



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



*Blueprint
for the Future*

*Building
Community
Resources*

1 9 9 9 A n n u a l R e p o r t

W e l l n e s s . T o g e t h e r .

M i s s i o n S t a t e m e n t

The Rapides Foundation is a community resource dedicated to improving the lives of Central Louisiana citizens through financial support of worthy projects.

Our **VISION** is to be a perpetual resource for exploiting opportunities that strengthen health and well-being, education, and the arts and humanities.

Our **MISSION** is to improve community health and brighten the future through building capacity to resolve local challenges in Central Louisiana.





C o n t e n t s

- 4 Letter from the President and Chairman
- 6 Initiative Summary
- 7 Program Areas
 - 8 Medication Assistance Program
 - 10 Community Development Initiative
 - 12 Education Initiative
 - 14 Workforce Development Initiative
 - 16 Faith and Health Program
- 17 Grants List
- 26 Financial Statements
- 28 Trustees, Staff, Advisors / Appointments
- 29 Communications
- 29 Coming in 2000
- 30 Grant Application Process

Blueprint for the Future

A blueprint is much more than lines on a piece of paper. It represents a beginning - the hopes and dreams of a project. Whether building a house or mapping a complex strand of DNA, a blueprint is the framework for all the work ahead. For The Rapides Foundation our blueprint for the future must be a map for improving community health, for that is our mission and guiding force. During 1999 we discovered this journey will require a variety of different approaches and many community partners.

We continued to concentrate on our initiative-driven grantmaking which focuses on enhancing the quality of life in our 11-parish region through financial support of programs that improve health and well-being, awarding \$10.3 million in grants this year. Through the Foundation's Initiative Grants Program, we focused on selected community health, education, community development and arts and humanities issues.

On the following pages we highlight three of our Initiative projects. Throughout this year much work was spent developing our Faith and Health and Workforce Development Programs, while \$927,000 was awarded under the Education Initiative.

Faith and Health will link religious groups, healthcare professionals, as well as our medical and academic institutions to help in the fight to prevent disease and promote good health in our communities. Workforce Development is being designed to foster collaborations among non-retail area employers, so they can prosper, by providing workforce skills to help their employees earn higher wages. And our Education Initiative empowers teachers to improve student achievement, helping thousands of students across Central Louisiana.

While our various Initiatives are generating new and exciting collaborations, the Foundation's Board of Trustees recognized an even deeper commitment would be required to reach our goals. This year our Board made the decision to implement strategies new to our Foundation but well tested in the national foundation community – direct charitable activities.

We spent much of 1999 developing strategies to implement two direct charitable activities – Community Development and Medication Assistance. In an effort to tackle these issues on the scale necessary to truly impact community health status for the long-term, we will initially operate the programs on our own. Our intent is to then spin-off the programs to become community-owned nonprofit organizations with the Foundation becoming one of many financial supporters.

President / Chairman's letter

These direct charitable programs will lay the groundwork for building vital community resources. Intensive assistance will be provided to help our area nonprofits become more effective and sustainable, and thousands of Central Louisiana residents will be able to receive their medications so they won't be forced to choose between maintaining their health or maintaining a home. This year's report features stories on these programs, and why we are committed to their development.

Another way the Foundation is committed to building community resources is to provide technical assistance from experts in a variety of fields. Many organizations we work with believe that is one of the most important things we do. It's bringing the best and brightest ideas to Central Louisiana, to offer input and a fresh perspective to tackle some difficult problems. For instance, all Education Initiative schools are partnered with an outside consultant - nationally recognized educators - who serve as mentors during their five-year grant cycles.

Our mission of building community health comes from our legacy of hospital ownership dating back to 1903. As a healthcare conversion Foundation, we are acutely aware of that heritage. In the fall of 1999, our Board held strategic planning sessions to address the Foundation's future ownership role in the Central Louisiana Healthcare System which consists of five area hospitals co-owned with HCA. Trustees diligently studied this matter, and voted to reduce ownership from 50% of the System to 26%. This action allowed the Foundation to maintain the same community governing control while providing additional grantmaking resources. The Board moved to finalize the sale in the summer of 2000.

As our mission continues to unfold, we pledge not to forget where we have been and where we hope to be in the future. Working together with people and organizations throughout Central Louisiana, we are building a blueprint for thriving, healthy communities.



A blue ink signature of Joseph R. Rosier, Jr.

Joseph R. Rosier, Jr.
President and CEO



A blue ink signature of Harry B. Silver.

Harry B. Silver,
Chairman of the Board

Initiative Summary

Implementation continued for nine Rapides Foundation Initiatives which reflect the priority areas identified by Trustees in 1998. These Initiative areas are:

Healthcare Access - Increasing the levels of care available for those with financial and geographic access issues.

Healthy Seniors - Programs to impact the onset and seriousness of chronic disease in order to maintain independence.

Healthy Children - Projects providing support for the developmental and health needs of children ages 0-3.

Healthy Futures I - Impacting adolescent risk behaviors like smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, and obesity.

Healthy Futures II - Impacting the elevated rates of teen pregnancy in Central Louisiana.

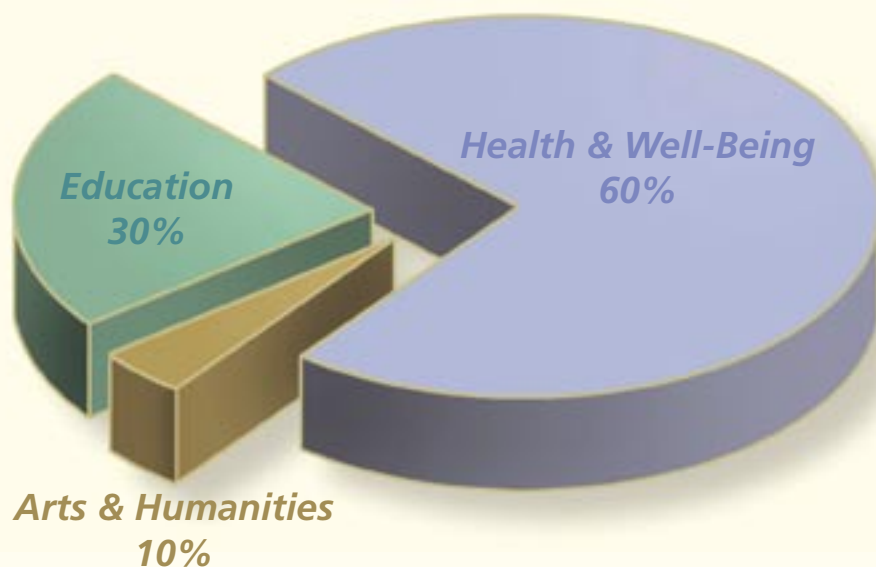
Arts and Humanities - Programs to provide arts education, develop new audiences and stabilize existing organizations.

Education - A special grants program supporting teacher training, curriculum development and implementation, and other projects to improve the learning environment.

Healthy Cenla - Building leadership and community ownership on the local and neighborhood level.

Economic Development - An effort to work with collaboratives of local non-retail employers to raise skill and knowledge levels of current and future employees. The objective is to produce better jobs and higher wages.

Trustee Approved Grant Allocation Goals



Philanthropic Objectives

The Rapides Foundation will develop initiatives and award grants which are judged to advance our philanthropic objectives in three areas of interest:

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

To promote healthy behavior, improve access to quality, affordable healthcare, foster a safe and caring community, and build capacities that enable people to address local concerns.

EDUCATION

To encourage the attainment of knowledge and skills and the practice of responsible citizenship through access to effective learning opportunities.

ARTS & HUMANITIES

To enhance appreciation, presentation and participation in artistic and cultural activities.

Eligibility Requirements

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

Grant Exclusions

The Rapides Foundation excludes the following from funding consideration:

- Direct support to individuals
- Private foundations
- For-profit entities
- Conferences or symposia established prior to 1995
- Disease specific organizations seeking support for national programs
- Hospitals
- Projects or programs of religious, fraternal, athletic or veterans groups when the primary beneficiaries of such undertakings would be their members
- Social events or similar fundraising activities
- Telethons
- Operating expenses which are not used for significantly expanding the services of programs currently in operation
- Grant awards for an indeterminate period of time

Grantees who are not in compliance with all terms of existing grant agreement(s) will not be considered for additional funding. There are no preclusions to applying for multiple grants with overlapping grant/project terms; however, the Foundation will evaluate the capacity of the applicant to implement and administer multiple programs.



First foundation-public partnership of its kind in Louisiana's Charity Healthcare System



Recent studies have shown that thirty percent of older adults cannot afford prescription drugs.

All across the United States, millions of people are not able to afford the medicines they need to keep them as healthy and independent as possible. While politicians try to reach a consensus on how to address the issue, an effort has quietly been underway to find help for the thousands of families in Central Louisiana who are facing this problem.

The Rapides Foundation spent much of 1999 reviewing pharmaceutical access in Cenla. Focus groups were conducted with community leaders and healthcare providers. In addition, local and state leaders were interviewed and input was gathered from the people who desperately require these services.

W e l l n e s s . T o g e t h e r .

Medication Assistance Program

What emerged from this fact-finding mission was a clear message that there is a tremendous need for pharmaceutical assistance. The Foundation's Medication Assistance Program is being designed to provide the blueprint for a new partnership in Central Louisiana to help meet that demand. The Foundation is taking the lead to hire staff and nurture this program into development.

Currently there are several organizations helping people obtain their medications, including Caring Peoples' Free Pharmacy, Shepherd Center and Huey P. Long's Auxiliary Medicine Program. These groups were part of the effort to identify what type of program should be designed. While they are doing an admirable job, budget and staff restraints limit their reach. The Foundation effort will build on these agencies' efforts.

This undertaking will make history in Louisiana. In early 2001, an outpatient pharmacy will be opened at Huey P. Long Medical Center's clinic at England Airpark. The pharmacy will serve patients at that facility's Outpatient Clinics, the primary source of healthcare for most Cenla residents with low incomes. This unique partnership between a public charity healthcare system pharmacy and a foundation is the first of its kind in the state, according to Danny Jackson, Director of Pharmacy at HPL Medical Center.

Every day Jackson sees the human side of this problem, "We hear from so many people, especially older adults who can't afford their medications. Too often seniors and other needy residents must choose between buying food or buying the prescription drugs that their doctors prescribe."

Gina Upchurch spearheaded the medication access study for the Foundation. She is Executive Director for Senior PHARMAssist, a nationally recognized medication assistance program in Durham, North Carolina. Upchurch explains, "The research showed there is a tremendous need for medication assistance in Central Louisiana. Once this program is put in place, close to 12,000 people will be helped each year."

The Medication Assistance Program will have several elements. In addition to the outpatient pharmacy, a prescription card system will be developed. Working with local and retail pharmacies, this will initially target people in six Central Louisiana parishes who do not go to Huey P. Long for their medical care, but need help paying for their medicines. It will be particularly helpful in communities at a distance from Alexandria and Pineville, as well as for older adults and people with disabilities who have Medicare to pay for physician visits but need prescription assistance.

The project will be a strong collaboration with physicians and community pharmacists to streamline

medication plans so people receive safer and more effective medicines. Jackson also sees this program as a way to do more than just provide medications – it's an opportunity to educate people to improve their quality of life. "A lot of the focus will be on patients who have chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension and congestive heart failure. We will make sure they receive the medications they need. We'll also teach them about the importance of taking care of themselves and how to better manage their conditions, which will help prevent costly visits to the hospital and emergency room."

Once the Foundation's Medication Assistance Program is in full operation and the need to expand services to more people is identified, then it can be offered in additional parishes. Upchurch believes, "This program has the opportunity to really make a difference in thousands of people's lives. So often people suffer in silence, not being able to afford their medications or receiving multiple medications that might be unnecessary or even harmful. The Foundation has heard their voices and is designing a program to offer hope for an improved quality of life."

**Americans
spend
more than
\$21 billion
a year on
prescription
medicines.**



Community Development- Blueprints for Improvement



Community Development: citizen-led efforts to define problems, develop solutions, and attract the resources necessary to implement programs or activities that address the identified problems.

Emerson Slain spearheaded an effort to create the Delta Regional Community Development Corporation in Concordia Parish.

They come from two different parishes in Central Louisiana: one in the heart of our state, the other on the banks of the Mississippi River. Emerson Slain and Shirley Wade may be separated by geography, but they share one purpose – to improve their communities.

Wade has spent the past three years working with a large group of area citizens, to develop a Community Development Corporation (CDC) in her hometown of Cheneyville, in Rapides Parish. Slain has worked for two years to galvanize the people in his community to form a CDC in Ferriday which is in Concordia Parish.

Wade is an Alderman in Cheneyville. An educator for 33 years, she's been involved in a number of volunteer organizations in her community and didn't think

W e l l n e s s . T o g e t h e r .

Community Development Initiative

twice about volunteering to help nurture citizen involvement to address some problem areas. Wade believes you can see the commitment to this project in today's town leadership. Mayor Ruby Hawkins founded the CDC which has evolved into the current organization, Communities Collaborating for Economic Development. It has now grown to include six other rural communities in three parishes, representing close to 24,000 people.

Wade says, "This organization's mission is to offer and promote individual self-worth, economic opportunity, and quality of life consisting of a safe and nurturing environment for all." It focuses on four building blocks, including business development and job creation while exploring ways to improve and build civic and social infrastructure.

For Slain, the commitment runs just as deep. Born in Louisiana, his family is from the Ferriday area. After working in various industries, he left a banking consultant position to spearhead an effort to create the Delta Regional Community Development Corporation in Concordia Parish. Slain believes, "Community development doesn't just happen accidentally. It begins with a willingness to see things differently, with optimism about future possibilities."

These organizations in Cheneyville and Ferriday have learned it takes hard work and dedication to bring people together to tackle community issues. The Rapides Foundation recognizes there can be a tremendous positive impact through these efforts. We are now in the final planning stages to begin an intensive program which will help nurture community development activities throughout Central Louisiana. The Foundation will hire full-time staff to facilitate this process.

We began this effort as a way to help fulfill our mission. The Foundation needs community-based partners to deliver programs and provide services that enhance the health and well-being of Central Louisiana residents. Outside of Rapides Parish, there are very few nonprofit organizations in the Foundation's 11-parish service area.

We spent much of the past year on a comprehensive study of existing community development and training activity. More than 165 people from Central Louisiana participated in this study, which began in the summer of 1999.

Information about leadership, organizations, training opportunities, technology use, and community resources was collected. This was gathered through interviews with individuals, focus groups and community meetings.

The research was conducted by Dianne Williams, a community development consultant from Little Rock, Arkansas, who specializes in rural community leadership and organizational development. Williams found a common thread throughout the communities, "Many people believe that improving life in their communities will have to be done in new ways and with more diverse citizen involvement than in the past. In virtually every parish, people expressed wonderful visions for their communities and an eagerness to learn about community development strategies and resources."

Based on research results, the Foundation is embarking on a Community Development Initiative that involves a multi-pronged strategy to assist communities with development efforts. It will include a yearlong leadership development program, on-site community builders training sessions, team building seminars for CDCs, as well as grant writing workshops and assistance in communication strategies to make communities aware of these efforts.

The goal of the Initiative is 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. The initial priority is to develop leaders and community-building organizations. When these activities are underway, the work can begin on the creation of a permanent community development support center.

Williams is already seeing benefits from the Foundation's efforts, "The study helped to bring a lot of people to the table to brainstorm ways they could get their communities energized to address a variety of issues. Many of them are now ready to take it a step further and get to work - the Foundation's Community Development Initiative is going to be the vehicle to help them do that."



Grants Encourage Educational Innovation, New Partnerships

*David Smith,
special education
teacher at Olla-
Standard
Elementary
School in LaSalle
Parish*



David Smith had never applied for a grant before in his life, but when he saw the application on his principal's desk, the LaSalle Parish teacher decided to give it a try. Thanks to his willingness to take this challenge, Olla-Standard Elementary was among the 44 schools to receive first-year funding under the Rapides Foundation's new Education Initiative. An additional six schools were provided small planning grants to further develop their projects.

W e l l n e s s . T o g e t h e r .

Education Initiative

The 50 schools collectively received \$927,000 in Foundation funding to undertake new projects aimed at improving student achievement or improving the learning environment through an investment in teacher training and new program development. Schools receive up to \$25,000 annually for a period of five years, if they show progress towards meeting their program goals.

David teamed up with his wife, Jean, a teacher at Jena Elementary, to apply for the grant. He bubbles with enthusiasm when talking about this collaborative effort, and how it's made a dramatic difference in teachers' grasp of computer technology. "It's been such a blessing to our teachers to get training they desperately need."

The Foundation believes the key to enhancing student achievement is giving teachers the support and training they need. From technology training to middle school management, innovative educational programs and teaching methods are now spreading throughout Central Louisiana, thanks to the joint efforts of school administrators, teachers and the Foundation.

New program and professional development that aims to transform teaching and build new knowledge is not a simple task to plan and implement. To guide these efforts, the Foundation provides assistance for schools to help them develop goals and strategies, maintain focus and organize their plans. Understanding the

complexities of the change process, the Foundation recruited technical assistants who help schools steer through the turbulent waters of such change. These are outside consultants with broad educational expertise who are helping schools "stay the course" as they pursue their projects.

Laura Clark with the Vernon Parish School Board has seen firsthand how important this assistance can be. She worked closely with the technical assistant for schools in her parish, both those that received funding and others planning to apply next year. Clark believes "The technical assistant's expertise has been the key to keeping everybody on track and motivated. They've just been a true inspiration and wonderful source of information."

Clearly as this program finishes its first full semester of implementation, we realize there is much to learn. Some approaches are working better than others. Schools are learning the benefits of working together and they are learning how to change.

The Foundation is now working with schools to submit grants for 2000-2001. We're able to tell these schools applying for the next round of funding that communities are being energized by these projects. And teachers like David Smith are proving that, with some inspiration and teamwork, it is possible to improve the learning environment and make a difference for students throughout Central Louisiana.



Cheryl Pollen, Jennifer Coriell, Laura Clark (standing) and Mona Bennett collaborated on East Leesville Elementary's grant project.

Healthy Economy- Healthy Community

This program's hallmark is its emphasis on collaboration as a competitiveness tool. Grants encourage Central Louisiana companies to form alliances to gain access to resources and extend their capabilities in the marketplace.

AFCO

Home office:
Alexandria, Louisiana
Alexandria plant:
200 employees

Company operates two other plants in Michigan and Mississippi — Aluminum, plastic and panel products, custom fabrication work.

AFCO is working with a local nonprofit training provider and during 2000 plans to participate in the Foundation's Workforce Development Program. The company's biggest need is to provide supervisory training for qualified workers who have been promoted.



"We think this program will be a great opportunity and just what our company has been looking for. The Foundation's resources will help provide quality supervisory training for our employees. In today's economy this type of training is vital, to keep our workforce competitive so we can focus on growing our business."

Ken Crawley,
Human Resources Manager, AFCO

The End: Generate higher wage employment opportunities and more wealth in Central Louisiana communities.

The Means: Improving the Cenla economy's ability to produce higher value goods and services (higher wages) that are sold outside the region (generate more wealth).

The Starting Point: Workforce skills, one of the critical capacities that governs a regional economy's ability to produce higher value goods and services that are sold outside the region.

The First Objective: Work with employers in Central Louisiana to identify and support innovative approaches to increasing skill and knowledge levels within the Cenla workforce in ways that link to real economic opportunity.

Employers of all sizes indicated their greatest need was for the basics:

- Literacy, basic math skills, and work habit/social skills development
- Basic computer skills
- Knowledge of basic business processes and the fundamentals of operating a company

Workforce Development Initiative

Healthy communities come in all shapes and sizes. But they have one thing in common – a healthy economy. It means people are able to earn a living wage and businesses, both old and new, are encouraged to flourish.

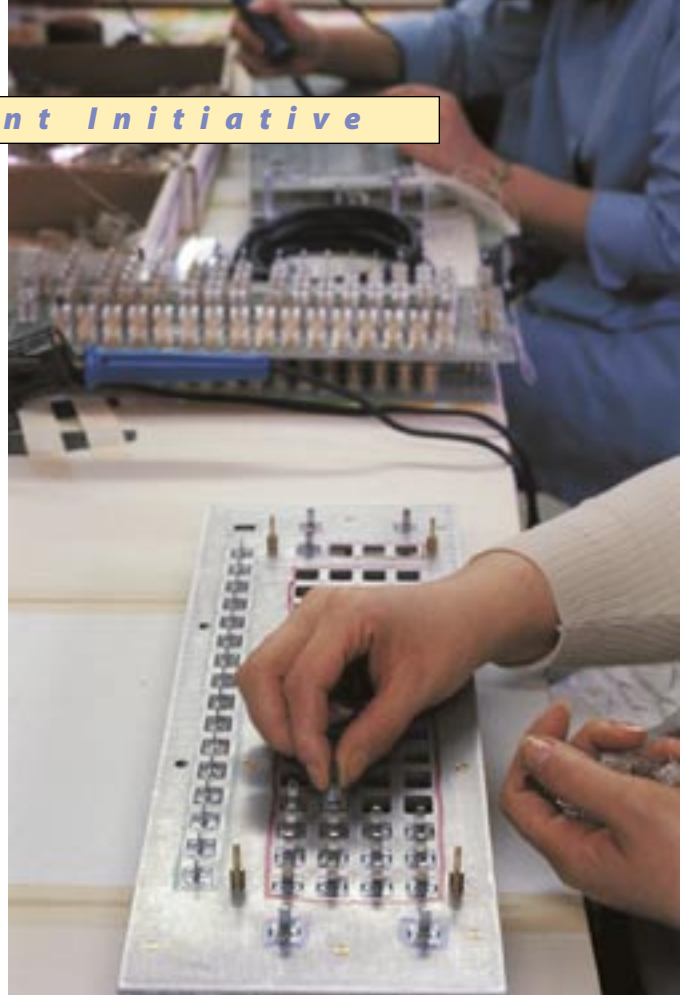
As part of our mission to build healthy communities, in 2000 the Rapides Foundation will launch a Workforce Development Initiative. This program is being developed to expand the area's capacity to produce higher wage employment opportunities and to generate more wealth in Central Louisiana's communities.

To be able to do that the Foundation needed to analyze what makes the Cenla economy tick and what employers need to grow their businesses. To find those answers we began an intensive study on what drives this segment of our communities. Economic Development experts conducted interviews with a diverse group, ranging from small manufacturers to medium sized and growing firms. A series of subjects were addressed during these interviews including firm history, products/services, markets, market strategies, CEO/key manager backgrounds, manufacturing technology/processes, workforce development needs/issues and future plans.

In addition to these interviews, the study explored employment growth, average wages, major employers and future development.

A snapshot of the 11-parish Central Louisiana region shows:

- From 1989-1996 the region in general performed as a relatively low wage but steady growth economy, which bucked national trends.
- The economy's driving force is its retail section. Retail trade is the largest sector in terms of numbers of jobs. In 1996, 21,574 people worked in this industry.
- The most important manufacturing sector is lumber, wood and paper products, accounting for 40 percent of manufacturing jobs - 4,788 in 1996.
- Health services is the second largest employment sector. As of 1996, nearly 14,000 jobs existed in the various healthcare industries – 16 percent of the region's total jobs.



- When compared to the rest of the country, the area has a very low proportion of its workforce engaged in technology intensive or "high tech" employment.
- Business startup rates in Central Louisiana track with those for the state as a whole, which, unfortunately, are well below average rates for the rest of the country. Business startups are important sources of employment, economic and technological dynamism.

These are some of the facts and figures about the region's current economic health. The Foundation is committed to building on our strengths and looking for innovative means to make economic improvements. Through the Workforce Development Initiative, during the next year we will do just that; working with employers to help them identify and support strategic approaches to increasing skill and knowledge levels in ways that link to real economic opportunity.

Forging partnerships with our Faith Communities



*John Hatch, Dr.P.H.,
the guiding force
behind the
Foundation's Faith
and Health program*

There's a growing movement in our country that recognizes the importance of both physical and spiritual health. It is a powerful concept. The idea that religious groups and healthcare professionals can be teammates in the fight to prevent disease and promote good health in our communities.

In many of the communities within the Rapides Foundation's 11-parish service area in Central Louisiana, there are few social service or healthcare organizations. Yet even the smallest community has one or more churches, and these often serve as effective centers for all types of gatherings besides worship. Recognizing the potential for faith communities to take an active role to address health issues is the focus of the Foundation's Faith and Health program.

The Foundation's guiding force for the project is John Hatch, Dr.P.H., who is known throughout our country for his work in this field. Dr. Hatch has been instrumental in numerous projects that link faith and health. He helped spearhead the development of a church-based, lay health advocate program involving North Carolina's General Baptist State Convention, which represents about 1,700 congregations.

In September of this year more than 100 people gathered at a two-day Faith and Health forum sponsored by the Foundation. Nationally recognized speakers addressed the Faith and Health movement. They talked about blending the missions of faith and health communities in new collaborations, and ways even the smallest congregations can participate.

The Foundation is committed to facilitating this activity in our communities. During much of 1999 we surveyed faith institutions and the response has been overwhelmingly positive about development of a comprehensive Faith and Health project.

Over the next year we will work with healthcare professionals and religious groups, as well as our medical and academic institutions to design a program filled with spirit and purpose. Working together and having faith, we will improve the health of our communities – that is the spirit of Central Louisiana.



W e l l n e s s . T o g e t h e r .

Education Initiative Grants

These fifty Cycle 1 schools are participating in the Rapides Foundation Education Initiative. The program aims to provide teachers and principals with the

resources needed to upgrade the skills of the teaching corps and to improve the environment for teaching and learning. The schools are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 annually for a period of 5 years.



*Stella Anderson,
technology director
at Holy Ghost
Catholic School in
Avoyelles Parish*

(One year commitment with possibility of five year funding pending completion of objectives each year)

ALLEN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Kinder High School

Planning grant to conduct a needs assessment and develop a proposal for a comprehensive school to career program of studies.

Oakdale Junior High School

To support a whole school reform effort to reorganize the school class schedule, institute interdisciplinary team teaching, and improve class management.

Oberlin Elementary School

To address low reading performance through expanded professional development in assessment techniques, identifying student weaknesses, and development of individualized interventions.

Reeves High School

Planning grant for school to conduct a needs assessment and develop a plan to implement a comprehensive school to career program of studies.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Avoyelles Parish School Board

To support program development, organization and staff training on new curricula to meet the needs of at-risk students involving the integration of technology at a proposed agri-science alternative high school.

Bunkie High School

To support training for integration of technology into curriculum to improve reading achievement.

Lafargue Elementary School

To improve student performance through a multi-year school restructuring project addressing teacher content knowledge, teaching strategies, and integration of technology into instruction. Teaching collaboratives, team teaching, and a re-conceptualization of curriculum changes will be involved.

Marksville Elementary School

To improve student reading performance through the use of Spalding and Reading Renaissance strategies in language arts instruction and to institute technology training for students and their parents.

Riverside Elementary School

To restructure the school educational program with a formal, on-going professional development program that will include new teaching methods, new content and problem solving activities to engage students as active learners.

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Block High School

A planning grant to assist in development of better teaching strategies for motivating students and improving achievement.

Martin Junior High School

To improve reading skills in grades 5-8 through a comprehensive professional development program addressing diagnosis and individualized improvement plans based upon student need. The program will include teacher training to integrate reading skills throughout all subject areas, collaborative teaching, classroom management, motivational teaching strategies, etc.

Sicily Island High School

To develop standards-based, career oriented student instruction and learning through a staff training program addressing teaching methods, strategies, integration of technology into curriculum and interdisciplinary lessons and collaborative teaching.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

Holy Ghost Catholic School

The school, in a collaborative effort with Sacred Heart School, St. Joseph's, and St. Anthony's, will address the technology training for teachers required to integrate technology into instructional strategies.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School

The school will address the integration of technology use into the classroom and curriculum through an intense teacher development and training program.

Sacred Heart School

The school, in a collaborative effort with Holy Ghost School, St. Joseph's, and St. Anthony's, will address the technology training for teachers required to integrate technology into instructional strategies.

St. Anthony's of Padua

The school, in collaboration with Holy Ghost, Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph's, proposes technology training for its teachers to build new teaching strategies and integration of technology use into everyday instructional strategies.

St. Joseph's School

The school, in collaboration with Holy Ghost, Sacred Heart, and St. Anthony's, proposes the technology training for its teachers to build new teaching strategies and integration of technology use into the curriculum.

EVANGELINE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Bayou Chicot High School

To begin a major restructuring of the school's education program to include the school schedule (block scheduling) and teacher training in multi-sensory, integrated learning techniques to further involve students in the learning process.

Carver Elementary School

To implement character education and violence prevention through new teaching strategies.

Chataignier High School

To implement character education and violence prevention through improved teaching methods and greater student involvement in learning.

Hester Heath Elementary School

To improve reading literacy for students using Write Track and Accelerated Reading.

Ville Platte High School

To improve student performance and attendance through an intense teacher training program focusing on new teaching methods.

GRANT PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Colfax Elementary School

The school effort will focus on improving student performance through the development of small adult learning communities that will emphasize instructional strategies, assessment procedures and changing learning environment.

Georgetown High School

Planning grant to establish direction for the school and to determine strategies for teaching/learning techniques necessary to achieve the plan.

South Grant Elementary School

To focus on reading achievement using professional development in assessment and diagnosis of learning barriers, alternatives for the learning disabled students, and improved motivation strategies.

Verda Elementary School

To improve student achievement beginning with a professional development program focused on new teaching strategies/learning techniques in reading.

LASALLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Jena Elementary School

The school, in collaboration with Olla-Standard Elementary, will begin technology training for teachers focused on the integration of computer use within curriculum and classroom learning activities. Training will include classroom management and interactive learning activities.

Olla-Standard Elementary School

The school, in collaboration with Jena Elementary, will begin technology training for teachers focused on the integration of computer use within curriculum and classroom learning activities. Training will include classroom management and interactive learning activities.

NATCHITOCHES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Cloutierville Elementary/Junior High School

Planning grant to refine and focus the school's strategies to improve student achievement, emphasizing classroom evaluation and assessment, and classroom management.

Lakeview Junior/Senior High School

To address weaknesses in the language/communications skills of students through the development of skill and strategies of teachers in teaching writing across the curriculum.

Natchitoches Junior High School

To provide teachers with exposure to other teaching methods along with specific training related to school organization/scheduling, discipline, interdisciplinary collaborations, etc.

RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Bolton High School

To provide resources to build staff capacity to implement the Bolton Model: training to restructure teaching, broaden the curriculum content for team/multi-discipline use, and infuse technology in curriculum.

S.M. Brame Junior High School

To reorganize the school using the middle school concept, develop staff skills in team teaching and improve content knowledge.

J.I. Barron Elementary School

This is a collaboration among the elementary schools, Hall, Barron, and Hadnot, to redesign the math curriculum. The Barron project will provide inter- and intra-grade level training and planning for teachers, and develop varied methods of teaching to reach the different learning styles.

1999 Grants List

Mary Goff Elementary

To provide teacher training related to new and more effective teaching and learning strategies to raise student achievement.

Walter D. Hadnot Primary School

The project is a collaborative among Hadnot and its feeder schools, Barron and Hall. They will address staff training and curriculum re-design to include alternative, hands-on activities to enhance comprehension of math concepts. Training will be expanded to include parents and other community resources.

W. O. Hall Primary School

This is a collaborative effort involving Barron and Hadnot to improve student attainment in math by redesigning the math curriculum and providing professional training and inter- and intra-grade planning that would include new teaching methods.

Kelso Redirection Academy

The project involves offering alternatives to the traditional teaching methods, incorporating job skills training across the curriculum, and building staff skills with conflict management techniques.

J.B. Nachman Elementary

To improve student reading achievement using the Accelerated Reader and to provide professional development for teachers.

Peabody 6th Grade Center

To further implement the "accelerated schools" model within this one-grade middle school. Teacher training will concentrate on development of interdisciplinary instruction by multiple teams of teachers.

Peabody Magnet High School

To focus on student learning centered around career paths, and to upgrade teaching skills to teach within inter-disciplinary clusters.

Phoenix Magnet School

To plan for a year-round education program developed in consultation with parents, local universities with pre-service teacher education programs, central office and to include community involvement.

Pineville High School

To improve achievement and standardized test scores in math with an effort involving 8 feeder schools, focusing on new teaching strategies for the math teachers. Secondly, to bring the science department into the project to allow the science and math areas to support and reinforce student learning.

Pineville Junior High School

To implement the "middle school" concept and to provide staff training in team teaching and interdisciplinary learning and project-centered curriculum.

VERNON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Leesville High School

To develop and plan the "career academy" as a means of fostering academic achievement, reducing absenteeism and dropouts, and improving test scores.

The grant will provide assistance for curriculum development and staff training and support efforts to develop business coalitions.

Rosepine Junior/Senior High Schools

Planning to assess instructional needs and to plan for a schoolwide school to career education program.

WINN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Dodson High School

To develop an aqua-culture/horticulture program emphasizing math and science concepts as the method of improving student performance. Grant funding would be used for consultation, curriculum development, staff development costs, training materials, etc.

1999 Grants List

Winnfield Intermediate School

To develop and implement, in collaboration with primary and middle schools, a character education/violence prevention effort which will include funding for consultation, staff development, training materials, etc.

Winnfield Middle School

To develop and implement, in collaboration with the primary school and intermediate school, a character education and violence prevention effort which will include staff development, training materials, etc.

Winnfield Primary School

To develop and implement, in collaboration with the intermediate and middle schools, a character education and violence prevention effort which will include staff development, training materials, etc.

Education Mini-Grants and Technical Assistance (One year time frame)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Attakapas Council of Boy Scouts of America | \$10,000 |
| Pilot implementation of school-based character education program | |
| Christian Love Baptist Church | 10,000 |
| Saturday tutoring and mentoring program in South Alexandria | |
| First United Methodist Church-Natchitoches | 9,997 |
| Kids Hope intensive mentoring program for at-risk elementary school students | |
| LaSalle Association for the Developmentally Disabled | 8,000 |
| Public Awareness Campaign and Employment Support Training for Staff | |
| Nolley United Methodist Church-Jena | 8,567 |
| Kids Hope intensive mentoring program for at-risk elementary school students | |
| North Centrala Head Start | 10,000 |
| Multi-discipline arts education for Colfax-based Head Start students | |
| Reading Education for Adult Development | 6,500 |
| Organizational development and volunteer training for Allen Parish literacy group | |
| Renaissance Home | 7,500 |
| Matching funds for volunteer-led effort to construct on-site school | |
| Southern Forest Heritage Museum and Research Center | 5,000 |
| Design and production for brochure for use with school groups | |



Peabody Sixth Grade
Center Principal
Glenda Sue Perkins

1999 Grants List

| | |
|--|---------|
| The United Hands for Youth Center | \$5,660 |
| Education and tutoring services for at-risk youth in unincorporated Concordia Parish | |
| Walk by Faith | 10,000 |
| Support services for clients moving from welfare-to-work | |

Arts and Humanities Initiative Grants

(One year unless otherwise indicated)

| | |
|--|--------|
| Alexandria Museum of Art | 15,320 |
| Pilot project to develop Institute for local teachers to enhance their arts skills and knowledge | |
| Arts and Humanities Council of Avoyelles | 30,000 |
| Reorganization of rural arts council and implementation of arts in education programs | |
| Family Playhouse | 40,500 |
| Implementation of arts programs in local schools designed to enhance math and science learning | |
| Family Playhouse | 20,000 |
| Lead organization for multi-agency presentation of "The King and I" | |
| LaSalle Arts Council | 25,000 |
| Matching funds for rehabilitation of site for rural arts center | |
| LaSalle Arts Council (2 years) | 50,000 |
| Reorganize council and develop and implement programs in Olla, Urania and Tullos | |
| Rapides Council on Aging | 38,300 |
| Start-up support for art gallery displaying and selling work of older adults | |
| Southern Forest Heritage Museum and Research Center | 28,150 |
| Development of an audio-visual educational theatre | |

Mini-Grants and Technical Assistance (One year time frame)

| | |
|---|--------|
| Arts and Humanities Council of Avoyelles | 10,000 |
| Strategic planning effort | |
| Ballet Alexandria | 7,700 |
| Support of reorganization of programming and parent support efforts | |
| Central Louisiana Community Theatre | 5,000 |
| Summer program featuring multi-cultural cast | |
| Central Louisiana Storytellers Guild | 4,421 |
| Intensive workshop for teachers on using storytelling techniques to enhance teaching and learning | |
| Family Playhouse | 10,000 |
| Scholarship funds to attract new students from low-income backgrounds | |
| Family Playhouse | 10,000 |
| Planning funds to work with successful childrens theatres from other parts of the country | |
| La Commission des Avoyelles | 10,000 |
| Planning funds for development of a rural museum | |
| Louisiana Colonial Trails Association | 10,000 |
| Completion of the Trails Management plan to preserve the historic routes of the settlement of Central Louisiana | |

1999 Grants List

| | |
|--|---------|
| Louisiana Creole Heritage Center | \$7,900 |
| Partial support of conference for educators on Creole history and heritage | |
| Louisiana Political Museum | 10,000 |
| Establishment of "live exhibits" featuring traditional Winn Parish trades and craftspeople | |
| Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony | 10,000 |
| Strategic planning effort | |
| Ole Frontier Opry | 4,500 |
| Support for effort to engage rural students as music participants | |
| Task Force for Childrens Arts | 5,000 |
| Participatory arts program for special education students at Alexandria Junior High | |
| Tom Peyton Memorial Arts Festival | 3,500 |
| Partial support for music festival featuring Louisiana musical performers | |



Health and Well-Being Initiative Grants

Healthcare Access Initiative

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Catahoula Parish Hospital Service District No. 2 (5 years) | \$500,000 |
| Establishment of dental clinic at Sicily Island Health Center | |
| Huey P. Long Memorial Auxiliary (2 years) | 60,000 |
| Support of the indigent prescription fund | |
| Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Region VI (3 years) | 279,475 |
| Targeted nurse home visiting for non-compliant diabetics | |
| LSU Health Sciences Center (1.5 years) | 272,995 |
| Establishment of medical services in Jonesville | |
| Shepherd Center (1 year) | 20,000 |
| Support of emergency prescription fund | |

Healthy Children Initiative

| | |
|---|----------|
| Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Region V (2.5 years) | 250,000 |
| Nurse home visiting and support program for at-risk mothers | |
| Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Region VI (3 years) | \$82,280 |
| Preventative health services and health-oriented staff training at large urban daycare center | |

1999 Grants List

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Pediatric Therapy Center (3 years) | 155,000 |
| Early intervention program for children not fitting traditional categories of severe developmental delay | |
| Winnfield Kindergarten School (3 years) | 78,303 |
| Matching funds for nurse-led early intervention program targeting three and four year olds | |
| Healthy Seniors Initiative | |
| Louisiana College (1 year) | 185,000 |
| Challenge funds for renovation of aquatic facility for use in senior aqua therapy and exercise programs | |
| Rapides Senior Citizens Center (1 year) | 25,000 |
| Partial funding for establishment of Deville Senior Center | |
| Rapides Senior Citizens Center (1.5 years) | 40,000 |
| Establishment of structured wellness programs at multiple senior center sites in Rapides Parish | |
| Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (2 years) | 175,000 |
| Partial funding for creation of Allen Parish aquatic therapy program and facility, and transportation systems planning | |
| Healthy Cenla Initiative | |
| Cenla Pride (1 year) | 38,000 |
| Establishment of environmental-education center in downtown Alexandria | |
| Concord Youth and Adult Association (2 years) | 42,000 |
| Support of volunteer-led recreation and tutoring programs by this Vidalia-based community group | |
| Garden District Neighborhood Foundation | 23,500 |
| To purchase small tracts of vacant property and create mini-parks | |
| Inner-City Revitalization Corporation (2 years) | 52,000 |
| Operating support for Alexandria-based group working on affordable housing issues | |
| Inner-City Revitalization Corporation (1 year) | 21,000 |
| Survey of all Alexandria and Pineville housing units to establish baseline assessment of housing conditions | |
| Health and Well-Being Responsive Grants | |
| Legal Services of Central Louisiana (2 years) | 36,000 |
| Paralegal services to assist women seeking orders of protection from spouse or partner | |
| United Way of Central Louisiana (2 years) | 75,900 |
| Development of web-based resource directory of health and human services in Central Louisiana | |
| United Way of Central Louisiana (3 years) | Up to 1,500,000 |
| Conclusion of matching funds program to motivate new donors | |
| Mini-Grants and Technical Assistance (One year time frame) | |
| Catahoula Council on Aging | 3,500 |
| Feasibility study for the development of an adult daycare center in Sicily Island | |
| Central Louisiana Area Health Education Center | 10,000 |
| Exploration of the feasibility of a teen health education center in Avoyelles Parish | |
| The Central Louisiana Community Foundation | \$5,000 |
| Board development and consultation for this new community foundation | |

1999 Grants List

| | |
|---|--------|
| The Central Louisiana Foundation Strategic planning on diversity issues | 10,000 |
| Community Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Resource Center Program and organizational development for this South Alexandria-based senior wellness group | 10,000 |
| Concord Youth and Adult Association Support services for Concordia Parish residents with sickle cell disease | 10,000 |
| The Extra Mile, Region IV Establishment of sexual assault crisis counseling services in Evangeline Parish | 10,000 |
| Grant Parish School Board Purchase of auditory and visual screening equipment | 4,520 |
| Hessmer Little League Matching funds for volunteer-led renovation of recreation facility | 6,000 |
| Hessmer, Village of Purchase of Jaws-of-Life equipment for use by volunteer fire department | 10,000 |
| Hope Development Center Renovation of space for use as clinical exam room for nurse health promotion program | 4,410 |
| Kisatchie Legal Services Video conferencing equipment to enhance ability to serve rural areas | 7,307 |
| LaSalle Council on Aging Preliminary work on establishment of new senior center | 10,000 |
| Marksville, City of Matching funds for establishment of walking track | 10,000 |
| Moms for Kees Park Matching funds for establishment of programs with Boys and Girls Club | 10,000 |
| Natchitoches Council on Aging Pilot project for intergenerational wellness and mentoring | 6,126 |
| New Scott Olly Baptist Church Pilot project for establishment of parish nurse program at South Alexandria church | 10,000 |
| Outpatient Medical Center Planning for Vernon Parish-based healthcare collaborative | 7,000 |
| Pediatric Therapy Center Conference expenses to develop staff knowledge on early childhood assessment techniques | 8,445 |
| Pineville, City of Purchase of computer software to establish senior citizen telephone reassurance program | 5,751 |
| Pineville, City of Purchase of automated external defibrillator units | 10,000 |
| Rapides Minority Development Corporation Planning assistance for South Alexandria based affordable housing group | 10,000 |
| Renaissance Home Organizational planning | 10,000 |
| Sisterhood of Central Louisiana Establishment of volunteer-led HIV/AIDS outreach program | 10,000 |
| Southern University – Center for Wellness Planning for diabetes program implementation in Concordia and Catahoula Parishes | 10,000 |
| United Hands for Youth Renovation costs for volunteer-led youth program | 5,040 |

Combined Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
 FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999, 1998 AND 1997

| | TWELVE MONTHS 1999 | TWELVE MONTHS 1998 | TWELVE MONTHS 1997 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS: | | | |
| INVESTMENT INCOME: | | | |
| Income on cash and long-term investments | \$3,827,477 | \$3,770,534 | \$3,353,528 |
| Gains and losses on securities | 7,882,450 | 9,866,596 | 10,868,037 |
| Equity in earnings of jointly owned companies | 6,298,231 | 2,696,809 | 9,448,581 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME | \$18,008,158 | \$16,333,939 | \$23,670,146 |
| INVESTMENT EXPENSE | 776,175 | 621,501 | 584,867 |
| NET INVESTMENT INCOME | 17,231,983 | 15,712,438 | 23,085,279 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | 35 | 200,241 | 428,729 |
| PROGRAM EXPENSES | | | |
| Grants | 4,698,303 | 4,005,075 | 3,779,800 |
| Development | 166,849 | 204,367 | 512,326 |
| Administration | 936,522 | 750,324 | 557,751 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES | \$5,801,674 | \$ 4,959,766 | \$4,849,877 |
| INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | | | |
| FROM OPERATIONS | 11,430,344 | 10,952,913 | 18,664,131 |
| EXPENSES FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS | 0 | (25,935) | 0 |
| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS | 11,430,344 | 10,926,978 | 18,664,131 |
| NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR | 191,374,894 | 180,447,916 | 161,783,785 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | \$202,805,238 | \$191,374,894 | \$180,447,916 |

Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31, 1999, 1998 AND 1997

| | TWELVE MONTHS 1999 | TWELVE MONTHS 1998 | TWELVE MONTHS 1997 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$6,036,721 | \$4,852,240 | \$10,906,102 |
| Accounts receivable | 0 | 0 | 40,283 |
| Prepaid expenses | 22,233 | 22,233 | 17,625 |
| Furniture and equipment | 90,960 | 75,172 | 51,779 |
| Assets whose use is limited | 388,415 | 697,737 | 563,114 |
| Long-term investments - marketable securities | 114,660,487 | 107,269,222 | 92,164,778 |
| Investments - at cost plus equity in | | | |
| Undistributed earnings | <u>88,330,379</u> | <u>86,313,347</u> | <u>87,155,539</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$209,529,195</u> | <u>\$199,229,951</u> | <u>\$190,899,220</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Accounts payable | 129,887 | 109,411 | 140,462 |
| Due to partnership | 858,824 | 991,754 | 965,819 |
| Retirement plan payable | 0 | 170,120 | 171,389 |
| Payroll, payroll taxes and benefits payable | 5,099 | 5,138 | 6,481 |
| Grants payable | 5,356,865 | 6,195,674 | 8,775,428 |
| Annuity obligations | <u>373,282</u> | <u>382,960</u> | <u>391,725</u> |
| Total Liabilities | \$6,723,957 | \$7,855,057 | \$10,451,304 |
| Net Assets - Unrestricted | <u>202,805,238</u> | <u>191,374,894</u> | <u>180,447,916</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | <u>\$209,529,195</u> | <u>\$199,229,951</u> | <u>\$190,899,220</u> |

Trustees, Staff and Advisors

Trustees

Harry B. Silver - Board Chairman

Chairman - Weiss & Goldring

James R. Byrd

Alexandria City Marshall

Richard L. Crowell, Jr.

Partner - Crowell Lumber

Vanda L. Davidson, M.D.

Physician

Wesley W. Davis, M.D.

Physician

M. Lawrence Drerup, M.D.

Physician

JoAnn W. Kellogg

Community Volunteer

Gail C. Little

Manager - Software Development

Time Trend, Inc.

Robert C. Morrison, M.D.

Physician

Gregory L. Nesbitt

President & CEO, CLECO

Gregory B. O'Quin

Registered Investment Advisor Rep.

Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp.

Bernard E. Patty, III, M.D.

Physician

Robert T. Ratcliff

President / Owner

Ratcliff Construction Co.

Daphne R. Robinson

Assistant District Attorney

Rapides Parish

Jane B. Texada

Educator

Community Volunteer

W. Foster Walker, III

President, Walker Oldsmobile

Paul M. "Mac" Davis, Jr., M.D.

Director Emeritus, Physician

Roane Hathorn

Director Emeritus

Retired - Rapides Bank

Staff

Joseph R. Rosier, Jr., CPA, CFA

President/CEO

Allen J. Smart, MPH

Program Officer

Patricia M. LaCour

Grant Administrator

Loretta T. Magee

Administrative Secretary

Cindy F. Middleton

Accountant

Margaret Daniel

Secretary

Flora S. Keys

Grant Technician

Advisors

Leonard Dawson, M.S.P.H.

Clinical Professor Emeritus

School of Public Health

University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill

John Hatch, Dr.P.H.

Program Staff, Health & Human Services

General Baptist State Convention

of North Carolina

Kenan Professor Emeritus

UNC School of Public Health, Chapel Hill

Kenneth J. Tewel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Education (ret.)

Program in School Administration

and Supervision

Queens College of the City University

of New York

Gina Upchurch, Rph, MPH

Executive Director, Senior PHARMAssist

Clinical Assistant Professor - UNC at

Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy

Adjunct Instructor - UNC Chapel Hill School

of Public Health

Dianne Williams

Organizational, Leadership and Rural

Community Development

Little Rock, Arkansas

J. Trent Williams

Principal

Regional Technology Strategies, Inc.

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Wolf, Keens & Co

Arts & Humanities

Program Advisor

1999 Board of Trustees Appointment

Alfred Mansour, Jr., M.D., began service as a Trustee in January of 2000. He is Chief of the Medical Staff of Rapides Regional Medical Center. An Alexandria native, Dr. Mansour is a Board Certified Radiologist and Fellow in the American College of Radiology.

Special Recognition

We wish to recognize the contributions of two Board members for their support of the Foundation. Richard Crowell, Jr. served as a Trustee from 1994-1999. Foster Walker, III began his service on the Board in 1992 and his term concluded in 1999.

Communicating Our Mission

During 1999 the communications strategy for the Foundation became more integrated with other organization activities, including programming and grants management. The goal is to provide timely information for the various audiences who need to access information about the Foundation, and also to use a variety of mediums to effectively communicate our mission in Central Louisiana.

To accomplish these objectives a number of communications strategies were implemented in 1999 as follows:

- Development of a quarterly issue-specific newsletter
- Quarterly publication of grant awards in the Alexandria Daily Town Talk
- Continuation of grant announcement workshops
- Informal question and answer sessions in each parish
- Television spots highlighted the Foundation's initiative areas
- Continued development of web site to include latest program information plus links to health and well-being sites — www.rapidesfoundation.org
- Establishment of 1-800 number for rural callers

Foundation communications will continue to play a key role during the year 2000. Communications activities will be evaluated for their effectiveness. In addition, an intensive research component will be designed to gather information for a comprehensive strategic marketing plan.

Coming in 2000

Project AED

Saving lives will be the focus of the Rapides Foundation's partnership with the American Heart Association. During the next year, \$200,000 will be provided for the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in a five-parish area. These devices are for the emergency treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

An additional \$150,000 is being earmarked to fund staffing and training materials for this effort. Volunteer Fire Departments in Rapides, Avoyelles, Grant, LaSalle and Winn parishes will be equipped and trained to use AEDs. These Departments are usually the First Responders in emergency situations.

Each minute of delay in returning the heart to its normal pattern of beating decreases the chances of survival by 7-10 percent. This is why the project's goal to provide AEDs to the First Responders in these rural parishes is so critical. Many times they make it to these emergencies within this critical "window of opportunity." Putting AEDs in their hands will truly mean the difference between life and death in these emergency situations.

Future goals include expanding this program to other parishes, and eventually putting AEDs not only in the hands of all emergency personnel, but also in schools, churches and other public places.



Application Process

Qualified organizations requesting funds through the Initiative or Responsive Grant Program should submit a Letter of Intent prior to the indicated deadline. Letters of Intent will be reviewed and the applicants will be notified if a full proposal is desired for further evaluation. Applicants will be notified of selection decisions approximately 30 days after the deadline for the Letter of Intent.

Applicants requesting funds for Mini-Grants (up to \$10,000) or Technical Assistance (up to \$10,000) can submit at anytime and a decision will be provided in 60 days or less.

First Stage: Letter of Intent (Initiative and Responsive Grants)

Before submitting a Letter of Intent under any of the grant programs, an applicant should request a brochure from the Foundation which details complete requirements and guidelines. Applicants are also encouraged to discuss their project with a Foundation Program Officer.

In a Letter of Intent applicants will be asked to address the following:

- Organizational mission
- Problem or need
- Risk factors
- Desired outcomes
- Strategy
- Sustainability

Selection Criteria

Applications for funding through the Grant Program are selected based upon criteria developed to reflect the Foundation's mission, philanthropic objectives and guiding principles. We encourage results-oriented projects that ...

- ▶ Address a problem or need reflected within the geographic area being targeted and affecting community health in the Rapides Foundation service area.
- ▶ Identify the risk factors or root causes of the problem and effectively address the risk factors or root causes of the problem and ultimately the problem itself.
- ▶ Increase the capacity of people and organizations to sustain community health improvements.

- ▶ Identify and measure desired project outcomes including milestones which indicate progress in resolving the indicated problem or need.

Second Stage: Project Proposal (Initiative and Responsive Grants)

If your Letter of Intent is favorably reviewed, you will be asked to submit a complete Project Proposal on or before the announced proposal deadline. You will have about 60 days to complete the full proposal. This second stage of the application includes a complete business plan with project description, workplan and timeline, staffing and other resource requirements, and an evaluation plan. A project budget and narrative describing the assumptions for preparation of the budget will be a part of the proposal. You will be provided an outline for the proposal requirements as well as a budget worksheet and instructions when you are notified that your Letter of Intent has been favorably reviewed. Project proposals should be submitted only at the request of the Foundation.

Evaluative Criteria

Proposals submitted at the request of the Foundation will be evaluated based upon additional criteria developed to indicate overall project feasibility. We seek innovative proposals that have a practical nature and that ...

- ▶ Receive community acceptance and support, and that support the values of the community.
- ▶ Can be effectively implemented in the proposed time frame by the applicant(s) who possess(es) the knowledge, skills, training and background necessary to administer the project.
- ▶ Employ strategies which are proven or otherwise hold a reasonable expectation for success.
- ▶ Include sufficient resources with the requested grant funds to launch the project and that indicate sustainability beyond the period of Foundation funding.

Grant Cycle Deadlines

Contact the Foundation for grant cycle deadlines or visit our web site at www.rapidesfoundation.org.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 11937 Alexandria, LA 71315-1937
318-443-3394 • 1-800-994-3394 • www.rapidesfoundation.org