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Date: December 5, 2002
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Community Development Works Holds Its First Celebration Event

Alexandria, LA - More than 130 community leaders from 11 parishes gathered to celebrate their work, dedication and vision in building better communities. These community leaders have all been participants in the Community Development Works Classes in 2001 and 2002.

Community Development Works is a program supported by The Rapides Foundation to create and support a community development infrastructure as the primary vehicle for citizen involvement in improving the health and well-being of Central Louisiana residents. "Our research indicates that the people of Central Louisiana want to make a difference in their communities, and The Rapides Foundation wants to partner with them to reach this goal," said Joe Rosier, President and CEO of The Rapides Foundation.

The event featured motivational speaker Randy Frazier, President of Frazier Communications Inc., of Arkansas. Mr. Frazier is an internationally recognized leader and motivator with over 25 years experience in public speaking, management and leadership development.

Community Leaders in attendance also shared reflections of their achievements for past two years.

The programs of Community Development Works include:

- Nonprofit Management - focuses on skills and issues essential to effective nonprofit management
- Leadership for a Healthy Cenla - a yearlong skills development opportunity for one or two people from each of the 11 parishes in the Foundation's region
- Community Builders Toolbox - offers technical assistance and training for community-based nonprofits in Central Louisiana, and is made up of two distinct learning opportunities (Community Builders Skills and Grantseekers School)
- Community Development Corporations (CDCs) – offers training for community-based organizations to achieve their community building goals
- Youth Leadership Program - led by the LHC01 Alumni, 20 youth from Central Louisiana communities have come together to design and implement a Youth Leadership Training Program

For more information on Community Development Works contact Julie Owens, Training Manager at 443-7880.

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