportunity and family income; and to enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations.

These strategic pillars are collectively intended to help form a clear, unobstructed pathway to wellness for the residents of Central Louisiana.

That path begins at birth, which is why the Foundation’s Board of Trustees in recent years recognized the importance of projects aimed at early childhood development. Research shows children who participate in high-quality early childhood programs are more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Short-term benefits include better academic performance and lower retention rates. Long-term benefits are higher graduation rates, increased earning potential and an increased participation in the labor force.

In 2023, we awarded several new projects with that goal in mind. One project involved allocating \$2.64 million to support districts in subsidizing early childhood education tuition for children ages 0-3. This endeavor aims to facilitate a child’s participation in early childhood education centers while their parents pursue education opportunities or employment.

Additionally, we brought Share the Magic Foundation CEO Malcom Mitchell back to Central Louisiana to host his Reading Rallies throughout the region. Mitchell, a Super Bowl Champion, visited nine public schools in 2022 when he served as guest speaker for our 2022 Symposium. Due to the overwhelming popularity of his rallies, we approached Central Louisiana school superintendents to gauge their interest in having Mitchell return to speak to students at all 64 elementary schools over a two-year period. All nine accepted the offer.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to fund the implementation of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Central Louisiana, further enriching the literary landscape for young children.

Within this Annual Report, you will read about our collective endeavors aimed at paving the way for better health outcomes, reflecting our steadfast dedication to improving the health status of Central Louisiana.



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



**Debbie Eddlemon, CPA**  
Board Chairman

# HEALTHY PEOPLE

To improve access to healthcare and promote healthy behaviors.

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS

To foster the establishment and expansion of primary, behavioral and quality patient-centered services through integration with community health clinics, and to address screenings, medication access and related medical manpower.

## HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

To address tobacco prevention and control, substance and alcohol abuse prevention, healthy eating and active living.



## HEALTHCARE ACCESS



CMAP staff include Executive Director Wendy Roy, Pharmacist in Charge Kevin Brown and PAP and CMAP Office Supervisor Crystal Watts.

Access to quality healthcare is important to reduce health disparities and improve health in a region. Factors that can limit an individual's access to 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.

### **PRIMARY CARE ACCESS, INCLUDING INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

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. These multi-year grants are the second of a two-part funding opportunity that begins with an assessment and planning grant.

In 2023, Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center was awarded

a \$300,000, three-year implementation grant to improve health outcomes for patients presenting with medical and behavioral health conditions at its Vernon Parish Community Health Center in Leesville. The Foundation continued to monitor Access Health Louisiana's multi-year Integrated Behavioral Health Implementation Grant at its Woodworth clinic.

### **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



## HEALTHY PEOPLE

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS



Future of HealthC.A.R.E. grants fund summer camps for students to learn about careers in the medical field.

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 13,145 prescriptions in 2023 through its Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Program for a wholesale cost savings of approximately \$10.5 million. An additional 880 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 148 prescriptions for retail savings of \$24,735.

#### **EARLY CANCER SCREENING**

Recognizing the importance of early detection of cancers, 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 screening unit travels throughout Central Louisiana communities to offer 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 2023, a total of 473 patients received 572 cancer screenings on the unit, with 10

patients requiring follow-up screens.

CMAP's Community Health Advisor Project uses a lay health advisor to educate the community about the importance of cancer screenings. The Foundation also implements a multi-media cancer screening awareness campaign to promote awareness and the benefits of screening and early detection of colon, breast and cervical cancer while it is in the most treatable stages.

#### **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 Foundation monitors recipients of the multi-year Healthcare Occupations Program Grant, which provides funding to postsecondary institutions to add and expand healthcare program offerings and concentrations to meet the critical workforce needs of local employers. The Foundation also monitored recipients of the Future of HealthC.A.R.E. (Career, Academic Readiness and Exploration for Students) Grant, a multi-year grant that 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. Activities funded by both of these grant programs occurred during the year 2023.

# HEALTHY BEHAVIORS



More than 500 students attended the 12th annual Youth Summit on Healthy Behaviors.

Tobacco use, substance and alcohol abuse, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity are directly linked to premature death and disability from heart disease, stroke, diabetes, certain types of cancer, unintentional injury and arthritis. The Healthy Behaviors Initiative is an integrated, comprehensive, multi-level and multi-target strategy with the goal of having a meaningful impact on chronic disease prevention in the region.

## **SCHOOLS**

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 2023-24 school year, Central Louisiana students from 106 K-12 schools in eight parishes participated in evidence-based projects that addressed these health behaviors, reaching 46,527 students. Grant activities include Healthy Eating and Active Living projects, participation in Youth Health Advocates Clubs, LifeSkills Training and Vaping Prevention.

Students and teachers from 56 schools participated in The Rapides Foundation's 12th 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 October 2023 summit was held in Pineville and consisted of three days of in-person events for students from multiple parishes throughout Central Louisiana. Approximately 536 students attended.

# HEALTHY PEOPLE

## HEALTHY BEHAVIORS



Allison Ferguson, Lindsay Scott, and Karen Guillory helped organize the Cottonport Community Health and Fitness Park, funded by a Healthy Behaviors Program Grant.

### 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 demonstrations and education on proper nutrition and physical activity for good health. Staff provide free nutrition and physical activity planning, and support for clients over a six-month period. In 2023, 402 people participated in the one-on-one coaching program.

The Healthy Lifestyle Program also offers 12-month group sessions for residents at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Participants learn skills to make lasting changes that will help prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. Twenty-three individuals from three parishes completed

the diabetes prevention program in 2023 while nine others began attending in Winn Parish. The program follows the evidence-based PreventT2 curriculum of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Rapides Foundation awarded \$1.2 million in grants to seven organizations to implement evidence-based programs that prevent and control tobacco use, prevent and reduce obesity, or prevent substance and alcohol use in the region. The Healthy Behaviors Program Grant is a three-year grant designed to provide residents with opportunities to make healthy choices in their communities.

The Foundation also awarded six Healthy Behaviors Program Mini Grants in 2023. Mini Grants are short-term grants of up to \$25,000 and fund community programs such as workshops, classes and



# HEALTHY PEOPLE

## HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

events that encourage individuals to make healthy choices.

The Foundation in 2023 awarded three Strengthening Families Program Grants, which address substance and alcohol abuse prevention through the evidence-based Strengthening Families curriculum. The curriculum involves family skills training sessions to increase resilience and reduce risk factors for behavioral, emotional, academic and social problems.

### MARKETING/COUNTER-MARKETING

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 Foundation in 2023 launched a multi-media “Treat Yourself Cenla” campaign to inspire people to eat better, move more and breathe freely. The campaign featured local residents and included participation in community events throughout the region.

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY

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



Photo at left, Natchitoches youth learn about healthy cooking as part of a Healthy Behaviors Program grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana. Photo above, the Treat Yourself Cenla campaign participated in community events throughout Central Louisiana.

# EDUCATION

To increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status.

## SCHOOL READINESS

To increase kindergarten readiness through the support, expansion or establishment of high-quality early childhood programs that support teacher-child and family-child interactions.

## EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

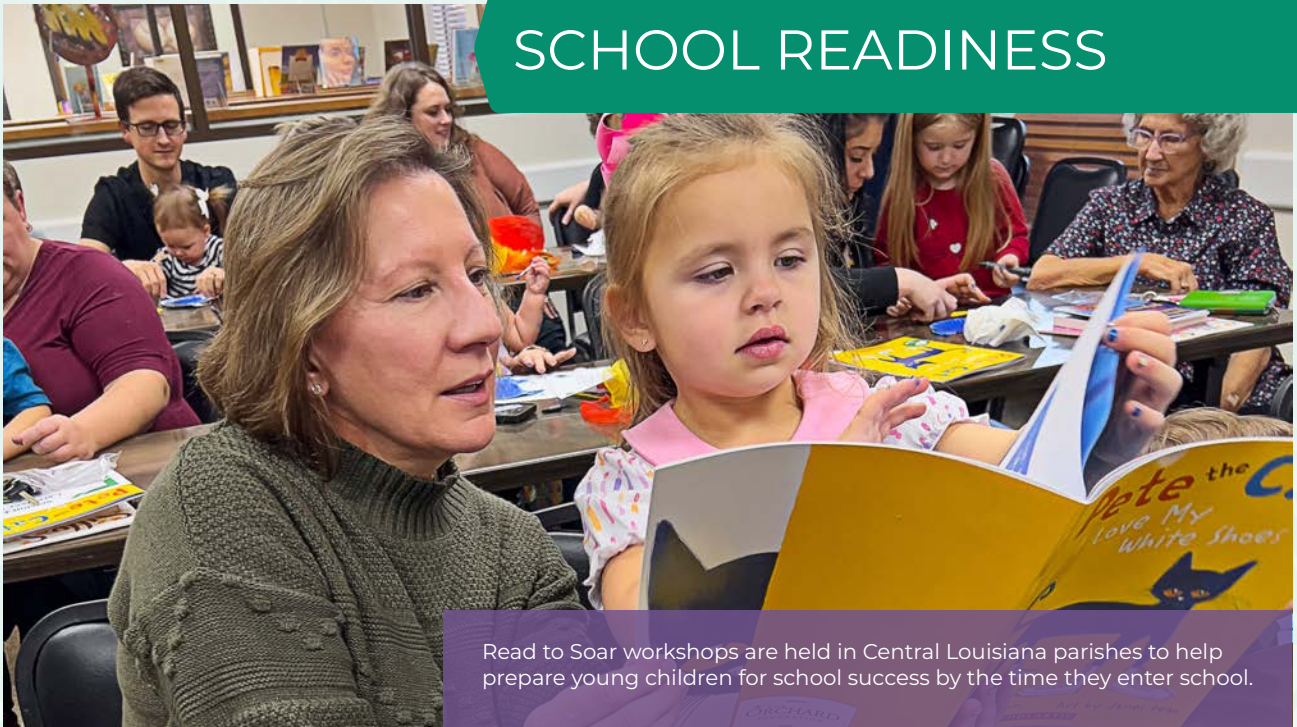
To enhance the instructional core in the nine public school districts within the Foundation's service area by supporting instructional leadership and professional development.

## CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS

To promote career and postsecondary success through implementation of counseling, credential and advance credit programs.



# SCHOOL READINESS



Read to Soar workshops are held in Central Louisiana parishes to help prepare young children for school success by the time they enter school.

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.

## 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 by providing professional development, coaching, and mentoring support 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 26 School Readiness trainings in 2023,

reaching 268 participants.

The Orchard Foundation also offers Early Learning Center Director Institutes and coaching for childcare and Head Start center directors. The institutes are customized for the Central Louisiana region. The Instructional Leadership Institute (ILI), led by AnLar, focuses on instructional leadership and professional development. For the 2022-2023 cohort, 10 participants completed ILI. Eight participants continued and completed the enhanced version of the program in 2023-2024.

The Business Leadership Institute (BLI), from the Early Learning Leadership Institute, focuses on business management of a childcare center. For the 2022-2023 cohort, seven participants completed BLI. The following school year, seven participants continued and completed the enhanced version of the program in 2023-2024.

The Orchard Foundation in 2023 contracted with The Center for Literacy and Learning (CLL) to facilitate the first cohort of the Growing Reading Brains program for Birth to 5 (Science of Reading). The Year 1 participants are directors/site leaders of the early learning centers in the service area, with monthly trainings conducted in-person and virtually.

# EDUCATION

## SCHOOL READINESS



The Rapides Foundation brought Share the Magic Foundation CEO Malcolm Mitchell back to Central Louisiana in 2023 to host Reading Rallies in all 64 schools over a two-year period.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

The Orchard Foundation administers two programs based on best practices that develop literacy skills in children before they enter kindergarten. Read to Soar and Math to Build On are free, 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. Math to Build On helps strengthen math skills through reading and activities. Children receive up to 40 books for their home library while parents come away with tips and resources that help them teach their young ones at home. The Orchard Foundation distributed 6,495 books to families that attended the 14 Read to Soar workshops and 13 Math to Build On workshops in 2023.

### INCREASE ACCESS FOR THE BIRTH TO 3 POPULATION

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.

As part of this work, the Foundation in late 2023 offered two grants to support districts in subsidizing early childhood education tuition for children ages 0-3. The funding was in response to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund's announcement that it would provide a dollar-for-dollar match on investments made to expand access to quality early education for low-income children. The Foundation provided the match for three parishes that elected to participate based on their availability of childcare seats, and it provided additional funding to match all dollars raised by local communities. As a result, up to 600 children will be able to attend a high-quality education program in the 2024-25 school year.

# EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS



Photo at left, The Orchard Foundation received a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Education grant to transform two Avoyelles Parish schools into full-service community schools. Photo above, Central Louisiana administrators attend the Leading for Better Instruction training program.

Research shows that building the professional capacity of teachers who work most closely with students is the factor that stands out above all in improving student achievement. In addition, strong instructional leaders – especially principals – are key to supporting the teaching/learning process. To ensure student success, educators must have a constant focus on instruction, collaboration and coaching.

## EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS DISTRICT GRANTS

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; curriculum support; 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 2022-23 school year, 2,485 educators participated

in professional development trainings and 820 participated in leadership development under the Effective Schools Grant.

## REGIONAL INSTITUTES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

This training includes Aspiring Leaders and Leading for Better Instruction, conducted in partnership with the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership. The two-year Aspiring Leaders program prepares educators for administrative roles while the three-year Leading for Better Instruction is for current administrators.

In 2023, 11 Central Louisiana public school administrators completed the Leading for Better Instruction training curriculum. In all, 132 educators attended CEL institutes – 77 participating in Aspiring Leaders and 55 enrolled in LBI – during the 2023-34 school year.

The Orchard Foundation partners

# EDUCATION

## EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS



The final cohort of the Central Louisiana Instructional Partnership completed the teacher residency program in 2023.

with The Center for Literacy & Learning to provide ongoing support in professional development for district leaders and superintendents. This work includes six sessions on 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. Nine superintendents and 53 district leaders took part in this training in the 2023-24 school year.

### **THE ORCHARD FOUNDATION EXTERNAL GRANTS**

To help address the shortage of math and science teachers in middle schools, The Orchard Foundation in 2018 received a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, with in-kind matched funding from The Rapides Foundation

and other partners, to administer the Central Louisiana Instructional Partnership teacher residency program. Residents agreed to teach three years in a high-needs middle school after they complete the 15-month program. The fourth and final cohort completed its work in summer 2023, with 34 individuals completing the program.

In 2023, The Orchard Foundation was awarded a five-year, \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Education grant to transform two Title I Avoyelles Parish schools – Simmesport’s Riverside Elementary and Plaucheville Elementary – into full-service community schools. The Avoyelles Parish Lifting Up Students (APLUS) project has the goal of providing in- and out-of-school support for students, families and community members.

# CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS



The Students Exploring Career Opportunities expo attracted more than 2,600 students over a two-day period.

The Career and Postsecondary Readiness component offers counseling, skill development, credential and advance credit programs for middle and high school students so they can achieve success beyond high school.

## **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 underemployed 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 2022-23 school year, 3,381 Central Louisiana high school students were active in the ACT WorkKeys Curriculum, and a total of 4,166 National Career Readiness Certificates were awarded. In addition, 254 adults earned an NCRC.

## **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. These services include

# EDUCATION

## CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS



Photos above and right: the Workplace Experience Exchange Camp gives educators a chance to visit local industries throughout the region.



seminars for middle school and high school students in public high schools. In addition, all seniors receive one-on-one coaching to help guide them in the college application process. In all, 23,955 students received some type of career and postsecondary counseling during the 2022-23 school year.

In September 2023, Career Compass hosted the first College and Career Summit, a one-day professional development event for Central Louisiana middle and high school counselors and school district representatives. Eighty-eight educators attended the event in Alexandria.

In November 2023, The Orchard Foundation offered the Students Exploring Career Opportunities expo, an interactive career expo where 10th and 12th graders learned about different career fields. More than 2,600 students attended the 2023 expo, visiting 65 hands-on, interactive displays at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria over a two-day period.

Each summer, The Orchard





# EDUCATION

CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS



The 2023 SECO event included 65 hands-on, interactive displays.

Foundation offers 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. Programs include WEE Camp Elementary for teachers of PreK-6 students, 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-six educators attended one of the three WEE Camps in 2023.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

To improve economic opportunity and family income; and to enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations.

## ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

To address median household income through workforce development; business startups and expansions; and support of regional economic development.

## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

To address social capital by supporting leadership and nonprofit development and increased community and civic engagement.



# ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

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 Economic Environment 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.

## **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 2023, BAS worked one-on-one with 74 clients enrolled in the BAS coaching program, which helps entrepreneurs grow their businesses and increase revenues. BAS also offered nine trainings for the general public, reaching Central Louisiana residents who are 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.

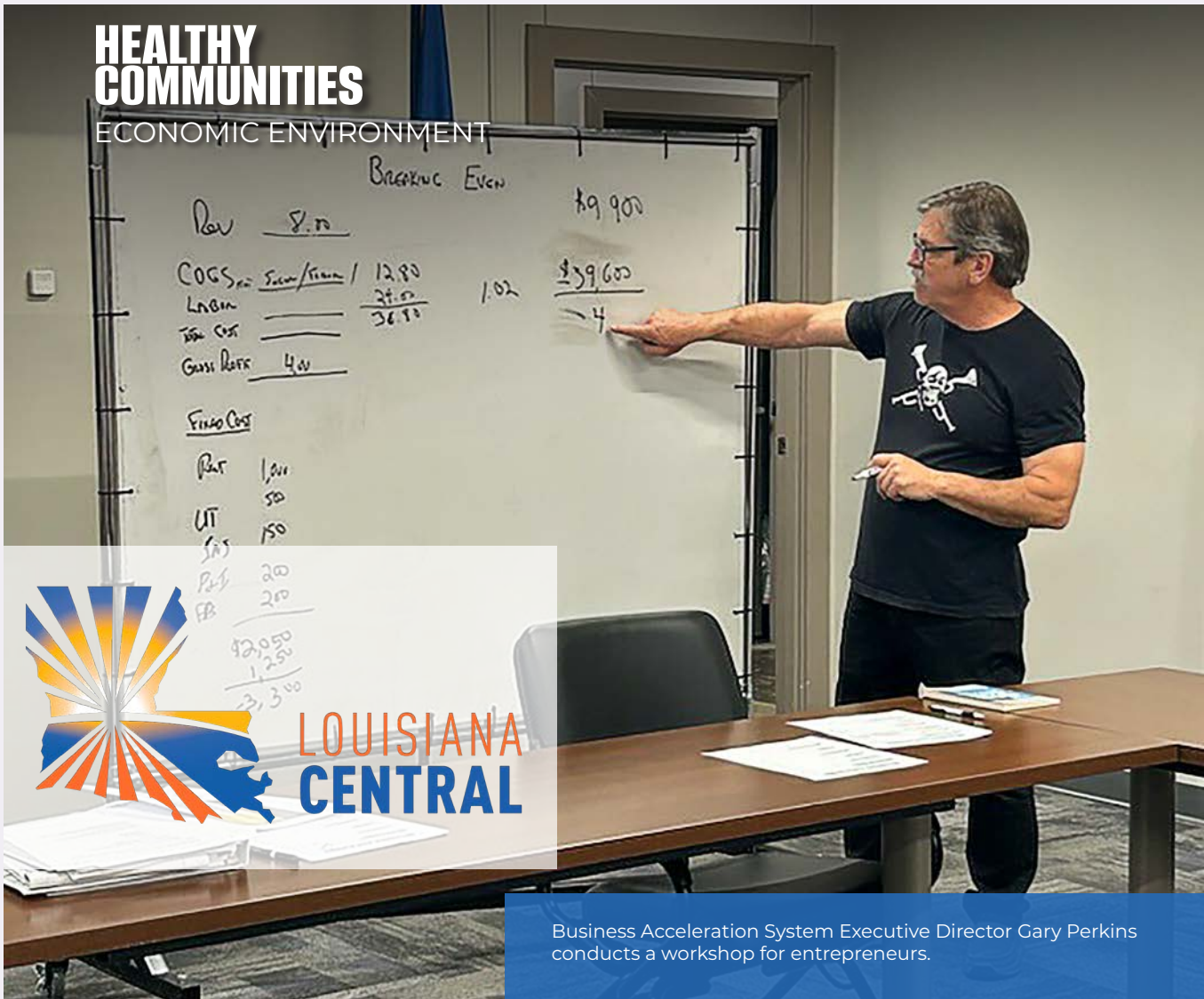
The Foundation funds two grant programs that address "Opportunity Youth," defined as Central Louisiana young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor pursuing an education.

The Beyond Graduation Project seeks to keep students in the educational pipeline by funding career coaches to help students apply for and transition to a local university or technical community college, and coaches in postsecondary partner institutions work with students during their college tenure. Funded by a multi-year grant to Career Compass of Louisiana, Beyond Graduation was originally piloted in three parishes, and in Fall 2023 expanded to all nine school districts in the Foundation's service area. Postsecondary partners are Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Northwestern State University, LSU of Alexandria, Bossier Parish Community College's Natchitoches campus and SOWELA Technical Community College's Leesville and Oakdale campuses.

Fifteen students from Beyond Graduation's first cohort, students who graduated high school in 2022, completed a postsecondary program of study in 2023 while 184 were still enrolled in a partner institution. The second cohort, the high school Class of 2023, consisted of 401 students who were attending a partner institution in Fall 2023. High school coaches were working with 1,095 seniors at the end of 2023, assisting them with college applications, financial aid, scholarships and other college enrollment processes.

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



Business Acceleration System Executive Director Gary Perkins conducts a workshop for entrepreneurs.

To complement Beyond Graduation, the Foundation created the Reconnecting Cenla Grant to reach young adults who have already dropped out of the education system or workforce. In 2023, the Foundation awarded \$1.8 million to six organizations to identify, recruit and navigate disconnected youth to education and employment opportunities.

The Foundation in 2023 continued to monitor a \$2 million matching grant that established the Central Louisiana Manufacturing Technology Center and expanded manufacturing programs at Central Louisiana Technical Community College campuses. The grant supports CLTCC's pursuit to meet the workforce needs for Central Louisiana by offering technical training programs that prepare employees for high-wage, high-demand jobs in the region.

### BUSINESS CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Foundation provides a matching grant to Louisiana Central in support of its workforce and economic development activities. Louisiana Central serves 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.

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



Recipients of the Reconnecting Cenla Grant gathered for a workshop to learn how to reconnect “opportunity youth” to education and employment opportunities.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT



## CENLA BOARD BUILDERS

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.

### **BUILDING NONPROFIT CAPACITY**

To build the capacity of nonprofit leaders, Community Development Works (CDW), a program of The Rapides Foundation, offers Cenla Boardbuilders, a leadership development program for individuals to become active in their communities as members of local nonprofit boards, and for newly seated

board members to seek training. In 2023, 10 professionals graduated from Cenla Boardbuilders, joining a group of 254 Cenla Boardbuilders alumni.

CDW also offers Cenla Execbuilders, which provides executive directors in Central Louisiana, no matter their experience level, an opportunity to become more effective leaders of their organizations. Four executives graduated from the 2023 program, bringing the total number of graduates to 63.

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. CDW offered 30 classes in 2023.

The CDW Learning Lab, located on the

# SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT



**CDW** | Cenla **Execbuilders**

Photo below: Northwood High School YVC Club sponsor Kaitlyn Joffrion surprised Club President Morgan Daigle with the Youth Volunteer Corp's prestigious 100-In-1 Award, which is given to a small percentage of students nationwide who serve over 100 community service hours in one calendar year.

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 among young people, the Foundation offers My Civic Life, a program that provides Central Louisiana youth with service opportunities so they will become engaged in their communities and make volunteerism a lifelong habit. Service opportunities follow an evidence-based model developed by Youth Volunteer Corps and are offered through the Youth Volunteer School District Grant and the Youth Summer Service Grant.

In the 2023-24 school year, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parish school districts participated in the district grant opportunity. Close to 447 students from 19 schools participated in YVC Clubs, completing service projects



such as food drives, volunteering at nursing homes and community events, and delivering chemo bags to cancer patients. The Central Louisiana affiliate is a Gold Level YVC Affiliate, a designation that indicates exemplary status.

The Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant was introduced in 2023 to provide young people ages 11 to 18 with community-based service opportunities during the summer months. The Foundation awarded five Summer Service Grants in 2023, with 150 students logging 1,666 service hours in 43 different projects throughout the region.



# RAPIDES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## Community Benefit Report

**A**s a 26% 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, RRMC 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 1,200 individuals with a payroll of \$127.7 million in 2023. It admitted 13,745 patients, delivered 1,469 babies at Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital, treated 61,576 patients in its Emergency Department and performed 9,933 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 2023, there were 22,676 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 2023, CMAP filled 4,807 free prescriptions for HP Long patients through its Central Fill Pharmacy and Patient Assistance Program. CMAP filled an additional 880 prescriptions at a reduced cost of \$4 or





less. 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. Seventeen residents were in the program during the 2022-23 academic year. Five family physicians graduated at the end of the academic year, bringing the total number of graduates to 148 since the program began in 1997.

RRMCC is a designated teaching hospital with residencies in Family Practice, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ophthalmology, Gynecology and General Surgery. In 2023, it supported 42 residents in these programs from LSU, Tulane and Willis-Knighton Health System.

The newest aspect of RRMCC's teaching component is the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. It sends a cohort of third-year medical students to rotate with specific specialty members of the RRMCC Medical Staff as part of their learning experience. VCOM opened its

medical school in Monroe in 2020 and Rapides Regional Medical Center received its first group of students in 2022.

RRMCC received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR Chest Pain – MI Registry Silver Performance Achievement Award for 2023. It is one of only 82 hospitals in the country to receive this honor. This award recognizes a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that RRMCC has reached an aggressive goal in treating these patients.

For the third straight year, Rapides Regional Medical Center has received a pair of American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines achievement awards for demonstrating commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke, ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times and fewer readmissions to the hospital.

#### **RRMCC RECEIVED THESE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:**

- Get With The Guidelines – Stroke GOLD PLUS with Target: Stroke
- Honor Roll Elite and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll



# 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 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.

# 2023 GRANTS LIST



## HEALTHY PEOPLE

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

#### LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport – 2023 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.

\$145,000

#### Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center – Integrated Behavioral Health Implementation Grant

To improve health outcomes for patients at Vernon Parish Community Health Center with medical and behavioral health conditions. Funds will support the salary of a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner to join the integration team and expand access.

\$300,000/3-year grant

## HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

### Strengthening Families Program Grants

To prevent substance and alcohol misuse by implementing the evidence-based family skills training program, Strengthening Families Program, designed to increase resilience and reduce risk factors for behavioral, emotional, academic and social problems. Strengthening Families Program Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- **On Point Broadcasting** \$100,000
- **Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana** \$99,134
- **Briggs Specialty Services** \$71,494

# 2023 GRANTS LIST



## 2023-2024 Healthy Behaviors School District Partnership Grant

To implement a work plan of healthy behaviors 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. Activities are conducted district-wide, with the following school districts participating during the 2023-2024 school year: Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

\$419,550

## Healthy Behaviors Program Grants

To implement evidence-based programs that prevent and control tobacco use, prevent and reduce obesity, or prevent substance and alcohol use in the region and provide residents with opportunities to make healthy choices in their communities.

3-year grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded to the following organizations:

- **Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana** for the Natchitoches Club Cooking Program and Healthy Outcomes Program. \$75,000
- **Campti Community Development Center** for the Seeds to Success project. \$198,000
- **Cottonport Mayor’s Commission for Women, in association with the Cottonport Museum & Cultural Center** for the Cottonport Community Health and Fitness Park. \$200,000

- **The Food Bank of Central Louisiana** for the Senior Nutrition Program. \$300,000
- **Louisiana Christian University** for the Step Up CENLA program. \$30,000
- **Town of Bunkie** for the Move Bunkie Forward project. \$225,000
- **YWCA Alexandria-Pineville** for the Girls on the Run Scholarship Expansion. \$150,000

## Healthy Behaviors Mini Grants

To support community programs that encourage individuals to make healthy choices. The mini grants are being used to fund workshops, classes and events. Grants totaling \$126,500 were awarded to the following organizations:

- **JiggAerobics Community Project – Get Lit While You Get Fit Experience CENLA Tour** \$22,500
- **LaSalle Economic Development District – Expansion of the Strand Village Project #thrive** \$25,000
- **B22 Sports Complex – CrossFit For Kids** \$4,000
- **City of Winnfield – Greaux Healthy Winn!** \$25,000
- **Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana – Vaping and Tobacco Cessation Program** \$25,000
- **Reinvesting In Simmesport’s Expansion (R.I.S.E.) – T.I.D.Y. [Take Initiatives Dedicated to You]** \$25,000

# 2023 GRANTS LIST

## EDUCATION



### 2024-25 Early Childhood Education Community Engagement Grant

To increase kindergarten readiness by providing affordable access to quality early childhood education programs in participating districts. The following school districts participated during the 2024-25 school year: Grant, Natchitoches and Rapides.

\$2,130,000

### 2024-25 Early Childhood Education Community Engagement Matching Grant

To incentivize local communities to invest in early childhood education, The Rapides Foundation provided a dollar-for-dollar match on community investments made to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund to expand access to quality early care and education for the 2024-25 school year: Grant, Natchitoches and Rapides parishes.

\$1,746,000

### 2023-2024 District Grant for Effective Schools

To support school district plans during the 2023-2024 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 – 2023-2025 Effective Schools Regional Institute Grant

To increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status by supporting the Effective Schools Initiative by promoting best practices & continuing to provide regional-level professional development and leadership development institutes focused on increasing the capacity of administrators to be instructional leaders.

\$1,268,012



# 2023 GRANTS LIST

## The Orchard Foundation – 2023-2025 School Readiness Grant

To enhance and support regional efforts to improve early childhood education and to improve the quality ratings of Pre-K, Head Start and Childcare Centers by providing professional development, coaching, mentoring and curriculum implementation support. And to support kindergarten readiness through the implementation of two early literacy programs.

\$1,942,211

## The Orchard Foundation – 2023-2025 Career & Postsecondary Readiness Grant

This project intends to increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status by building and supporting the region's capacity to ensure all students have access to regionally relevant career pathways, credentials, advance credit programs and postsecondary opportunities implemented as a three-pronged approach to include Cenla Work Ready Network, Career and Postsecondary Coaching services and Cenla Jumpstart support.

\$3,089,172

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

#### Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant

To address the high number of Central Louisiana young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working by reconnecting these young people to meaningful education and employment opportunities in the region. 3-year grants totaling \$1,800,000 were awarded to the following organizations:

- **Ben D. Johnson Educational Center** for the Legacy Workforce Development Program. \$300,000

- **Central Louisiana Technical Community College** for the Cenla Outreach, Engage, & Reconnect program. \$300,000
- **Eckerd Connects** for the Opportunity Youth Program. \$300,000
- **LaSalle Community Action Association** for the Catahoula Youth Enrichment Program. \$300,000
- **LaSalle Economic Development District** for the Reconnect LaSalle: Youth Embracing A Greater Future program. \$300,000
- **Rapides Parish Police Jury** for the Youth Empowerment Services program. \$300,000

### SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 2023-2024 Youth Volunteer School District Grant

To increase community 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 2023-2024 school year: Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

\$62,150

#### 2023 Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant

To build leadership and 21st-century skills among high school students and promote youth community engagement through volunteerism.

- **B22 Sports Complex** \$5,000
- **Clifton-Choctaw Reservation, Inc.** \$5,000
- **Limitless Christian Academy, Inc.** \$5,000
- **United Way of Central Louisiana, Inc.** \$5,000
- **United Way of Southwest Louisiana** \$5,000

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## COMBINED FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

REVENUE	2023	2022
From Financial Investments	39,527,220	(45,687,650)
From Program Investments	1,659,076	4,328,070
Contributions	1,162,074	14,777,200
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>42,348,370</b>	<b>(26,582,380)</b>

### EXPENSES

Healthy People	3,620,053	9,082,195
Healthy Communities	2,989,372	2,308,497
Education	14,020,462	5,042,351
Administration	2,468,994	2,670,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,098,881</b>	<b>19,103,043</b>

<b>NET CHANGE IN FINANCIAL POSITION</b>	<b>19,249,489</b>	<b>(45,685,423)</b>
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### ASSETS

Financial Investments	310,435,311	284,456,719
Program Investments	40,707,266	41,515,346
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,608,182	1,592,750
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>352,750,759</b>	<b>327,564,815</b>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Grants Payable	13,706,721	9,229,933
Other Liabilities	2,651,258	1,191,591
Net Assets	336,392,780	317,143,291
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>352,750,759</b>	<b>327,564,815</b>

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](http://www.rapidesfoundation.org).



## 2023 FOCUS: OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

The Rapides Foundation's 10th annual Symposium focused on the high number of young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working, and provided community members with information to be used in addressing the issue that, if ignored, could have far-reaching effects.

The Symposium presentation, "The Promise of Opportunity Youth," featured a panel of national experts who discussed the challenges unique to this group and shared what is working in other places. The Foundation holds its annual Symposium to bring attention to a topic of importance and to recognize its September 1, 1994, creation.

Joe Rosier, President and CEO of The Rapides Foundation, said opportunity youth are more commonly referred to as "disconnected youth" because of their disconnection from work and school. "Research shows these young adults will have significantly lower incomes, are less likely to gain meaningful employment in the future and have poorer health outcomes than their peers," he said. "A high rate of disconnection is also a challenge for our employers because a large percentage of our population is not engaged

in the workforce. However, disconnected youth are often called opportunity youth because of their potential to succeed and contribute to their communities."

The Central Louisiana region's disconnection rate is 23.9%, double the national rate of 12.1% and 6 percentage points higher than the rate in Louisiana as a whole. This translates to roughly 8,450 young people cut off from crucial pathways to a fulfilling life.

Rosier told the group gathered at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria that the Foundation first partnered with Measure of America in 2019 to determine the level of disconnection in Central Louisiana. It then partnered with Jobs for the Future (JFF), whose recommendations led to the creation of the Foundation's Beyond Graduation and Reconnecting Cenla programs.

"Some may ask, why does this work matter?" said Marie Davis, Vice President of JFF. "Teenagers, and those going into adulthood, are the products of our communities, schools and families. What they are going through and what that looks like matters. The benefits of this work are really for the community as a whole."





## 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Debbie Eddlemon, CPA**  
Board Chairman  
Retired Chief Financial  
Officer  
Ratcliff Construction  
Company

**Valerie Aymond**  
Chief Resource Officer  
Gilchrist Construction

**Bruce Barton, M.D.**  
Physician

**Mark Brown**  
President and CEO  
Journey Rehab, Premier of  
Southwest Louisiana and  
3 Brown Guys Hospitality  
Group

**Kirk D. Cooper**  
Retired President  
A-Rental Gallery and Rent-It  
Company

**General Glenn H. Curtis**  
Retired Major General  
U.S. Army

**Thomas J. Davis, Jr., M.D.**  
Physician

**Angela W. DeGray**  
Retired Social Worker  
Vernon Parish School Board

**Brian Elkins, M.D.**  
Physician

**Corey Lair**  
Senior Vice President  
BancorpSouth

**Dwayne Lemoine**  
Retired Principal  
Holy Savior Menard High  
School  
Former Superintendent  
Avoyelles Parish School  
District

**Toni McManus McAllister**  
Partner & Office Manager  
McManus Timber Company  
Executive Director, Louisiana  
Loggers Association & PAC

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

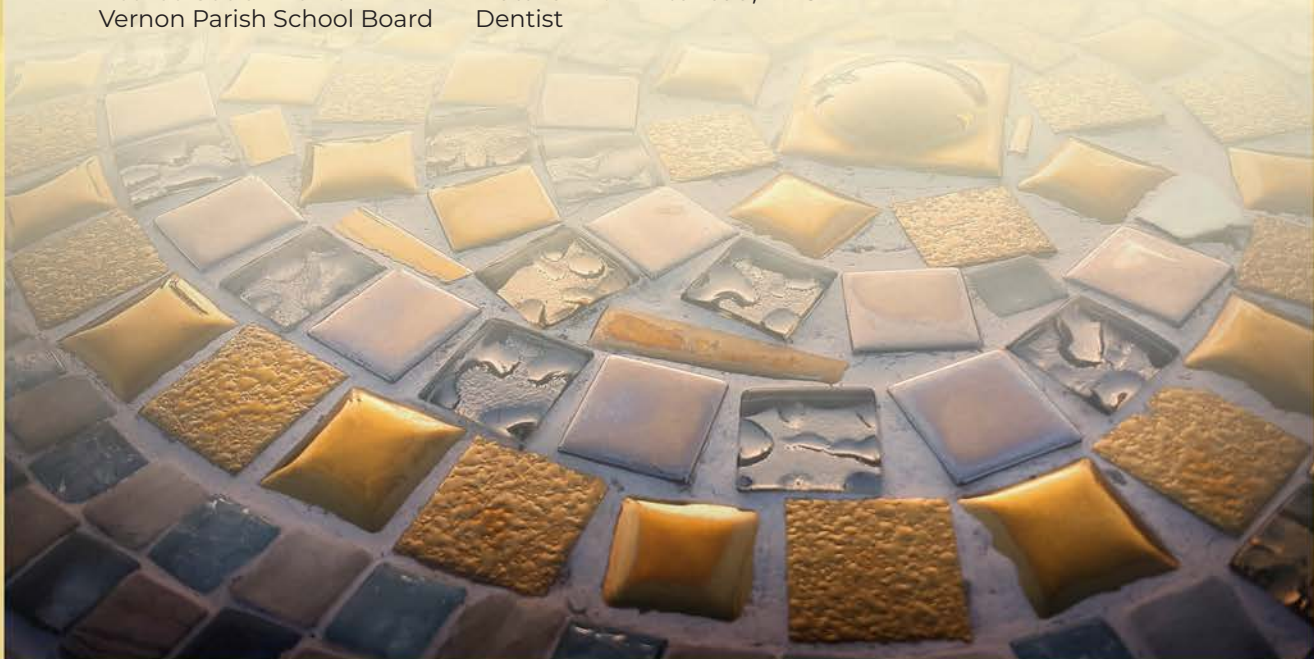
**Mark Thompson**  
Consultant, Owner and  
Administrator of home health  
agencies and nursing homes

**Edwin Urbi, M.D.**  
Physician

**Matthew T. Whitehead, DDS**  
Dentist

### 2024 APPOINTED:

**Henry Williams**  
Williams Tax & Financial  
Services Corp.



## THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION STAFF



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

**Natali Monrreal**  
Receptionist

**Abid Dyer**  
Accountant and Building  
Services Coordinator

**LaWanda Franklin**  
Executive Assistant to the  
President and CEO

**Kathy Gunn**  
Director of  
Communications

**Courtney Keys**  
Programs Assistant

**Matthew LaBorde, MBA**  
Program Officer

**Tammy Moreau**  
Director of Special  
Projects

**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

**Angela Williams**  
Program Officer

### CENLA MEDICATION ACCESS PROGRAM

**Wendy Roy, MHA**  
Executive Director

**Kevin Brown, PharmD**  
Pharmacist in Charge

**Stephanie Heinen**  
Cancer Screening  
Specialist

**Pamela Jones, RDN, LDN**  
Healthy Lifestyle  
Program Coordinator

**Lydia Kozlowski**  
Healthy Lifestyle Program  
Exercise Specialist

**Tammie Middleton**  
Healthy Lifestyle Program  
Administrative Assistant

**Crystal Watts**  
PAP and CMAP  
Office Supervisor

**Kelly Bentley**  
**Ponda Broadway**  
**Sunnie Broussard**  
**Mindy Clingan**  
**Joni Longlois**  
**Dawn Rajewski**  
Patient Assistance  
Program Specialists

### THE ORCHARD FOUNDATION

**Marjorie Taylor, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director

**Kim Ducote**  
Administrative Assistant

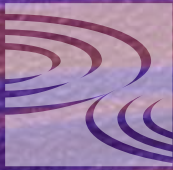
**Jamila Farris**  
Early Childhood Program  
Coordinator

**Aubrey Flynn**  
Program Manager for K-12

**Kayla Suire**  
Program Manager for  
Early Childhood

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKS

**Felicia Walker**  
Training Specialist



## THE STORY BEHIND THE RIPPLE ICON

**T**he 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.

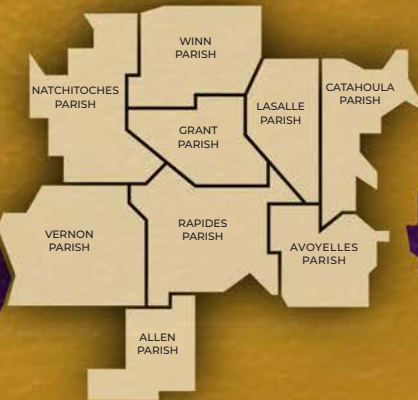
Finally, the element of water has geographical connection based on the Foundation's location near the historic Red River Rapids, the namesake for our parish, hospital and Foundation.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



# THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SERVICE AREA

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