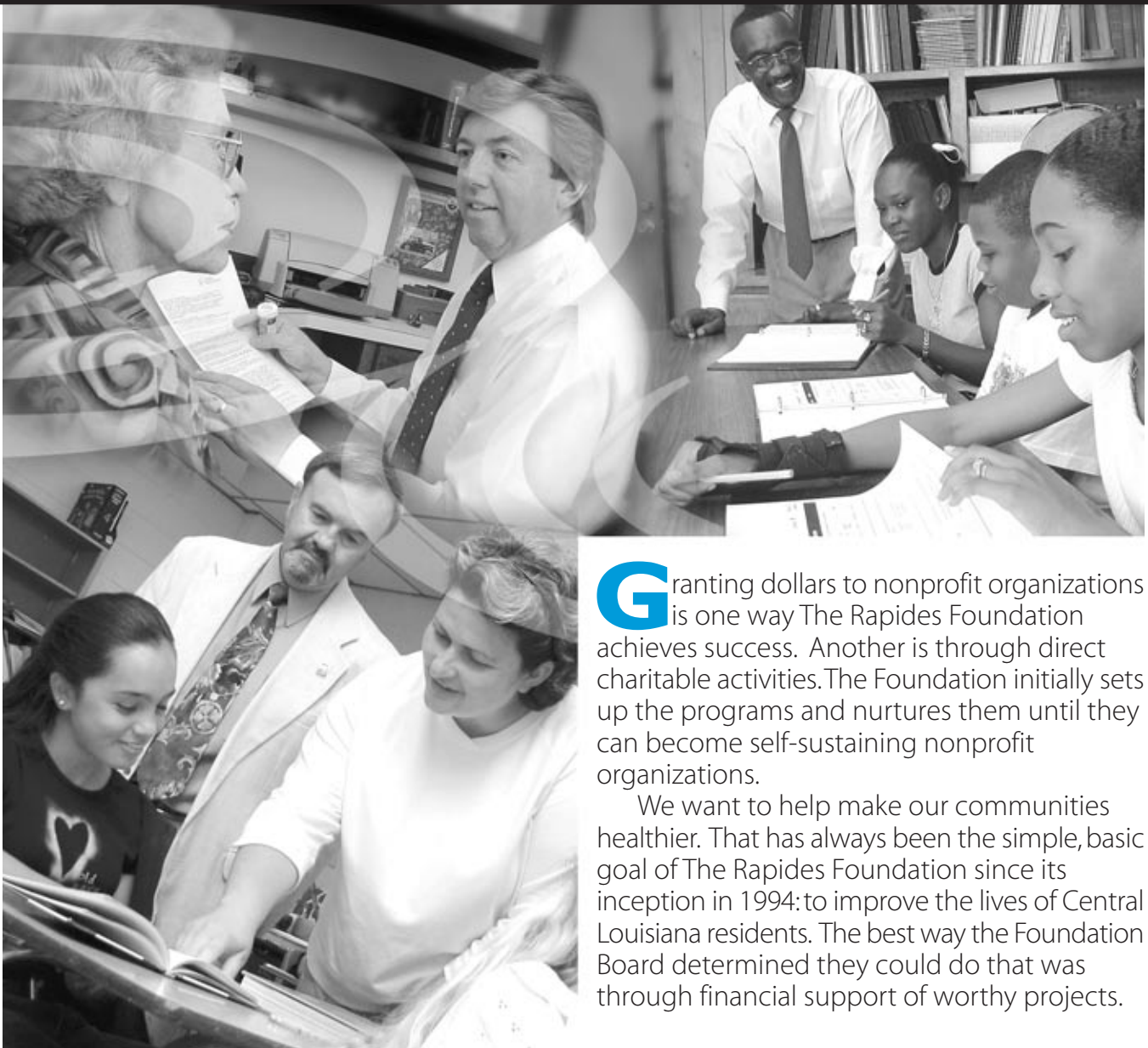


@ HEALTH & WELL-BEING ISSUE

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SUMMER 2003

FOCUS: DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Implementing Our Mission



Granting dollars to nonprofit organizations is one way The Rapides Foundation achieves success. Another is through direct charitable activities. The Foundation initially sets up the programs and nurtures them until they can become self-sustaining nonprofit organizations.

We want to help make our communities healthier. That has always been the simple, basic goal of The Rapides Foundation since its inception in 1994: to improve the lives of Central Louisiana residents. The best way the Foundation Board determined they could do that was through financial support of worthy projects.

(continued on page 2)

The Rapides Foundation

Our Mission (continued from page 1)

“There was an eagerness and excitement to get the ball rolling at the beginning and start making a difference,” remembers Joe Rosier, President and CEO of The Rapides Foundation.

Applications came through the door and the Board began awarding grants. “The problem was there were no guidelines,” said Rosier. “Our initial grantmaking was strictly based on the grant applications we received.”

It soon became apparent that some structure was necessary. “So we developed what we call our Strategic Grantmaking Framework, which is a policy statement and operating standards that define how we’ll do our work.”

What the Board needed were facts and figures that could help them assess the needs of the area and make knowledgeable judgments on future grant requests. If they wanted to really make a difference and improve the health and well-being of the community, they needed to know and understand the problems and challenges facing the area.

A project with the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine helped to give the Board that missing insight. Their 1998

“It’s been a long, hard road to get us where we are, but I believe we’re better for it and consequently so is the community.”

Joe Rosier, Foundation President and CEO

Community Health Assessment became the impetus to propel the Foundation to a new level of strategic grantmaking. Now armed with the baseline, detailed analysis of the health, economic, and educational status of Central Louisiana, the Board rolled up its sleeves and built the Foundation’s current framework of philanthropy.

“This gave us the vision we needed to go forward and target our resources toward carefully crafted projects that address our objectives,” says Rosier. “The result will be a lasting, meaningful change that will have a demonstrable effect on Cenla’s health and well-being.”

Subsequent studies have served to reinforce this vision and keep the Foundation solidly on track. The Foundation has awarded millions of dollars to area projects since the Strategic Grantmaking Framework was put in place. First and foremost are health initiatives. With its heritage of hospital ownership dating back to 1903, the Foundation has and will always put a premium on the health concerns of our area.

One major project funded through the Foundation’s health initiatives is the AED Network which is the result of a partnership with the American Heart Association (see related story Page 5). Phase One (Public Safety) of this life-saving program is now complete and Phase Two, *Operation: Public Access*, is scheduled for kick-off in the next few months.

While AED funding goes to the American Heart Association, the Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) is one of the Foundation’s direct charitable projects. CMAP is about to enter its third year of a three-year Foundation grant. After that time CMAP will spread its wings and break away from the shelter of the Foundation (see Page 8).

“They will be free to pursue other grants and opportunities for funding. We’ll still be there for support, but not their sole support,” explained Rosier. “This way they can become a community

(continued)

Our Mission

(continued)

resource in their own right.”

Just beginning its journey to self-reliance is another direct charitable program, the Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition (see Page 12). Their efforts at nurse recruitment will help counteract the negative effects of the looming nursing shortage and support entry into an exciting and important career for middle and high school students.

Leadership is the goal of the Foundation's Education Initiatives. The Educators Leadership Institute (ELI) (related story, Page 14) has been established and over 100 grants have been awarded to K-12 school districts, all pointing towards an end result of a better educational environment and improved achievement for our children.

The business environment also gets a hand from The Rapides Foundation with its many Workforce Development grants. “We believe that ultimately the economic well-being of our population in Central Louisiana will closely correlate with health status,” says Rosier. “People with higher levels of education and higher income typically enjoy better health.”

The Rapides Foundation has also funded numerous studies, surveys, focus groups and research endeavors that have helped point the way to effective problem solving. “It's been a long, hard road to get us where we are, but I believe we're better for it and consequently so is the community,” Rosier sums up.

It would have been easy to subjectively award grants to any of the thousands of local worthwhile causes. But the Foundation has taken on the more difficult challenge of funding and facilitating long-term change, which the Board believes will ultimately prove more effective. The decision not to back away has given true purpose and focus to that beginning desire to help. Our mission is clear.

Grant UPDATE:

Grants funded by The Rapides Foundation - working to improve the health and well-being of Central Louisiana.

Grants from October 2002 - March 2003

Mini-Grants (one year or less)

Allen Innovative Youth Care Center	\$10,000	
Development of youth-operated afterschool program in Oakdale		
Allen Parish Ward 5 Industrial Development Corporation	10,000	
To support staffing for effort to convert abandoned manufacturing facility in Oakdale to industrial park		
Bethlehem Housing Development Corporation	10,000	
To support organizational planning efforts for Oakdale-based nonprofit seeking to develop affordable housing		
Campiti (Town of)	10,000	
Development of wellness programs for older adults		
Central Louisiana Occupational Health Nurses	10,000	
Organizational and program development for worksite health leader group		
Le Theatre des Bon Temps	10,000	
To support development of community-based collaborative for youth arts development in Avoyelles Parish		
Mount Zion Development Corporation	5,000	
Refinement of afterschool program plans		
Natchitoches Council on Aging	10,000	
Support for Walking Trail development adjacent to new Senior Center		
National Donor Legacy Foundation	8,000	
Community perception study regarding attitudes and beliefs regarding organ donation		
PBWS	10,000	
To support program planning efforts related to adolescent risk-reduction in Jena		
The Early Childhood & Family Center of Avoyelles	10,000	
To support pilot project in Pre-K child health programs in Mansura		
Tioga Elementary School	8,500	
Matching funds for walking trail construction		
Trinity Ministry	10,000	
To support organizational and program planning efforts addressing needs of adolescent African-American males in Alexandria		
Tullos (Town of)	4,000	
Matching funds for walking trail construction		
Initiative Grants		
Granberry Counseling Center	\$350,000	3 yrs
Establishment of mental health services in five parishes		
LaSalle Council on Aging	75,000	2 yrs
Establishment of health and outreach programs in Jena		

The AED Network

AED Network Phase Two: **Operation: Public**

Had a heart attack
in the seventh inning.

Helped save his life
with an AED.



{Coming soon to a crowded place near you}

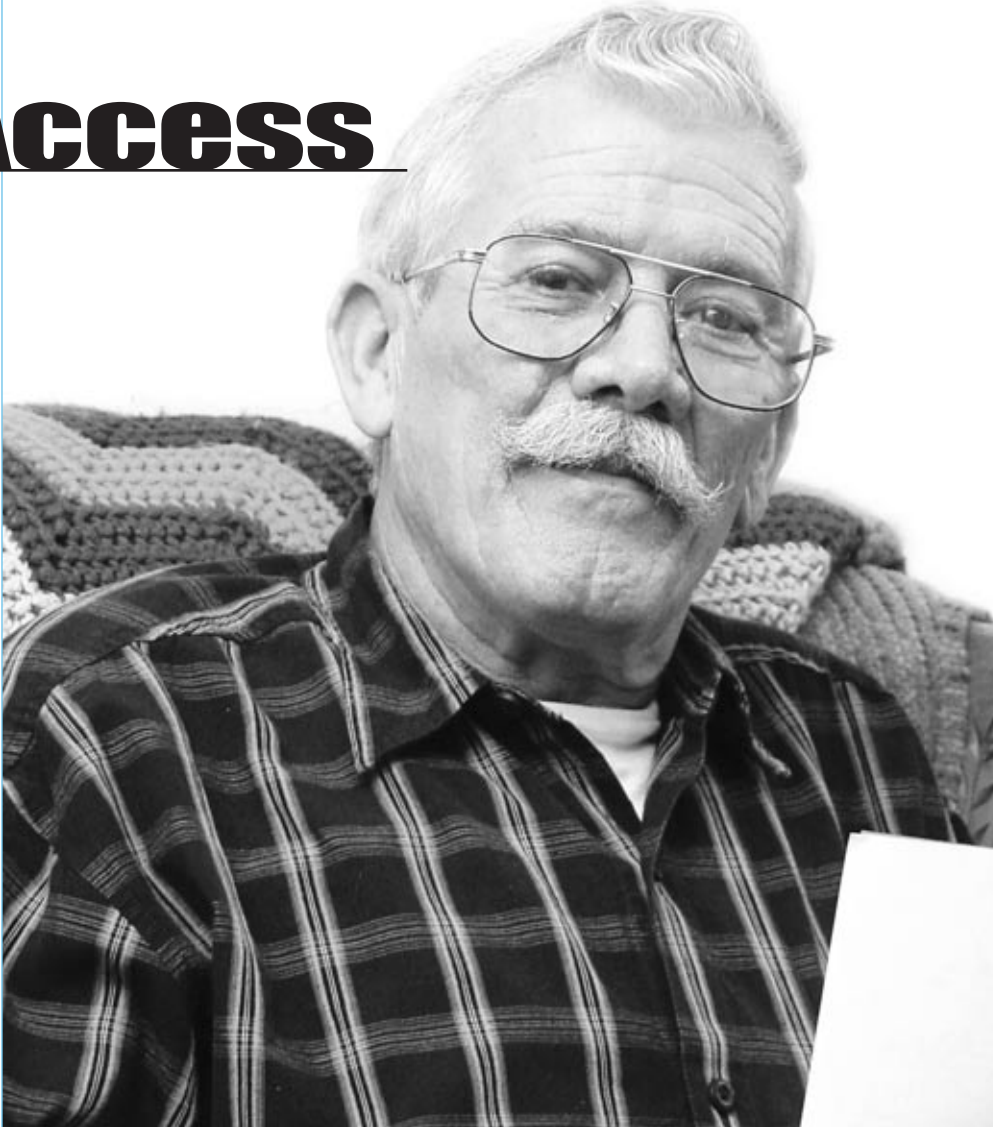
Automated External Defibrillator



 THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Access



“The Rapides Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the good Lord had everything to do with my being here.”

Ray Yates, first life to be saved by the AED Network

“It’s terrific to be alive!”

Ray Yates was on his way home from the market. He had just turned down his street when he had a heart attack.

The AED Network sprang into action. Within two minutes of receiving the emergency call, local law enforcement officials were on the scene with an automated external defibrillator (AED). This portable device is used to administer an electric shock to the heart through the chest wall. The AED was able to literally bring the 65-year old Olla resident back to life so he could then be taken for further treatment at a hospital.

Six weeks later, he and his wife celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

“If it wasn’t for the AED and the First Responders, I wouldn’t be here,” Mr. Yates will

passionately tell you. His is the first life to be saved by the AED Network, a joint venture of The Rapides Foundation, the American Heart Association, and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

A total of 225 AEDs, purchased by The Rapides Foundation, have been deployed to volunteer First Responders in rural areas across Central Louisiana while the American Heart Association provided the training. “We have trained over 1,600 First Responders in Heartsaver AED during Phase One. Firefighters, law enforcement and EMS are all equipped with AEDs,” said Monique Smith of the American Heart Association.

The AED Network is about to embark on Phase Two of the program, *Operation: Public Access.*”

(continued on page 6)

The AED Network

(continued from page 5)

Phase Two is quite different because it involves the public. We will be training lay responders in this phase. We will be deploying AEDs to the public and private sector," explained Smith who serves as the Health Initiatives Manager/Project Manager.

Places like malls, churches, recreation facilities, schools, municipal buildings, and public office buildings are all eligible to apply for an AED. Each application received must then undergo close scrutiny. According to Smith, "A parish assessment tool is being utilized to determine who gets an AED. The Community Advisory Board assisted the American Heart Association in the development of what we call "standard placement criteria and eligibility."

This detailed assessment involves such factors as how many people use the facility, the age demographic, where is the nearest AED already

in place, is the EMS response time greater than three to five minutes and have they had a sudden cardiac arrest in the last five years.

Rapides and Avoyelles parishes head the list of parishes receiving AEDs, followed by Vernon and Natchitoches parishes before the year is out. The order in which parishes receive AEDs was based on cardiovascular disease death rates in area parishes.

Beginning next year Allen and Grant parishes are up for AEDs. Winn, LaSalle, and Catahoula parishes complete Phase Two. It will all be accomplished in a little over a year. Quite a feat!

Dr. James Knoepp, a cardio-thoracic-vascular surgeon for many years in Cenla, is a strong supporter of the AED Network and has volunteered to serve as Medical Director for *Operation: Public Access*. "I can think of few better ways to help impact as many people." He explains

(continued)



L to R: James Knoepp, M.D., cardio-thoracic-vascular surgeon and Medical Director for **Operation: Public Access** and Arun Karsan, M.D., physician and AED co-chairperson, pictured with an AED unit.

The AED Network

(continued)

that each facility chosen to get an AED must also have a medical director to oversee its operation. "We have to realize the AED is only dispensed under the prescription of a physician."

The Training Program for *Operation: Public Access* is extensive. Smith tells us that, "Each facility will have what we term an internal response team, trained in Heartsaver AED. They will be the ones who will actually respond to an incident."

Karen Hathorn, RN, MSN, Community Education Manager at Rapides Regional Medical Center, is heading the training effort. "Our role is to go out and train people to not only use the AED but to also learn CPR."

Four community training centers are in place in Rapides Parish (CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Huey P. Long Medical Center, MedExpress and Rapides Regional Medical Center). "That means we have instructors who teach for us, we keep the records, we keep the books and the supplies. Our instructors come and get what they need from us and go out and teach," said Hathorn.

While some classes will be at the training centers, most of these sessions will take place at local AED training sites (Avoyelles Hospital, Bunkie General Hospital, Debuis Hospital, LaSalle General Hospital, Louisiana Fitness Center, Natchitoches Parish Hospital, Oakdale Community Hospital, Savoy Medical Center, V.A. Medical Center, Ville Platte Medical Center and Winn Parish Medical Center). "It's easier for us to just go and teach the class there, explains Hathorn. "Then we've better met their needs as well as keeping our promise to train these people."

To be certain the training is kept up-to-date, each trained volunteer must be re-certified every two years. "The training centers are committed and in two years, we'll have the rosters and we'll know who needs to be re-certified. So we'll be back and they'll see us again," promised Hathorn.

This training component of the program will be a major endeavor for *Operation: Public Access*.



Other key AED Network committee members, L to R: Monica Brundige, Ken Hertz, Karen Hathorn, RN, MSN and Rev. Lee Weems.

"We hope to train over 2000 people in this phase," said Smith. "All of which enhances the overall 'chain of survival.'"

Dr. Knoepp agrees. "There is strong evidence that if someone can't get to a cardiac arrest victim within three to five minutes, the chances for survival are very compromised. Having the means to defibrillate the heart within that three to five minute time frame is the key to survival."

To Monique Smith, the AED Network concept is simple. "The more people that are trained in Heartsaver AED use and CPR, and the more AEDs that we have in our communities, the better chance we have of saving lives from sudden cardiac arrest. I mean it's that simple."

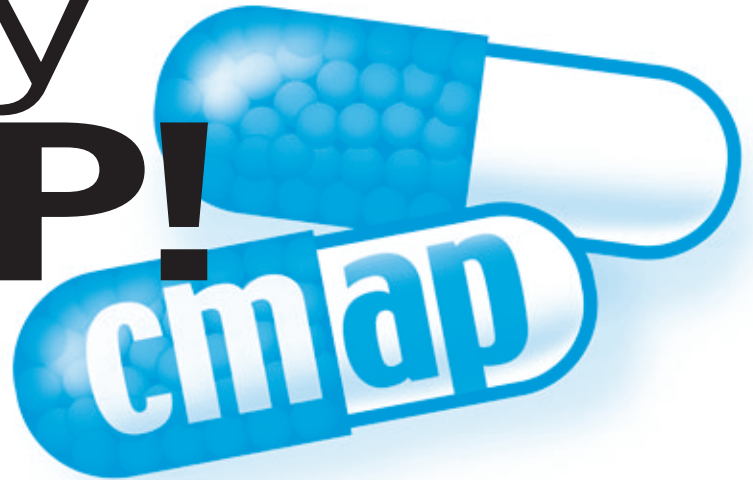
The AED Network "is awesome," says Karen Hathorn, who has been an American Heart Association volunteer for at least 20 years. "This whole AED project has gotten rave reviews from places outside our area because we're doing something to impact the lives of Central Louisiana."

Dr. James Knoepp, now a critical care specialist, has dedicated many years to saving the lives of cardiac patients. "It's difficult to put a value on a single life, but suffice it to say, a successfully distributed project like this will save multiple lives each year."

Lives like that of Ray Yates. "The Rapides Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the good Lord had everything to do with my being here."

Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP)

Happy Birthday CMAP!



Two years old and “GROWING” Strong...

WOW! What a two years it's been. Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) began operation in May 2001 with a joint public/private venture that made history in Louisiana. Huey P. Long Medical Center (HPLMC) opened a new outpatient pharmacy at its England Airpark Clinic to help low-income patients afford their chronic care prescription medications. The funding for this unique endeavor was provided by The Rapides Foundation.

Now, two years later CMAP Program Manager Wendy Roy reports, “We have over 5000 individuals in Central Louisiana receiving their medication at the CMAP Pharmacy, and we still are enrolling new people each and every day.”

On the heels of the outpatient pharmacy opening came the next phase of CMAP, which

set up a prescription card program to reach low income individuals who didn't receive their primary care from HPLMC. Once again The Rapides Foundation stepped in to provide initial funding with a three-year grant of \$2.7 million.

The card system allows members to purchase three approved medications each month at any pharmacy in the state for a small co-payment. Over 1700 residents in six parishes (Allen, Avoyelles, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, and Winn) are now enrolled in this program, with an additional 800 scheduled for enrollment by end of 2003.

The CMAP services have expanded, diabetes and smoking cessation education courses are now being offered at no charge to CMAP cardholders in hopes of helping them maintain a healthier lifestyle.

(continued)

“We have over 5,000 individuals in Central Louisiana receiving their medication at the CMAP Pharmacy, and we still are enrolling new people each and every day.”

Wendy Roy, CMAP Program Manager

Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP)



Wendy Roy, CMAP Program Manager

(continued)

With one-third of its clients diabetic, CMAP Supervising Pharmacist Sue Fontenot says education has been sorely lacking in the area. "It's just not there. Diabetics are not getting the education they need in order to deal with this disease on a day to day basis which means that their diabetes isn't controlled and they end up back in the hospital or in the doctor's office. We're trying to avoid all the long-term complications."

This is a one-time seminar that lasts three hours and covers a variety of diabetic topics such as nutrition, exercise, blood pressure control and medication. The first seminar took place last November in Grant Parish followed by a second one last month in LaSalle Parish. Eventually this diabetic course will be held in each CMAP parish. "We're also asking our participants if there's any particular area they would like us to go more in-depth, and then we could tailor future seminars to specific issues," said Fontenot.

Meanwhile, CMAP pharmacist Kevin Brown is heading up the smoking cessation program. "Well, to stop smoking is one of the most important things patients can do to improve their health that they have control over. But they have to be committed or the program won't work."

The "Freedom From Smoking" clinic, developed by the American Lung Association, consists of eight sessions over a two-month period. Brown attended a training seminar in New Orleans to receive certification to teach this course. "I've been calling all our patients who smoke and we've followed up with a letter asking them if they would like to participate in this clinic."

And the expansion doesn't end there. A third CMAP component, the Patient Assistance Program, was successfully piloted last summer in Allen Parish, assisting even more residents who can't meet the high costs of chronic care medications. "Within the first eight months of the program we've seen over 350 patients. I have done at least



Sue Fontenot,
CMAP supervising pharmacist



Kevin Brown, CMAP pharmacist

1,700 applications myself, and the cost savings to local residents have been over \$400,000," Tammy Billings, the Patient Assistance Program specialist for Allen Parish will proudly tell you.

This program assists CMAP card members in

(continued on page 10)

Genla Medication Access Program (CMAP)

“Within the first eight months of the program we’ve seen over 350 patients. I have done at least 1,700 applications myself, and the cost savings to local residents have been over \$400,000.”

*Tammy Billings,
Patient Assistance Program
specialist for Allen Parish*



Tammy Billings (above L), Allen Parish Patient Assistance Program specialist, discusses prescription information with Mae C. Black.

(continued from page 9)

getting additional medications as well as those people who don't quite meet CMAP's eligibility requirements. "That's where we come in and try to help," says Billings. "Work along with the doctor and the patients to see if there are more medications we can get to them. And patients just light up in front of you when you tell them they've been approved for additional medications. They're just so pleased."

The Patient Assistance Program can bring those happy and relieved smiles to these patients by accessing pharmaceutical manufacturer "patient-in-need" programs. "Each individual pharmaceutical company has its own qualifications which are generally easier to meet than CMAP's. So it broadens the population we're targeting and a lot more people are able to get their medication at a discounted cost or free," explains Adrienne Acosta, the Patient Assistance Program specialist in Winn Parish, the second parish to join the program.

The program is also of great benefit to the physician and his staff. The doctor tries valiantly to help patients with their medications by

(continued)



Tigist Smith (L), CMAP Office Manager and Crystal Watts, CMAP Receptionist/Data Technician

Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP)



Adrienne Acosta (R), Winn Parish Patient Assistance Program specialist with CMAP participant, Tolbert Triplett, Jr.

(continued)

handing out samples, which don't go very far. Their office staff meanwhile attempts to contact pharmaceutical companies for assistance but the time and paperwork involved is tremendous. "I take the burden off the doctor and their staff. I fill out the paperwork and bring it back to the office for the doctor to sign and then I send it off to the pharmaceutical companies and they send the medicines to the doctor's office," says Acosta.

Wendy Roy predicts the program has a bright future. "Many physicians in all the parishes we serve have expressed a desire to participate. We're hoping to expand the Patient Assistance Program into an additional four parishes. Plans are underway to expand Patient Assistance Program services in Vernon and Natchitoches parishes before the year is out. We're still working on getting new enrollees in the program, making

people aware about what services are available to them whether it be the card system or the Patient Assistance Program. We act as a resource in the area of medication."

It's a resource that needs to continue to grow but still remain an effective force in the community. To do that, CMAP is partnering with Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine to support a thorough evaluation of the program. Information on many health status indicators is collected, compared and analyzed. Patient data is gathered at enrollment and at six-month re-enrollment figures. All in an effort to keep CMAP a successful and useful tool in healthcare.

It all goes back to the Foundation's basic mission and guiding force – to improve the health of the Central Louisiana community.

Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition



Finding Tomorrow's Nurses Today



Dena Norton, RN, BSN, MSN, administrator of the Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition with Peabody Magnet High School nursing students.

“This is a long-term effort.” Dena Norton, RN, BSN, MSN, retired Army colonel and nurse of 24 years, Bolton High School graduate and Pineville native, knows she has a daunting task in front of her. At the beginning of the year she signed on as the administrator of the Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition. Its mission: To build a strong sustainable core of nurses for Central Louisiana.

“We cannot make the changes we need in the workforce short term. The need is too great and the barriers to accomplish it too complex,” she says emphatically, adding, “But if we don’t start, every year makes it worse.”

The entire nation is facing a growing nursing

shortage and Central Louisiana is no exception. “The best guess estimate for Central Louisiana is that we’re going to need 300 additional nurses in five years caused by the increased demand of the aging baby boomers. The worst case scenario is 500,” said Norton. “Now that means we’ve got to come up with at least 60 additional nurses every year to fill that need.”

And Norton stands armed and ready to start recruiting those future nurses. Her last assignment was at the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command where she served as chief executive in charge of recruiting all healthcare professionals into both the Army and Army Reserve, nationwide. Before that she did

(continued)

Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition

(continued)

manpower research for the Army patient classification system, which is currently being used in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Norton's experience tells her this nurse recruitment initiative must begin with the young. "Our initial focus will be on promoting nursing as a career for local students, specifically 8th and 9th graders. We need to let the teenagers know early enough what courses in science and math they will need in order to go into a nursing program."

One of the ways the Nursing Workforce Coalition will do that is through a Web site which will pull together all the information that a young person might want to know about being a nurse and how to become a nurse. Another way is to visit the schools.

"We're also going to have a recruitment videotape and brochures that we can go out to the schools with a presentation on nursing as a career. And leave them information and ways to contact us, so that we can get young people thinking about nursing as a career choice."

Recruitment efforts will also include the older high school students, although even at this point they could already be behind in required coursework. "Now we still need to spend some time with the juniors and seniors who are interested to see how we can assist them in getting the information they need to make a decision about going on to one of the nursing fields."

Minorities and men are also in the recruiting equation according to Norton. "That's right. We want to open it up to men and minorities more than it currently is. To expand the number of nurses we're going to need, we must make sure everyone knows this opportunity exists."

To appeal to more men, plans are in the very early stages to hold a two-week summer camp to be held on the Louisiana College campus in 2004 as well as 2005. One week will be devoted to girls and the second week to boys. The idea here is to let the students get exposed to campus life and take them on field trips to orient them

to the various medical facilities. There will also be medical professionals to talk to them and lead discussions. It also offers an excellent opportunity for these young people to link up with other nurses. For the boys, spending time with a male nurse will give them a role model to emulate.

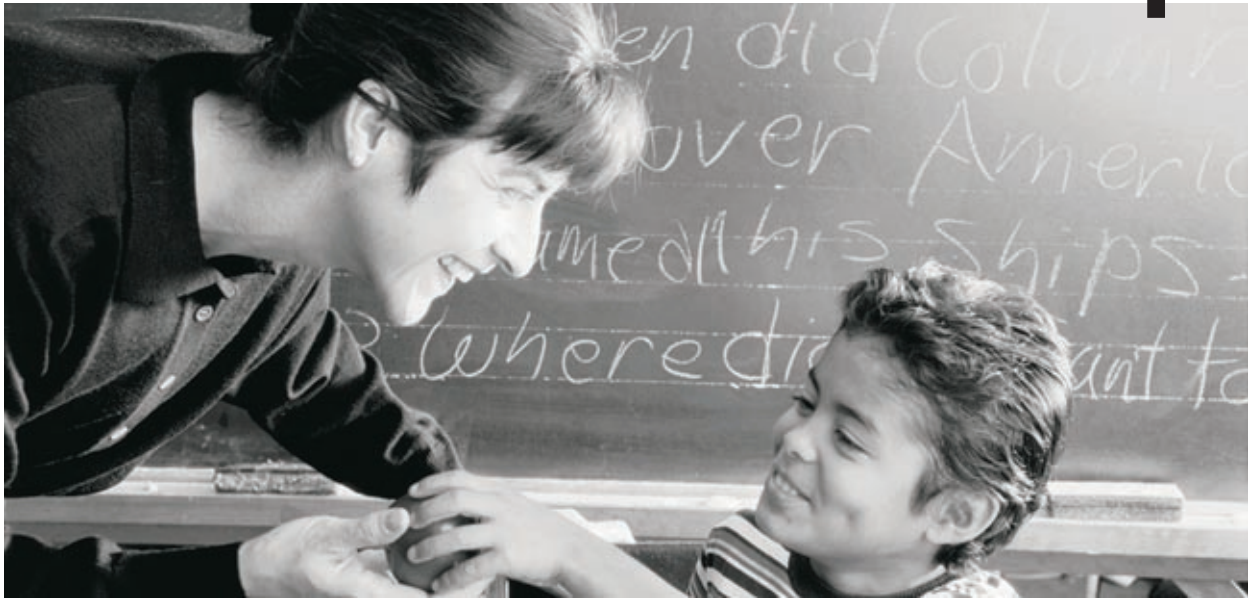
Norton also says the public image of nursing needs to be improved and some excitement for the profession generated. "We have to build excitement among the students. Part of that means we also need to build excitement among the leaders in the community. It's got to be a community effort for people to encourage young people to go into nursing, to realize it's a good thing and not second best."

The Rapides Foundation is doing all it can to help the Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition succeed Norton says. "The Foundation is here to be our seed, if you will, to get us started so that we can stand on our own eventually. Right now this is a charitable activity of The Rapides Foundation. They're footing the bill 100 percent and they're committed to do that for two years."

It's anticipated that at the end of the two-year period the Nursing Workforce Coalition will be established as its own nonprofit organization. This will allow it to apply for additional grants and monies that might be available to assist them from all across the country. "The nursing shortage is a national problem and as different foundations and federal agencies begin to address this problem more monies will be out there and we want to be able to tap into those funding sources. As part of The Rapides Foundation we can't do that. We have to be a separate nonprofit."

Once the Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition is on its own The Rapides Foundation will continue to support this effort because of its commitment to healthcare in the area. Working to increase the numbers of nurses is one of the ways the Foundation can fulfill its mission and to let the public know what Dena Norton already knows, "Nursing is a wonderful career choice."

Educators + = Strong Leadership



Here's a question for you. What do you get when 90 educators from six parishes are grouped into 15-person teams and meet four times a year in intensive three-day sessions?... The first year of The Rapides Foundation's Educators Leadership Institute (ELI).

"It's really made me realize the potential to improve the learning environment." – "ELI opened my eyes to the tremendous challenges principals and school leaders face." – "Whew! I've never been to anything like this. It was great!" echoed through the room as the Institute participants ended what the Foundation believes will become a critical tool in developing effective instructional leadership.

The Foundation began its Education Initiative in 1999 fully aware of the need to incorporate leadership into the equation, according to Joe Rosier, President and CEO of the Foundation. "We

have recognized from the beginning the importance of investing not only in the students and innovative learning programs, but also in teacher leadership. We included it as one of the components of our Education Initiative."

This Initiative to date has awarded grants to over 100 schools in Central Louisiana. Grants that address not only the direct needs of the students such as implementing technology into the classroom, but also that foster learning and leadership in both teachers and administrators.

ELI came into being because the Foundation is convinced that training leaders will ultimately set into motion a trickle down effect that will create a good learning environment, so that teachers can do their jobs more effectively and consequently students will learn more and improve the school's overall academic scores.

"Leadership is essential to the overall success

(continued)

Educators Leadership Institute (ELI)

(continued)

of each school," said Rosier. "That's why this first-run pilot program is so important."

This training is also important in light of the fact that school leaders are retiring at younger ages. To make matters worse fewer educators are choosing to pursue leadership positions. Therefore careful planning went into this first Institute venture.

To begin with, it was decided to limit these first sessions to six parishes (Avoyelles, Catahoula, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides and Vernon). Each parish sent a 15-person team composed of teachers, principals, superintendents and other educators in leadership positions. Then for four sessions over a yearlong period, these participants were exposed to a multitude of leadership topics. Speakers pointed the way to such discussions as using data wisely, teacher motivation and developing leadership potential. They were also able to address specific problems faced by the ELI members. The three-day sessions are rigorous and extensive and leave no leadership stone unturned.

These workshops also present a wonderful opportunity for the participants to interact with each other, compare notes and share ideas and it also gives some of these educators a chance to develop relationships with their supervisors in an informal setting, to be able to recognize their leadership potential.



Rosier believes the Educators Leadership Institute is a multi-layered plus for Education. "It's a phenomenal program. Those attending these sessions are empowered on so many levels and in so many ways. And the best part is that the rewards of this program will be felt not only by the participants but by the teachers and students as well."

This first session has served as a guidepost to future courses. The advisory board for ELI provided valuable feedback after each of the four workshops. The board critiqued the entire three-day course and recommended improvements for future sessions.

The Foundation's commitment to leadership however, doesn't end with the Educators Leadership Institute. Numerous grants have been dedicated to encouraging more of the teachers to assume leadership roles in their schools. The overall strategy is to invest in the teachers and principals who interact with the students, to both nurture and train leaders from within, and to cultivate the professional development of teachers so that they will have the best skills and tools available to teach students and take the lead in future planning and development.

Leadership and learning. It's a powerful combination that is enlightening the education community of Central Louisiana and giving all of us a better place to live.



Moving Day

A crew from Phillips Sign Company installs the first of two neon signs at the new Rapides Foundation Building located at 1101 Fourth Street in downtown Alexandria (formerly the Kress Building). The Foundation staff has moved into their new offices on the third floor while a number of nonprofit organizations will occupy first and second floor suites.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING
@issue

is published by The Rapides Foundation

The Rapides Foundation continues a legacy of community healthcare initiated in 1903.

President/CEO:

Joseph R. Rosier, Jr., CPA, CFA

Editors:

Vicki Bernard
 Annette Clark, MBA

Contributing Writer:

Ann L'Heureux

For additional copies or to be added to the mailing list contact:
 The Rapides Foundation
 P.O. Box 11937
 Alexandria, LA 71315-1937

Tel: 318-443-3394
 Fax: 318-443-8312
 Toll Free: 1-800-994-3394

Internet: www.rapidesfoundation.org
 e-mail: info@rapidesfoundation.org

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ALEXANDRIA, LA
 PERMIT NO. 65