

In just 10 years, The Rapides Foundation



has evolved into a nationally recognized



innovative philanthropy by developing



sustainable programs that will continue to



impact our community health, education

and economic development for decades to come.





MISSION



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.

OBJECTIVES

Philanthropic

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

HEALTHY PEOPLE

To improve access to quality healthcare, promote healthy behaviors and foster a safe and caring community.

EDUCATION

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

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

To improve opportunities for civic, business and cultural engagement leading to more effective and productive leaders, organizations and employment opportunities.

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A DECADE

Making a Difference

1994-1996

Highlights

Foundation Established • Trustee Research • First Grants
• Mission & Vision • Grant Guidelines Established •
Identify Determinants of Health • Community Health
Assessments Commissioned

1997-1998

Highlights

Tulane Community Health Assessment • Strategic
Grantmaking Framework • Board Retreat • Initiatives
Identified for Five Priority Areas • Education Initiative-
School Cycle Grants

1999-2000

Highlights

Community Development • Workforce Development
• Faith & Health • Board Retreat • AED Network
Operation Heartbeat • Cenla Medication Access
Program (CMAP)

2001-2002

Highlights

Community Development Works (CDW) Nonprofit
Management Classes • Board Retreat-Philanthropic
Review • Educators Leadership Institute (ELI) • 2002
Community Health Assessment • School-Based Health
Centers

2003-2004

Highlights

AED Network Operation Public Access • Redefined Service Area
• Redefined Initiatives • Parish Nursing • Walking Trails/
Playgrounds • Cenla Advantage Partnership (CAP)
• The Orchard Foundation • Systemic Initiative



Message from the President and Chairman



The 2003 annual report looked at many significant changes in the life of The Rapides Foundation – from our physical location, as we moved into our new building in the renovated Kress Five and Dime store in downtown Alexandria, to revised grant guidelines and service area.

In 2004 the Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary. For this year's report we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect back on a decade of service – taking an even longer view at where we've been, projects funded through the years, as well as mark some notable accomplishments by both our programs and our Foundation staff.

We'll also look at what our Foundation plans for the future to remain focused on our mission of improving the health and well-being of the communities of Central Louisiana.

History

On September 1, 1994 a reservoir of almost \$150 million was used to create the largest endowed charitable foundation in Louisiana, The Rapides Foundation. Although new to Central Louisiana as a grantmaking organization, The Rapides Foundation stems from a legacy of healthcare and community service that spans ten decades. It began in 1903 when a group of six physicians formed the 20-bed Alexandria Sanitarium at the corner of Second and Lee Street. The Louisiana Baptist Convention acquired the sanitarium in 1917 and operated it as the Baptist Hospital until 1970 when it was turned over to the community as Rapides General Hospital. From that point, the hospital flourished as Rapides Regional Medical Center and developed into one of the leading nonprofit, acute care hospitals in the state.

In 1994, a joint venture partnership with Columbia/HCA was formed, creating a pool of resources to enable and sustain the quality of living in Central Louisiana through grantmaking activities as The Rapides Foundation. Today the Foundation owns 26% of what is now Rapides Healthcare System, made up of Rapides Regional

Medical Center, Avoyelles Hospital in Marksville, Oakdale Community Hospital in Oakdale, Savoy Medical Center in Mamou and Winn Parish Medical Center in Winnfield.

Nationally Recognized Partner

This year's annual report includes quotes from leaders of several state, regional and national organizations that have partnered with the Foundation on a program or project or who have come to recognize the Foundation as a resource for building relationships. You will read their comments regarding the Foundation's unique ability to collaborate on local, state, regional and national levels, as well as to lead the way in creating innovative, sustainable, visionary programs.

Innovative

On occasion when reading about a Foundation program you will see "first of its kind or largest of its kind in a rural area." Two Foundation-funded programs fall under this category. The Cenla Medication Access Program that is now the largest privately funded medication access program serving a rural area in the United States and works with more than 160 area physicians. The AED Network with 450 life saving AED (Automated External Defibrillator) units throughout Central Louisiana and over 3,000 trained individuals in a population of only 350,000. According to the American Heart Association it is the largest AED implementation project in any rural area of the United States.

Sustainable

Our grantmaking focuses on developing and building programs that will be able to continue successfully or leave a significant impact on the overall health of the community even if its funding period ended today. These are sustainable programs. The Foundation's efforts have produced

Message from the President and Chairman



several sustainable, thriving organizations in the areas of health and education. One of our longest running and ever growing programs is the LSU Health Sciences Center's Family Practice Residency Program. Established in 1995 the program has now trained 42 residents, 25 of them have set up practices in Central Louisiana. Another long standing program is the Education Initiative. Since its founding in 1998 to present we have seen this program evolve from individual five year grants totaling close to \$10 million to 111 schools – to the now Systemic Initiative grants where we are working with all public school districts in our service area.

Along with the residency program, we have funded numerous other programs in the area of healthcare access with great success. Two examples are the Sicily Island Dental Clinic in Catahoula Parish and two School-Based Health Centers in Allen and Natchitoches parishes. The dental clinic is now providing services for over 7,000 appointments annually to the citizens of five Central Louisiana Parishes. The school-based health centers are providing comprehensive primary and preventive physical and mental healthcare to children K-12 in school settings.

Visionary

When asked to describe the work of the Foundation one of our consultants refers to our efforts as visionary. This is something we strive for in all of our programs. In 2005 the Foundation will continue the work of such visionary programs as the Cenla Medication Access Program, Community Development Works and Cenla Advantage Partnership. All these programs are detailed in this report.

We will also begin to see the development of new programs like the Central Louisiana Occupational

Health Nurses' *Wellness Works* project, which is working with six local employers to improve the health and well-being of all their employees, and the Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health's *Health Systems Development for Central Louisiana* in developing new sites in Central Louisiana where residents can receive primary healthcare services.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board and staff, we look forward to the next ten years, when we believe the new programs we are now supporting will also be called innovative, self-sustaining and visionary.



Joseph R. Rosier, Jr., CPA, CFA
President/CEO



Regionald Seastrunk
Board Chairman



Michael Ellerbee, M.D. (left) checks patient Ed Irwin at the Family Practice Residency Clinic while Michael Madden, M.D. observes.

PROGRAMS

Sustainable

LSU Health Sciences Center

Family Practice Residency Program



In 1995 one of the Foundation's initial grantmaking efforts was to award the LSU Health Sciences Center a \$5.3 million/five-year grant to start the community-based Family Practice Residency Program at Rapides Regional Medical Center. The project was developed to assist in recruiting, training and retaining residents/physicians in Central Louisiana's rural communities. This proposal was submitted in response to the state's rural physician shortage. Studies showed approximately two-thirds of all physicians established practices within 50 to 60 miles of their residencies.

In 1999 there were two graduates of the program and both are currently practicing in Central Louisiana; Dr. John Miller is located in Pineville, and Dr. Elizabeth Tenaglia is in Leesville. Since 1999, 42 residents have completed the program, 25 are currently practicing in Central Louisiana.

Since 1999, 42 residents have completed the program, 25 are currently practicing in Central Louisiana.



A 2000 graduate of the Family Practice Residency Program was Dr. Carole Holton (right), shown checking the heart rate of patient Margie Harris.

"My original intention was to go back to north Louisiana. I think the biggest part of choosing to stay, is that I now consider this home. The professional opportunity certainly presented itself to be here. Alexandria is a very progressive medical community for an area of its size, so there is an opportunity to practice in a smaller setting, but access very readily, state-of-the-art medicine. It is a great situation to be in."

Dr. Carole Holton

Education Initiative

The Education Initiative began in 1998 with a September kick-off meeting attended by over 90 schools. The Foundation's first grants in education were awarded in 1999 to individual schools in three cycles – schools in each cycle, or group received five year grants. The grants focused on improving student performance through enhanced professional development of both teachers and administrative staff.

As the interest and participation of local educators began to grow, the Foundation established the Educators Leadership Institute (ELI). ELI brought together superintendents, principals, teachers, and school administrators in Central Louisiana

to hear from and meet with recognized educators throughout the country.

The Foundation's Education Initiative reached a major milestone in 2004. It marked the end of the majority of school level grants and the beginning of a major new effort, the Systemic Initiative in Education. ELI helped accelerate the Foundation's involvement at the district level. The Systemic Initiative was launched to continue to strengthen district leadership teams as they accept direct responsibility for planning and implementing system-wide change in schools and districts.



Assistant Principal Ann Smith (center) and two Pickering Elementary teachers guide a group of students as they produce a writing assignment. Students from all grade levels at Pickering are actively involved in a program called "Write Track," resulting in improved student achievement.

"Using The Rapides Foundation grant money we instituted a reading program in the school called 'Write Track'. After we began the writing program our test scores improved. And the effects of the program were apparent not only in all grade levels but in all disciplines. Many of the skills that are indigenous to being good writers were also having a positive effect on student achievement in other areas as well. So overall the end result is improved student achievement."

Ann Smith, Assistant Principal, Pickering Elementary

Sicily Island Dental Clinic

In 1999, Catahoula Parish Hospital District #2 received a \$500,000/5 year grant for start-up and operational support for a dental program at Sicily Island Community Health Center.

Access to medical care is a major problem for a large number of rural residents in Central Louisiana. When health services are located many miles away from their homes, the cost and inconvenience of travel means that critical care

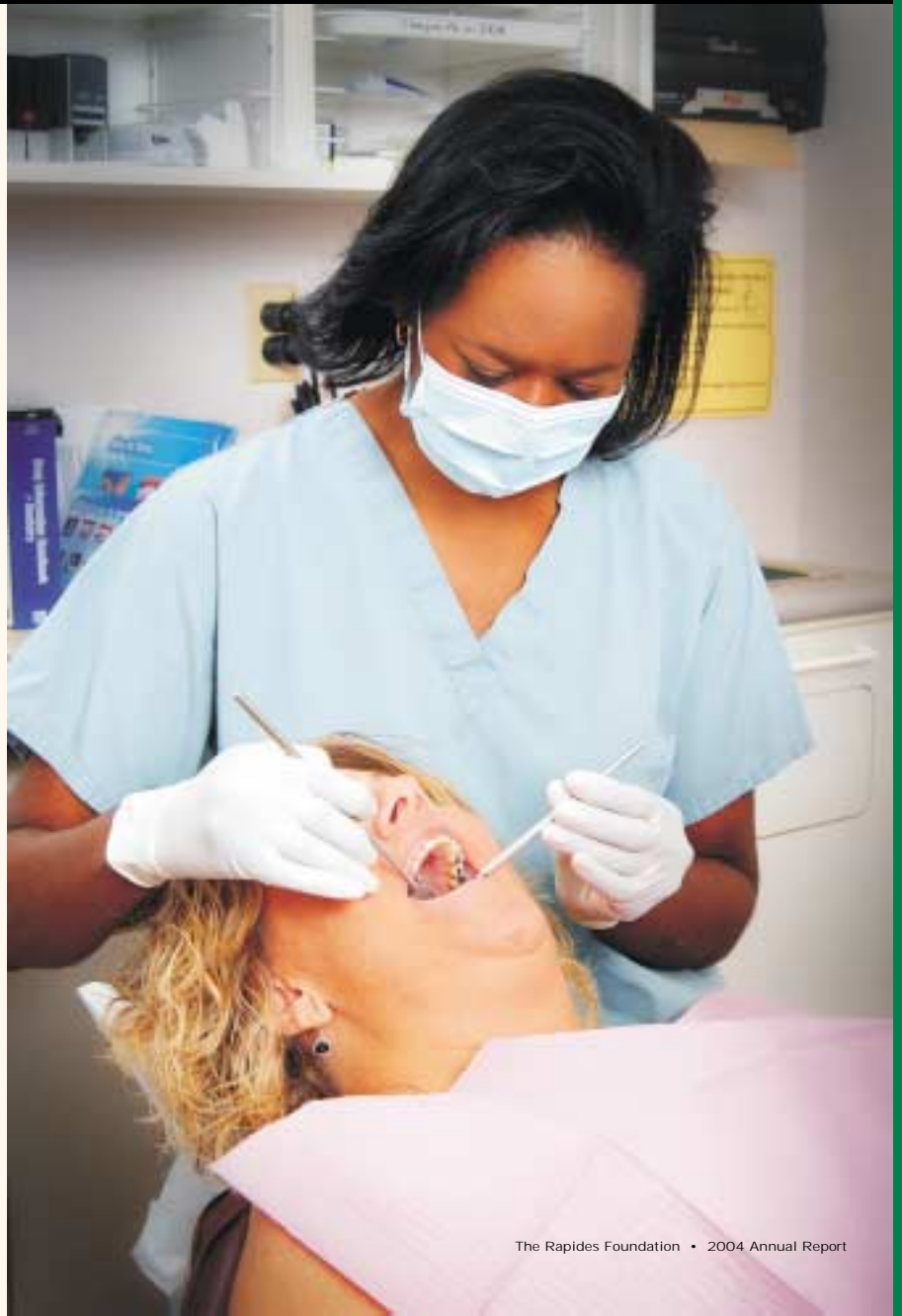
is delayed, and preventive care is often ignored completely.

By offering convenient, affordable healthcare close to home, the Sicily Island Community Health Center is making a difference in the lives of the people of its community and is an example of how a small group of committed individuals can impact the lives of thousands.

Dr. Nicole Thompson, Sicily Island Community Health Center, examines patient.

“At the Sicily Island Dental Clinic we were able to provide services to over 4,000 appointments in 2003. In 2004 that number increased to about 7,000. We continuously see more and more patients in need. We started with one full-time dentist and now we have two full-time dentists and a part-time dentist and dental hygienist. And we’re expanding care to the surrounding parishes and actually working with the public school systems, Head Start centers, and nursing homes.”

Emma Tarver
CEO, Catahoula Parish
Hospital District #2



Friendship House

In early 2000, the Friendship House Adult and Daycare Center received a \$120,000 grant to be paid over a period of three years. The Foundation funded this program for the enhancement of healthcare and marketing services of the agency as a regional resource for adult day services. Friendship House is currently the only licensed adult daycare center in Central Louisiana.



“We’re 23 years old but our most significant growth has really been in the last five to six years. The Rapides Foundation’s first initiative grant really was such a huge catalyst for helping us begin to move ahead. We were able to add several staff positions, increase our knowledge in many areas, and increase the care we offered, as well as gain more awareness in the community. It’s also opened up opportunities for us that weren’t directly connected to the grant simply because of our contact with the Foundation. And then the most recent grant we received helped us take everything we had learned and really move it to the next level as we plan for the future. I can’t say enough about the Foundation and how they have been instrumental in our becoming a model center in the state.”

Julie Morris (left)
Director of Friendship House

“The Rapides Foundation assistance certainly validated what we thought we were doing well. It helped us to reevaluate and critique ourselves in a more organized manner. It also helped us to just look at our future growth, where we need to go with some of the problems that we have such as transportation, and the facility itself. It certainly has given us a more in-depth understanding of what good we’re doing and what changes we need to make in improving the care that we’re giving.”

Ann Deshotels (right)
Former Board President of Friendship House



Seniors Aging with Grace and Energy (SAGE)

In 2000, the Community Senior Citizens Multipurpose Resource Center received an \$80,000 grant to be paid over two years for the implementation of various health and wellness activities for older adults in south Alexandria.



(top) Exercise class at the new Broadway Community Resource Center
(bottom) Water aerobics class at Peabody Magnet High School

"I don't know what we would have done without The Rapides Foundation. I hate to even try and speculate. They have been our rock from the very beginning. We started out from nothing. The grant was what allowed us to go out into the neighborhood and interview seniors and that's the way we got started. We were first simply a senior citizens group and after that we were able to add an exercise program called SAGE, Seniors Aging with Grace and Energy. We strive to get seniors out of the house and involved in the fellowship of our group. There's nothing like getting people together."

Daisy Dempsey
Executive Director, Community
Senior Citizens Multipurpose
Resource Center, Inc.

Workforce Development

In 2000, the first Economic Development (Workforce) Initiative Grants were funded. The Foundation made an investment in workforce development projects in Central Louisiana. Working with an initial group of 16 nonprofit organizations and private employers, the Foundation embarked on an ambitious quest to boost the area's overall economic health by improving both employee and company skills.

Rod Thomas
Quality Manager for AFCO Industries



“The Rapides Foundation grant helped a number of our employees, both our manufacturing and office people, either learn new skills or fine tune their current skills in such areas as computer software for example, and statistical process control for another. They were able to learn skills that made them eligible to move to different level jobs. This allowed us to stay in business and be competitive.

The skills the employees learned helped us, one, by improving the quality of the product going to the customer which obviously you have to do to stay in business. It also helped us to become more proficient time wise. Speed and money...that helps the company stay in business.

We're a relatively small company and without The Rapides Foundation grant we would not have been able to offer this training. Take for example the software training. We ended up having say, ten people who picked up software know-how versus one or two we would have had otherwise. So the grant expanded the number of people who could do certain jobs.”



Workforce Development

Jessie Campbell
Owner of Price Automotive

“Giving technicians extra training like the grant provided, gives us a stronger workforce. An employer has the opportunity to put a tech on board that doesn’t have to start from scratch, doesn’t have to start at the bottom of the ladder. The less training that you have to give them the better off you are. So if you can get them coming in with quality training, it helps you. It also enlarges the field of trained techs for an employer to choose from. You end up with a stronger workforce.”

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

In 2001, the Rapides Children's Advocacy Center was granted \$93,000 over two years to develop an intensive volunteer recruitment and retention program focusing on recruitment of minority volunteers to serve as court appointed advocates for abused children through the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

David Sikes
Executive Director of Rapides Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

"The grant helped us grow tremendously over that period of time. We exceeded our goal for volunteer recruitment allowing us to serve even more children than we would have been able to otherwise. Our program focus is on abused and neglected children and what we do is train everyday people, just regular community citizens to track the cases of children who have been removed from their homes and make sure that they don't slip through the cracks of the system. So the funding from The Rapides Foundation helped us gain a very good foundation for our program in the community.

I think what the grant did; it helped us gain entry into segments of our community to better help us reach out further and let people learn about what we do. Before someone can volunteer they have to know first that we even exist and through the Foundation's dollars we were able to devise a media campaign that consisted of all forms of access; through outdoor advertising, television advertising, radio advertising and print media. All of those things which allowed us to distribute our information to a wider audience."

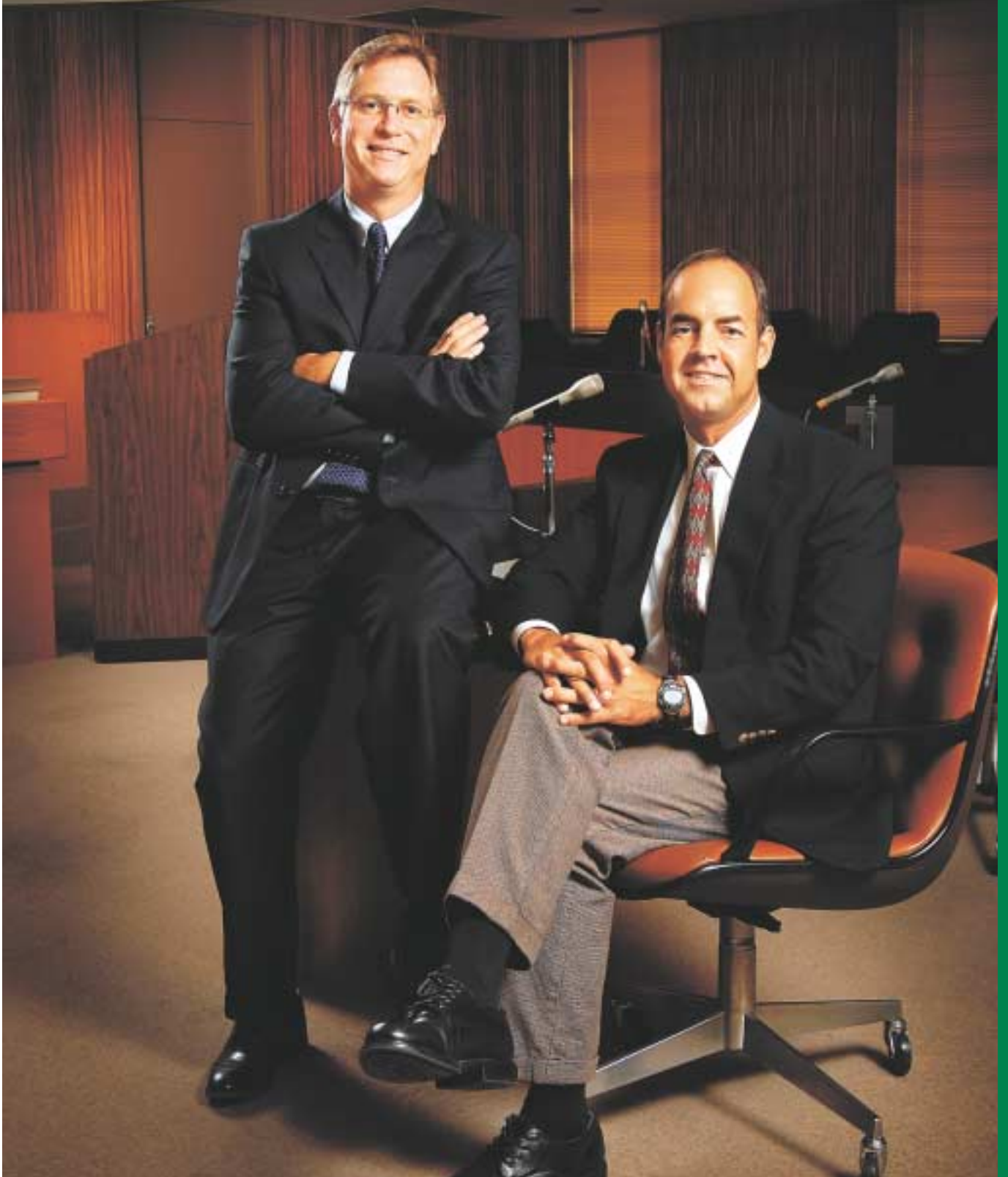
Mark Vilar
Former Board President of Rapides Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

"I think the grant had a substantial impact. It helped create and increase the awareness of CASA in the community. It increased the awareness of our need for volunteers to help represent these abused and neglected children as they go through the legal process. I know in fact that it was successful. The goal originally was to try to recruit 100 volunteers. Ultimately they recruited approximately 120 volunteers, so they met and exceeded the goal by 15 to 20 percent.

The services that the CASA organization provides is directly related to the volunteers that we have. The actual employees of CASA only indirectly provide the services to the kids. It's the actual volunteers that interact with the children every day. So as we increase the number of volunteers that in turn allows us to serve more and more children. And that was the impact we felt from the grant. The grant allowed us to increase volunteers which substantially increased the number of children we could serve.

I'll tell you what else it did. Much of The Rapides Foundation money was spent toward increasing minority participation at CASA. And at the end of the grant period our minority volunteer participation was higher than the national average for CASAs across the country, which it had not been before. So I think that's a significant point; that it helped us increase minority participation which is obviously a substantial resource of people that could help us. The grant helped us get access to that group of people."

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



David Sikes (left), Executive Director and Mark Vilar, former Board President of Rapides Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

School-Based Health Centers

In mid 2001, the Natchitoches Parish School Board received a technical assistance grant for the planning and development of a school-based health center to be located at Natchitoches Central High School. The following year they were awarded a three year, \$500,000 grant for the establishment of a model high school school-based health center to emphasize risk reduction and disease management programs. Later that same year another school-based health center was funded in Allen Parish at Oakdale High School.

Edwina Hayward (left)
Social Worker at Natchitoches Central
School-Based Health Center

“Oh my goodness yes, the health center has been a success. Our interest is to keep the children in school and to keep the parents on the job and we’ve been able to do that. In addition to the medical side we do a whole lot of education. As a social worker I go into the classrooms every month and talk about one specific issue like an abstinence program to prevent teenage pregnancy, which is over and above what the teachers were asking of us.

I feel like I’ve been able to pull families together. If a student has a problem at home they can’t focus in the classroom. So when a student comes to me with a problem I’ll have family sessions and try to get to the root of the problem. When you create a healthier home environment then that student can go to school and focus on their studies and you’ll see their grades go up. That just makes my heart swell. I’m very proud of the health center as all of us are.”



Elwanda Murphy (right)
Superintendent of Schools in Natchitoches Parish

“I think that the school-based health center at Natchitoches Central High School is helping to meet both medical and emotional or social issues for many students. We are able to meet some needs there that otherwise we would not be able to meet. The main thing is that many of our students that need medical services but may not be getting them otherwise are taking advantage of our center. Every year our total enrollment has grown and the number of visits has also grown. The end result is healthier students and less absenteeism.”

School-Based Health Centers



Kristy Landry
Nurse Practitioner at Oakdale School-Based Health Center

“I think the grant has been great because the kids can access care immediately and on their own. They don’t have to wait three days for a doctor’s appointment. They don’t have to wait for their parents to get off work. It also keeps them from missing class. The care is right there for them when they need it.

The Center is great. I live in another parish and I wish my children had the opportunity to have this kind of center. People around here ask me about my job and they have no clue about what a school-based health center does, but after I tell them how great it is they all wish they could have one for their kids.”

PARTNERS

State, Regional and National



Fred Cerise, MD, MPH, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

As most of you are aware, Governor Kathleen Blanco has made reform of Louisiana's public healthcare system a top priority of her

administration. This commitment began immediately following her election when she convened the first-ever Healthcare Summit.

In response to Governor Blanco's request, The Rapides Foundation hosted the Healthcare pre-Summit meeting for Region VI. In February 2004 more than 200 people attended a pre-Summit meeting at the Foundation building in downtown Alexandria.

Following the pre-summit, the governor urged each region to form a consortium to ensure that proposed solutions to Louisiana's healthcare problems came from the people who are most affected and most knowledgeable. The Region VI consortia was formed with Joe Rosier, President and CEO of The Rapides Foundation as the chairperson. Mr. Rosier presented the consortia's finding at the state Healthcare Summit later in the year. To date, approximately 400 people across the state have joined a regional healthcare consortium. Each consortium is linked with Governor Blanco's Healthcare Reform Panel.

I want to use this opportunity as a way of thanking Mr. Rosier for chairing the Region VI Consortium, and the many dedicated members who have volunteered their time to the healthcare reform effort. It is through this work at the local level that we will one day be able to see our friends and neighbors live longer, healthier lives ... with the supports and services that best meet their needs.



Michael J. Olivier, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Economic Development works the best when the state and regional partners cooperate to pursue business. The

Governor and Louisiana Economic Development are placing a priority on building good relationships with organizations like Cenla Advantage Partnership. We are looking forward to working together and building on the momentum of the successes of Union Tank Car, General Motors, and Roy O. Martin, just to name a few.



Cecil J. Picard, Superintendent, Louisiana State Department of Education

The role of school leaders to impact instruction and student achievement cannot be underestimated.

Research tells us what many of us know from observation – it takes an effective principal to make a successful school.

The department has launched the Louisiana Educational Leaders Network to aggressively target the needs of educational leaders throughout our state – to recruit, prepare, induct, and support these leaders.

The work of The Rapides Foundation in the leadership arena supports and enhances department leadership initiatives. The department encourages the Foundation's effort and looks forward to continued collaboration in this and other areas.

State, Regional and National Partners



Becky Bowers Lanier, EdD, RN, MPH, Consultant, Macaulay & Burtch, P.C.

In late 2004 The Rapides Foundation contracted with Macaulay & Burtch, P.C. to assess its nursing workforce efforts. Ms. Lanier has

ten years experience with nursing workforce development work at the national level, having served as the Deputy Director of Colleagues in Caring: Regional Collaborative for Nursing Workforce Development, a national program funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also has two decades of experience in nursing education.

In my interaction with The Rapides Foundation, I was totally impressed with its commitment to the community. In a very proactive way, the Foundation allocated considerable funds and human resources into working with the health care community in Central Louisiana on strategies to prevent a nursing shortage. By 2020, the nation is predicted to have a shortage of 800,000 nurses, and nurses are the linchpin between healthy and poor patient outcomes. The Foundation funded the Central Louisiana Nursing Workforce Coalition to address issues around the shortage. The Coalition conducted a public relations recruitment campaign and established a successful mentoring program for nursing students. These activities would not have happened without the guidance and stewardship of The Rapides Foundation.



Martin C. Lehfeldt, President, Southeastern Council of Foundations

The Southeastern Council of Foundations is a membership association of grantmaking foundations and

programs that promotes excellence throughout the field of philanthropy and the creation of new philanthropic resources to benefit the region.

Since the foundation's establishment, the board and staff of The Rapides Foundation have devoted time and resources to refining their skills at grantmaking and philanthropic management. I doubt that we have ever had a member whose leadership has been more involved with us than The Rapides Foundation. Board and staff are regular in attendance at our Annual Meetings and take advantage of many of the other services we offer. We're especially pleased that Rapides has also had three of its staff participate in our unique Hull Fellows Program – designed to assist new and/or young board and staff hone their leadership gifts.



State, Regional and National Partners



**Hilda R. Heady,
President, National
Rural Health
Association**

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) recognizes rural health leaders whose dedication and commitment exemplify the highest standards of rural

healthcare and service. It is a member association of more than 9,000, and is THE voice of rural health, promoting leadership, communication, education, research, and advocacy since 1978.

The dedication of The Rapides Foundation's Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) is to be commended. Programs like these are making a difference, they are the heart and soul of rural healthcare, and we celebrate them as we highlight what makes rural truly unique and special – not just different.

CMAP is committed to working in rural areas to improve access, equity and quality of care to an entire population that is often times under-served and under-funded. The strength of the NRHA and of our rural communities is because of leadership like The Rapides Foundation to put this program in place.



**Katherine Kraft,
Former Senior
Program Officer, The
Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health

care of all Americans. It works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

Most foundations have a difficult time collaborating. The Rapides Foundation has gone out of its way to become a model for developing good relationships with national and regional foundations to lead the way in developing partnerships.

It is not easy for national foundations to do good grantmaking at a local level. The Rapides Foundation is on the cutting edge of how you define the important issues for a region. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has looked to their board and staff for assistance and advice to strengthen its efforts in this area.

The relationship between these foundations has matured over time and we are now positioned to chart the course for collaboration in the next century.



State, Regional and National Partners



**Lauren LeRoy, Ph.D.,
President and CEO,
Grantmakers In
Health**
Grantmakers In
Health (GIH) is a
nonprofit,
educational
organization
dedicated to helping
foundations and
corporate giving

programs improve the nation's health. Its mission is to foster communication and collaboration among grantmakers and others, and to help strengthen the grantmaking community's knowledge, skills, and effectiveness. Formally launched in 1982, GIH is known today as the professional home for health grantmakers, and a resource for grantmakers and others seeking expertise and information on the field of health philanthropy.

The Rapides Foundation has consistently shown its commitment to Grantmakers In Health and the field through both its financial support and the generosity of its board and staff in sharing lessons and practical advice from their work. Its active participation has aided GIH in furthering its mission of helping grantmakers improve the nation's health.

**GRANT
MAKERS
IN
HEALTH**



**Barbara Newhouse,
Vice-President of
Field Operations,
Alzheimer's
Association**
The Alzheimer's
Association is the
world leader in
Alzheimer's research
and support. It is the
first and largest
voluntary health

organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and an eventual cure for this disease.

The Alzheimer's Association has moved its Louisiana Chapter from New Orleans to Alexandria. Alexandria is much more centrally located to cover the entire state. We've got a good, strong grouping of volunteers in the Alexandria area, and it's our sense that it's going to be easier to build from Alexandria as the core and reach out across Louisiana, than to be positioned in one side of the state.

The level of support we have received from The Rapides Foundation is striking to me; it does not exist elsewhere throughout the country. It is my sincere hope that with its support and the community's ongoing commitment, that we will achieve nothing less than a hundred percent success!

alzheimer's  association®

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2004 Notable

The Foundation would like to recognize the following state, regional and national accomplishments of 2004.

Joseph R. Rosier, President and CEO continues his service to the Robert Wood Johnson Southern Rural Access National Advisory Committee (NAC). Southern Rural Access Program is a regional effort to improve access to basic healthcare in eight of the most underserved rural states in the country. These eight states include; Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, East Texas and West Virginia. The National Advisory Committee is a diverse group of experts who advise the Foundation on all aspects of the program.

Allen J. Smart, Vice President of Programs serves on the board of the Local Initiative Funding Partners. This board is a partnership between The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and local grantmakers such as The Rapides Foundation, supporting innovative, community-based projects to improve health and healthcare for underserved and at-risk populations.

Vicki Bernard, Director of Communications was appointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco to serve on the Louisiana Commission on Women's Policy & Research. The Commission is chiefly responsible for advising the governor on women's policy. It identifies and analyzes trends of negative impact regarding health and prosperity of women. The commission proposes possible solutions to particular hardships, needs and concerns.

Wendy Roy, Program Manager for the Cenla Medication Access Program was selected to attend the Hull Leadership Program sponsored by the Southeastern Council of Foundations. The Program is intended to nurture and inspire the Southeast's next generation of philanthropic leaders through opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Operation Public Access Phase II – These lifesaving units are now in public places - from churches and schools, to malls, office buildings, stadiums, and other locations where large groups gather. By September of 2004, 225 AEDs had been placed for this phase of the project and over 3,000 Central Louisiana residents had received AED/CPR training.

Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center Dedication – The arts center, built at the corner of Lee and Third streets in downtown Alexandria at a cost of slightly more than \$9 million, opened in August of 2004. It seats 615 and has been the site of more than 50 events, ranging from plays to a wedding reception, in its first year. The center, which is owned by the city, was built with money received from a mixture of grants and private fundraising. The biggest gifts were \$4 million from The Rapides Foundation, \$3 million from the state of Louisiana and \$2 million – half for construction and half for an operating endowment – from the Coughlin-Saunders Foundation. The center was built on land donated to the city by McCormick & Co., former owners of The Town Talk.

Educators Leadership Institute (ELI) Workshops at Tall Timbers – ELI workshops concluded in April at Tall Timbers in Woodworth. ELI was a year-long series of six focused, intensive workshops creating knowledge, skill and attention to instructional leadership. Parish ELI teams are cross-disciplinary teams, usually school grant recipients selected by the Superintendent and central office supervisors.

Frye Dedication – Along with the new Foundation headquarters – 2004 also marked the opening of the new Frye Nonprofit Development Center located on the second floor of the new Rapides Foundation Building and dedicated to Ray and Minnie Lee Frye. Ray Frye was a well-known civic leader in Alexandria until his death in 1994. Frye and his wife Minnie Lee were known for their philanthropic activities.

Notable Accomplishments

Learning Lab Opening – Located on the first floor of The Rapides Foundation Building, the CDW Learning Lab is a place for Cenla residents, community groups, and nonprofit organizations to access technical assistance, information, publications, and databases that assist them in planning programs and projects in their communities. The Learning Lab houses a nonprofit and community development library and small computer center for prospect and program research.

Lewin Report Released – In 2003, The Rapides Foundation contracted with The Lewin Group, a national healthcare policy-consulting firm, to conduct an intensive assessment of the programmatic and financial environment of primary and hospital services for the medically indigent and describe options for an affordable and more effective system of delivery. The findings were released in May of 2004 in a report titled *Assessment of the Healthcare Safety Net Needs and Services in Central Louisiana*, which can be found on the Foundation Web site www.rapidesfoundation.org.

New Web site Launched – During 2004 the Foundation's Web site was completely redesigned to make it more streamlined and to present only the most pertinent information needed by our diverse audiences. The graphics and various pages mimic this new style of our program materials. Other new tools were added with the redesign process. The home page now features Foundation headlines and a search tool to take users directly to their point of interest. These items make the Web site much easier to navigate.

Parish Nurses Graduate First Class – Cenla Faith & Health Nursing Network graduated its first class of parish nurses in May of 2004. Eighteen nurses representing various congregations and healthcare systems around Alexandria were among the first graduating class. The program is now expanding to surrounding parishes.

Regional Communications Awards – The Rapides Foundation earned eight awards for outstanding communications at the annual Southern Public Relations Federation Conference. These awards include three Awards of Excellence and five Certificates of Achievement.

Systemic Initiative Grants Awarded – The Foundation moved to working at the school district level. The Systemic Initiative in Education provides districts with a vehicle which allows them to continue their progress as the five-year school grants come to an end.

10th Anniversary Celebration – All current and prior Foundation Board members, representatives from grantee organizations, as well as numerous community, business and political leaders were invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Foundation which opened its doors in September of 1994.

Open House for The Rapides Foundation Building – In addition to the Foundation's 10th anniversary, we also celebrated moving into our new location in downtown Alexandria. The Rapides Foundation is now housed in the historic former Kress Department Store.

The Orchard Foundation Public Kick-Off – The Rapides Foundation has earmarked \$600,000 for the next three years for the Local Education Fund (LEF) now called The Orchard Foundation. The Orchard foundation has been created to generate broad community support within the Central Louisiana region for education improvement and to encourage, support, and direct reforms.



UPDATES

Ongoing Projects

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program

By the end of 2004, over 450 AEDs had been placed with some 275 organizations from paid police and fire professionals to small rural churches. Over 3,000 First Responders and Community Volunteers have received CPR/AED training through this project. Thousands of local residents continue to be trained and recertified in CPR and AED protocols as a result of the program. The Foundation is committed to maintaining the AED network and contracted with local ambulance service MedExpress to monitor the use and upkeep of the equipment and to maintain the high level of user readiness.

In July of 2004, Gregory Brooks, Winnfield Correctional Center guard collapsed after finishing a qualifying run. Luckily, Lonnie Smith, S.O.R.T. Commander at the center had received AED/CPR training through the AED Network and knew the steps in the Chain of Survival. Because of Lonnie's quick thinking Mr. Brooks is alive today.



Gregory Brooks (left) with Lonnie Smith.



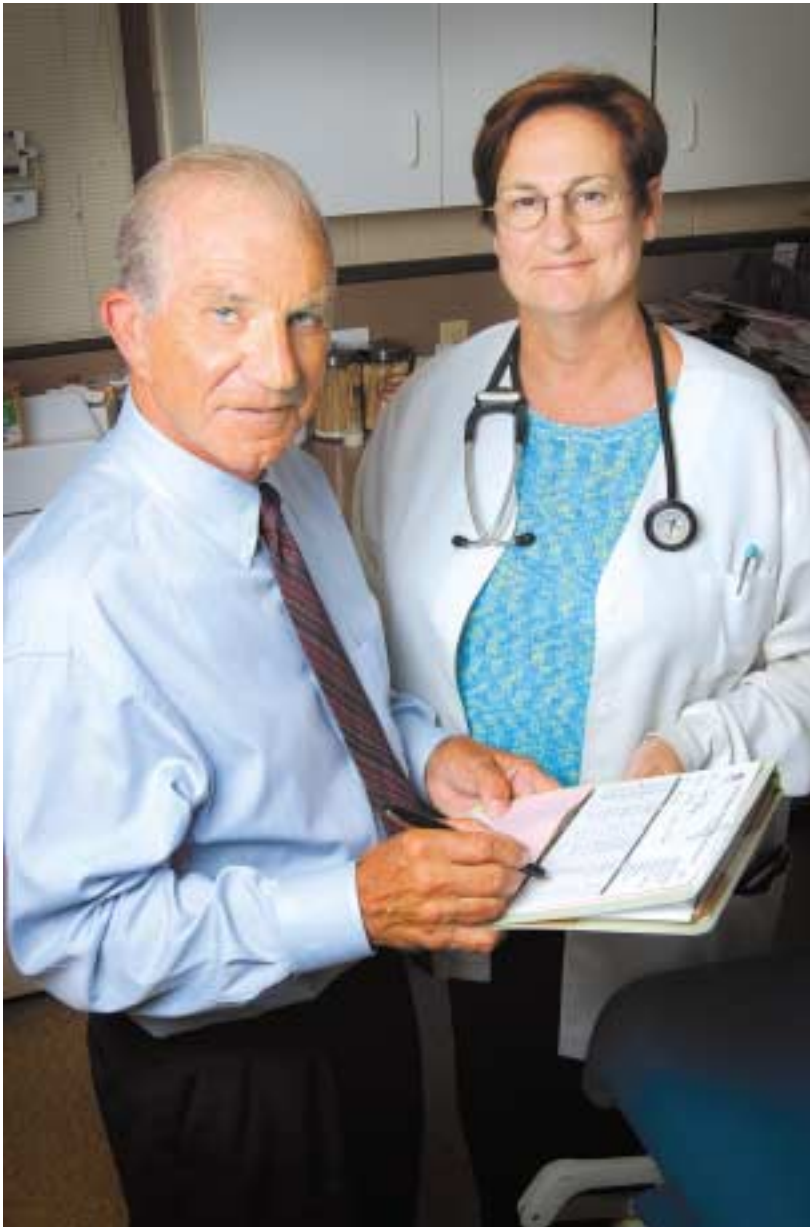
Lonnie Smith, S.O.R.T. Commander
Winnfield Correctional Center

Automated External Defibrillator
AED
network

Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP)

CMAP is a program that is helping provide medications for chronic conditions, as well as medication education on the importance of appropriate medication usage. The Rapides Foundation is funding a three-part approach to help individuals receive their medications. Each part of the program is different so that CMAP is able to reach as many people in rural Central Louisiana as possible to help them receive their needed prescription medications. The components are (1) a patient enrollment program at the region's public hospital, Huey P. Long Medical Center-England Airpark Outpatient Pharmacy, (2) the CMAP Card System, and (3) the Patient Assistance Program (PAP).

Four years old and growing stronger every day - In 2004 CMAP added two new locations to their Patient Assistance Program (PAP), one for Avoyelles Parish and one for Catahoula-LaSalle Parishes. CMAP is now the largest privately funded medication access program serving rural areas in the United States. As of December 2004, CMAP has saved close to 5,000 uninsured and underinsured residents of Central Louisiana over \$15 million with the assistance of 163 area physicians.



Don Hines, M.D. and Mary Hood, FNP, Nurse Practitioner discuss patient medication information at the Bunkie Health Clinic. Dr. Hines has been referring patients to CMAP since 2002.

**Cenla Medication
Access Program**



Community Development Works (CDW)

In 2000, The Rapides Foundation launched Community Development Works to provide nonprofit leadership training and grassroots organizational development. Today the development and support of nonprofit organizations and community leadership continues to be a major basis of Foundation work as we strengthen the programs of CDW. In 2004, an exciting program called *Board Builders* debuted—where young professionals are loaned by local companies to be trained in sound nonprofit Board practices then matched with local nonprofits that have committed to place these individuals on their Boards and mentor them through their early days of Board membership. 2005 will see the continued growth of the Learning Lab, a center for all resources and research materials related to nonprofits – located on the first floor of the Foundation’s building.



Felicia Walker, CDW Learning Lab director, gives a lab orientation.

Board Builders Program participants from Rapides Parish: (Front row L to R) Tracy Nash, Hibernia Bank; Jodie Peart, Rapides Regional Medical Center; Rishella Malveaux, Paragon Casino Resort; Lisa Oney, International Paper; and Andrew Cutrer, Red River Bank. (Back row L to R) Cade Young, Martco; Susan Broussard, Cleco and John Hall, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital.



Region VI Healthcare Consortia

With healthcare a dominant part of her platform, newly elected Governor Kathleen Blanco pledged that the first 90 days of her administration would see the formation of a high level Governor's panel. In 2004, we began participating in regular meetings hosted by the Department of Health and Hospitals in response to opportunities that were being made available to develop some enhanced strategies on serving the uninsured. Foundation President and CEO Joseph Rosier is Chair of the Region VI Consortia, enabled by legislation to provide local input to the Governor's Healthcare Panel.

The Foundation is a very active participant as the Governor's office and the Department of Health and Hospitals develop and provide direction for the legislature. In response to a request from the Office of the Governor, Consortia are now meeting in each region of the state to seek solutions to healthcare issues facing Louisiana. The Foundation, as part of its expressed work on the healthcare access issue, will continue to be involved in considering state and regional solutions to providing care for the thousands of uninsured in the area.



Burton Michot, RN (left) emergency room nursing supervisor with Cindy Vanlangendonck, BSN, RN, director of nursing at Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville.

Walking Trails/Playgrounds

December 2004 marked the end of the first phase of the Walking Trail program. Funding has been provided for 20 walking trails, and the program has been a resounding success – particularly in smaller communities throughout the region where the projects have spurred on some very visible signs of communities coming together for a single purpose. The playground grants program, a similar effort, has been successful in stimulating new funding opportunities and brought to prominence the need for informal places for children to meet, play and exercise.



Children enjoying Natchitoches Walking Trail and Playground at Town South Park.

FUTURE

Looking to the Future

Alzheimer's Association

2004 saw the establishment of both a regional and statewide presence for the Alzheimer's Association after an absence of at least five years from Central Louisiana. We are very excited that the state Chapter office of the National Alzheimer's Association moved from New Orleans to Alexandria. This transition to Alexandria is largely the result of The Rapides Foundation's commitment to help establish a presence on the issue of Alzheimer's for the region.

The national office has recognized the strong regional leadership that has developed over the

past year and sees Cenla as a major site for opportunities in education, support and rural systems development. The Foundation responded to informal groups of local caregivers and other advocates in whose goals are also improving care for chronic conditions.

We hope that 2005 will bring heightened community interest in the issue and begin the development of enhanced systems of care for patients, caregivers and families.

Alzheimer's patients enjoying a craft activity at Friendship House.



Cenla Advantage Partnership

CAP

Cenla Advantage Partnership

A private nonprofit economic development organization



2004 saw the formation of a nine-member Steering Committee, and the initiation of the private sector fundraising effort for this unique challenge grant from the Foundation. For every \$1 raised in the private sector, the

Foundation will make available \$1 of funds as a match for this new regional private sector economic development organization. CAP's goal is to create greater wealth for the region in the form of more effective and prosperous businesses able to develop and trade in higher value added products and pay higher wages.

2005 will see the formation of CAP's 18 member Board, incorporation of the organization and recruitment efforts to hire a strong top-flight management team.

CAP Concepts

- Cenla Companies
- Value Added
- National CEO Search
- Collaborate to Compete
- Private Sector
- Import Cash



**Jim Clinton, Executive Director,
Southern Growth Policies Board**

Southern Growth Policies Board is a non-partisan public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for partnership and dialogue among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the economic and community development sectors. This unique public-private partnership is devoted to strengthening the South's economy and creating the highest possible quality of life. It is supported by memberships from 13 Southern states – Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia – and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“Most institutions, even very good ones, underachieve in relation to their own goals. It's perfectly normal to have hopes and aspirations that are higher than we ever quite manage to attain. I think that The Rapides Foundation has accomplished exactly the opposite.

As a hospital conversion foundation, you might expect the Foundation to do well in its healthcare investments. You would be surprised, however, to see it take on broader workforce issues and be successful at it, but The Rapides Foundation has also done that.

Now it has moved into still more challenging territory, seeking to reimagine and reinvent how economic development takes place in Central Louisiana. The creation of the Cenla Advantage Partnership is a brave and visionary action. When Southern Growth Policies Board recommended the creation of Regional Prosperity Alliances (in our 2005 Report on the Future of the South), we cited the efforts of The Rapides Foundation as the kind of actions that it would take for a region to transform its economy and sustain that transformation.”

Health Systems Development for Central Louisiana

After a year-long developmental process, the Louisiana Department of Rural Health and Primary Care received a grant for \$750,000 over three years for an intensive regional approach to developing various new sites in Central Louisiana where local residents can receive affordable, basic primary healthcare services. These sites will use various federal and state programs to assist them in subsidizing care for the uninsured. While these programs have been active in other states, and in

other parts of Louisiana, they have not been successfully implemented on any scale in our region.

In 2005, the state team will be working throughout the region inviting communities and parishes to participate; developing and completing the initial round of state and federal applications in association with local hospitals, municipalities and community groups.

Dr. E. Edward Ughovwa and Nurse Practitioner Colleen Unkel discuss patient treatment at the Kinder Clinic, one of the sites participating in the Health Systems Development program.



Wellness Works in Cenla

2004 began the pilot period for a group of companies, led by their occupational health nurses, interested in supporting improvements in their employees' health and, undoubtedly, the health of their business and the community at large. A variety of strategies are being tested - including programs that focus directly on losing weight, healthier eating at work, self-care of chronic conditions and regular exercise. This collaborative is a unique venture drawing national interest. Most targeted worksite wellness work to date has included mostly upper management level employees. Wellness Works focuses on hourly workers with support and involvement from upper management.

In 2005, the Foundation is challenging the companies to commit to some long-term strategies that will likely include significant changes in internal human resource and management practices.



(top) Richard Poche of Procter & Gamble

(left) Cleco employees utilize the company fitness center to fulfill their Wellness Works prescribed exercise programs. (front) Bobby Gordon , (back I-r) Emeal Jones, Mary Clifton, Sylvia Kerry and Mary Covington



(top) Linda Dotson, RN, BSN and Nurse Manager at the VA Medical Center and a graduate of the Foundation's Parish Nursing program.
(bottom) Chawn Texada, RN, ADN, school nurse at South Grant Elementary School, administers hearing tests for elementary school children.



Healthy People

Program Priority Summary

Healthcare Access	An unacceptable number of community members cannot get the medical, dental and mental health services they need as a result of one or more of the following: lack of private insurance, shortage of available Medicaid providers, long waiting times for appointments with publicly-funded services, cost of medication, problems getting to services and, in some cases, shortages of certain types of medical, dental and mental health professionals.
Healthcare Access Infrastructure	The availability and affordability of local healthcare services is constantly being impacted by changes in state and federal funding. The Foundation may support assessments and programs that seek to better integrate systems of care for all community members, with specific emphasis on new or enhanced systems for the uninsured and underinsured.
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	The historic public health work by William Foege and J. Michael McGinnis has conclusively demonstrated that at least 50% of all illness and death is directly connected to lifestyle choices. Proposals are particularly encouraged that clearly identify and link existing services in ways that make these services understandable, comprehensive, and effective.
Participatory Arts Programs	Increasingly, clinical health professionals and health educators are effectively incorporating professionals from the artistic disciplines as part of both preventive health practices and disease treatment programs.

Education

K-12 Grants Programs	Although closed to new schools, the Foundation currently has grants with about 35 K-12 schools.
Systemic Change Initiative	To engage all nine area school districts more deeply in the type of school improvement work that the Foundation has supported over the last five years through its K-12 grants.
The Orchard Foundation	The Foundation has established a new organization to provide meaningful opportunities for local engagement, with the goal of providing a permanent home for local efforts supporting higher student achievement.

Healthy Communities

Citizen and Nonprofit Training and Organizational Development	The Foundation funds these activities under the umbrella of Community Development Works (CDW). CDW offers a variety of training programs and resources for both inexperienced and experienced community members and organizations interested in promoting positive community change. On a limited basis, the Foundation will consider proposals for operating funds from new or developing organizations who have, as their primary focus, the improvement of neighborhood or community standards of living.
Workforce Development	The grants program pushes employers to develop creative solutions for any perceived shortcomings that impact employee wage-earning potential and, concurrently, business productivity. Ultimately, the Foundation's interest in this area correlates the ability to earn a higher wage with other indicated measures such as home ownership and the ability to purchase health insurance.
Effective and Innovative Business Environment	The Foundation will consider funding requests for projects and programs that can raise the knowledge levels of employers and focus the community on legitimate higher wage economic opportunity. Some examples of these types of projects might include coordination and development of: small business incubators, business learning networks, industry-led alliances, joint apprenticeship programs, ISO certification teams, entrepreneur networks, seed capital funds, among others.
Arts and Culture Infrastructure	Although the Foundation is not accepting proposals for new funding in this area, we continue involvement with three important programs: 1) A Regional Arts Council, 2) Affordable office and performance space at The Rapides Foundation Building, and 3) Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in downtown Alexandria.
Community Data, Information and Resources	A great deal of the activity of the Foundation reflects our role as a broker of information. From early in the Foundation's history, we have emphasized the power of fact-based decision-making in everything from targeting a nonprofit's outreach efforts to developing plans for locating healthcare and counseling services. We have invested both time and funds in the development of various assessments, surveys and databanks. All of these are available to community members through the Foundation's program department.

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.

GRANTS 2004

The Rapides Foundation

DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Cenla Advantage Partnership (CAP) (3 years)	(challenge match) \$1,500,000
For formation of employer-led economic development umbrella group.	
Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) (3 years)	9,375,669
Regional program currently providing 16,000 people with regular source of chronic care medication and medication education.	
Cenla Nursing Workforce Coalition (CNWC) (10 months)	235,000
To support an independent nonprofit dedicated towards promoting nursing as a career, enhancing quality of the nursing workforce and recruiting middle and high school students into nursing educational programs.	
Community Development Works (CDW) (3 years)	1,389,390
Regional program to develop and support nonprofit groups and community leaders.	
The Orchard Foundation (TOF) (3 years)	600,000
A nonprofit local education fund established as a resource for Central Louisiana that will work with school districts, businesses, and communities to improve educational opportunities in a nine-parish service area.	

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Arts Council of Central Louisiana (3 years)	\$281,500
Operational support for the continued stability of the Arts Council of Central Louisiana along with equipment replacement fund for The Rapides Foundation Building arts space and the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center.	
Enterprise Corporation for the Delta (3 years)	375,000
To establish nonprofit business lending services for underserved business markets.	
Evangeline-Rapides Skills Network, Inc. (1 year)	75,000
To support training activities for a collaborative network of employers; AFCO, Cabot, Cleco, and Cooper Cameron.	
Friends of the Alexandria Zoo (2 years)	90,000
To design, develop and implement enhanced educational and docent programs for support of the expanding activities of the Alexandria Zoological Park.	
Ninth Judicial District Court Hearing Office (3 years)	300,000
To implement a program of parenting education and employment services and support for non-custodial fathers to encourage financial and emotional support for their children and families.	

HEALTHY PEOPLE

Agenda For Children (2 years)	\$100,000
Covering Kids & Families Partnership - to enroll 1,700 hard-to-reach children for healthcare services through the State's LaChip program.	
Central Louisiana Occupational Health Nurses (18 months)	225,000
To establish multi-employer health promotion and healthcare programs.	
Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Primary Care & Rural Health (3 years)	750,000
To develop 15-20 Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Central Louisiana.	
D.O.V.E.S. (Domestic Violence & Legal Advocacy Program) (2 years)	55,000
To expand health and advocacy services for victims of sexual assault in Natchitoches Parish.	
Louisiana Public Health Institute (18 months)	75,000
To pilot an intergenerational health mentoring program in Avoyelles Parish.	

MINI-GRANTS (one year or less)

Avoyelles Hospital Service District #1	\$5,000
To publish a directory that will contain medical, social, mental, physical and spiritual health service contact information for the parish.	
Avoyelles Parish Medical Alliance	3,500
To support a bullying prevention program at elementary schools.	
Bolton High School	7,500
To develop and integrate a physical fitness curriculum that includes exercise and nutrition for high school students.	

Montessori Educational Center, Inc.	10,000
To assist board with strategic planning in board development.	
River Oaks Square Arts Center	4,000
To support development of a long-range strategic plan for promotion and education of contemporary visual art and fine crafts.	
St. Mary's Residential Training School	10,000
To develop a long-range strategic plan to meet emerging needs in the delivery of quality care and education for adults and children.	
PLAYGROUNDS (Matching Dollars \$1 to \$1)	
To support development and installation of playground equipment for the following:	
Families Helping Families - for developmentally delayed children at the Pineville location.	\$10,000
Housing Authority of the City of Natchitoches - at two housing sites in Natchitoches.	10,000
Recreation District No. II of the Parish of Allen - playground improvements at Lambert Park.	10,000
Cities of:	
Natchitoches - at Town South Park in the city of Natchitoches.	4,000
Winnfield - at Grove Street Playground/Sports Complex.	10,000
Schools:	
Bunkie Elementary School - at Bunkie Elementary School.	6,240
Pollock Elementary School - behind Pollock Elementary School.	10,000
Rosepine Elementary School - on the grounds of Rosepine Elementary School.	10,000
Towns of:	
Campti - on the grounds of the old Campti school.	10,000
Cheneyville - within the town's recreational complex.	10,000
Elizabeth - at Finke Park.	10,000
Mansura - with additional exercise stations near the walking trail.	10,000
New Llano - at New Llano Community Park.	5,000
Villages of:	
Georgetown - in the community of Georgetown in Grant Parish.	10,000
Plaucheville - near the walking trail at the Veterans Memorial site.	6,000
WALKING TRAILS (Matching Dollars \$2 to \$1)	
To develop a walking trail for the following:	
Hickory Hill Community Planning Council - near Issac Brouillette Road north of Marksville.	\$10,000
Natchitoches Parish School Board - behind Natchitoches Central High School.	10,000
Recreation District No. II of the Parish of Allen - overlay the walking track at Lambert Park in Oberlin.	10,000
The Extra Mile Region VI, Inc. - on the grounds of the old St. Joseph's school in Alexandria.	10,000
Towns of:	
Campti - on the grounds of the old Campti school.	10,000
Cottonport - overlay the walking track behind the elementary school.	7,800
Jonesville - at Stewart Clark Park.	10,000
Lecompte - behind the high school.	10,000
Pollock - at LaCroix Park behind Town Hall.	10,000
SYSTEMIC INITIATIVE IN EDUCATION (3 years)	
	\$5,974,650
To provide resources for districts to nurture new instructional approaches for administrators and teachers that produce high student achievement, improved graduation rates and a more successful transition from one level of schooling to the next and then on to college and/or career placement.	
School district grants include:	
Allen Parish School Board	"Student Achievement Through Teaching Excellence"
Avoyelles Parish School Board	"Advancing Leadership & Instruction"
Catahoula Parish School Board	"Improving Instruction Through Leadership"
Grant Parish School Board	"Effective Instruction"
LaSalle Parish School Board	"LaSalle IMPACT"
Natchitoches Parish School Board	"Improving Student Achievement in Steps"
Rapides Parish School Board	"Differentiated Instruction K-12"
Vernon Parish School Board	"Fostering Professional Learning Communities"
Winn Parish School Board	"Professional Learning Communities"

APPLICATION

Grant Application Process

Qualified organizations requesting funds through the Program Priority or Responsive Grant Program should submit a Letter of Intent prior to the 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 any time and a decision will be provided in 60-90 days.

Application materials and eligibility criteria are contained in the booklet entitled, *Applying for Funds from The Rapides Foundation*. Any group or organization interested in applying for funds is encouraged to call the Program Assistant at 318-767-3013. She will direct your call to the appropriate program staff person. Calls and e-mails are strongly encouraged prior to any formal written submissions.

First Stage: Letter of Intent (Program Priority 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

- Successful applicants will look to maximize use of existing local, state and federal funds and services in an effort to develop and sustain more effective systems.
- Successful applicants will demonstrate a high level of knowledge of the issues. They will also be able to demonstrate that they can be expected to manage a program with a good chance of being effective and creating positive change in community health and well-being.
- Successful applicants will propose to develop or provide services to a sufficient number of community residents to make an impact.

On the other hand, proposals calling for large grants to serve thousands of individuals across multiple parishes are rarely funded, at that scale. Successful applicants will, at a minimum, recognize the importance of evaluation in developing and supporting services that go beyond goodwill or charity. Start-up organizations

are encouraged to apply for pilot and technical assistance support through the Mini-Grant Program. Construction, renovation and equipment purchased are funded only in those unique cases where the capital purchase is a minor component to a larger Foundation program grant.

Applicants with weak or non-functioning Boards of Directors are generally not successful.

Second Stage: Project Proposal (Program Priority 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.

Evaluative Criteria

Grant decisions are made through the combined effort of the Budget and Grants Committee of the Board of Trustees and the full Board. Staff provides recommendations to the Budget and Grants Committee based upon some or all of the following procedures: analysis of the written proposal, consultation with experienced program leaders and researchers in the field, site visits and meetings with project staff and Board, and experience with your organization or contributing personnel on prior grants.

Applicants will hear of decisions regarding their submissions via a letter. Award/decline letters will communicate the decisions of the Budget and Grants Committee or full Board and will also include information on various contingencies or pre-funding requirements. Please keep in mind that grant awards may contain significantly different terms of award than originally proposed by your group. Also, a contract (Grant Agreement) must be signed between your group and The Rapides Foundation which spells out requirements and expectations for superior performance.

Decline letters will generally not indicate specific reasons for Committee or Board action. Groups who are unsuccessful are encouraged to contact the Program Department. In many cases, staff are able to highlight certain areas of the proposal that may require additional refinement for program excellence.

Grant Cycle Deadlines

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

(Note: Responsive Grants were phased out in January 2005.)



For supper, Franklin's mother
gave him fly soup.
"Yummy!" said Franklin.
"I know I can eat fly soup for five years!"
Franklin ate fly soup for one hour.
Then he hid his tinny and mawkish.
"I will have to think
of something else," he said.



SUMMARY

Financial Summary

Combined Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Years Ended December 31, 2004, 2003, and 2002

	2004	2003	2002
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:			
INVESTMENT INCOME:			
Income on cash and long-term investments	\$2,952,454	\$3,220,596	\$2,782,882
Gains and losses on securities	13,490,200	23,844,330	(12,242,701)
Equity in earnings of jointly owned companies	8,415,529	3,420,820	4,558,836
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>\$24,858,183</u>	<u>\$30,485,746</u>	<u>(\$4,900,983)</u>
INVESTMENT EXPENSE	<u>710,158</u>	<u>637,911</u>	<u>783,549</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	24,148,025	29,847,835	(5,684,532)
CONTRIBUTIONS	-	300	1,369
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Grants	9,357,609	6,494,052	7,312,537
Memorial Contributions	3,447	12,449	400,000
Direct Charitable Expenses	3,865,777	3,728,094	2,929,466
Development	871,095	1,334,245	631,211
Administration	1,494,190	1,190,876	1,265,242
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>\$15,592,118</u>	<u>\$12,759,716</u>	<u>\$12,538,456</u>
INCREASE / DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	<u>8,555,907</u>	<u>17,088,419</u>	<u>(18,221,619)</u>
EXPENSES FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	8,555,907	17,088,419	(18,221,619)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	197,392,924	180,304,505	198,526,124
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$205,948,831	\$197,392,924	\$180,304,505

Statements of Financial Position*For the Years Ended December 31, 2004, 2003, and 2002*

	2004	2003	2002
ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,614,751	\$159,406	\$773,078
Accounts receivable			
Prepaid expenses	31,322	30,133	20,542
Furniture and equipment, net	3,052,540	2,950,344	2,481,795
Assets whose use is limited	444,473	460,387	475,081
Marketable securities	154,435,085	143,655,129	128,352,684
Investments at cost plus equity in undistributed earnings	54,031,794	54,754,409	51,781,957
	<u>54,031,794</u>	<u>54,754,409</u>	<u>51,781,957</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$213,609,965</u>	<u>\$202,009,808</u>	<u>\$183,885,137</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	791,507	685,894	443,473
Due to Partnership	0	0	0
Retirement plan expense payable	0	0	0
Payroll, payroll taxes and benefits payable	18,761	11,296	10,254
Grants payable	6,543,689	3,596,603	2,789,120
Annuity obligations payable	307,177	323,091	337,785
	<u>307,177</u>	<u>323,091</u>	<u>337,785</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$7,661,134</u>	<u>\$4,616,884</u>	<u>\$3,580,632</u>
Net Assets - Unrestricted	<u>205,948,831</u>	<u>197,392,924</u>	<u>180,304,505</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$213,609,965</u>	<u>\$202,009,808</u>	<u>\$183,885,137</u>

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Current Board Members



(front row left-right): Caroline Theus, Melanie Torbett, Joe Rosier
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 (3rd row): J. Lynn Bordelon, Maxine Pickens, Dr. Renick Webb
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Tammy Billings
Patient Assistance Program Supervisor

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Supervising Pharmacist

Kevin Brown, RPh
Program Pharmacist

Crystal Watts
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Jorie Asperstrand	Vernon Parish
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LaShonda Brown	Rapides Parish
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Community Clinic, Inc.
Dallas, Texas

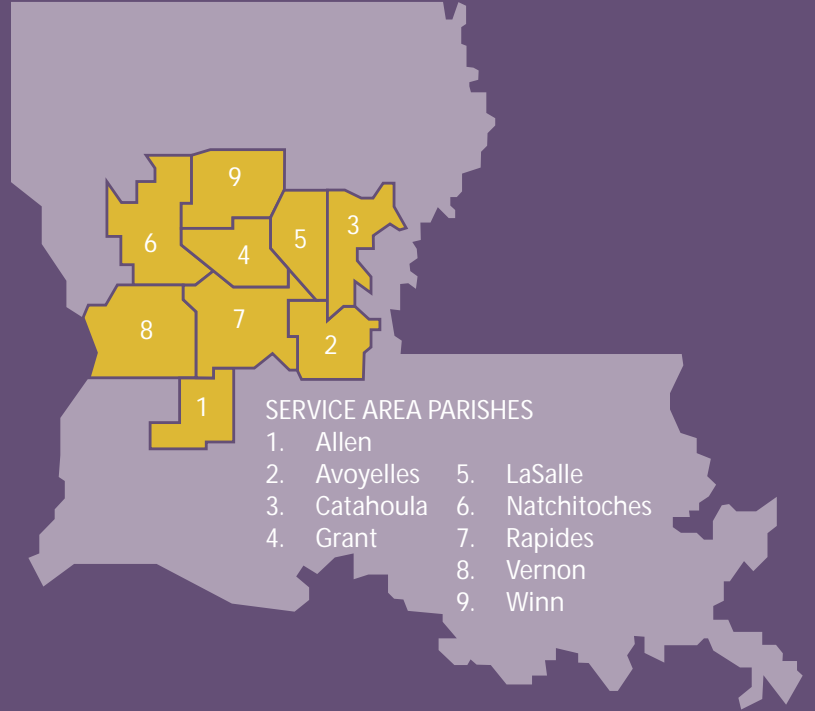
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