



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

2006 Annual Report

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

Target-Specific Community Health Initiatives



2006 Annual Report

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Foundation Mission & Vision

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

Mission: To improve the health status of Central Louisiana.

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



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

1101 Fourth Street, Suite 300 • Alexandria, LA 71301 • 1-800-994-3394 • www.rapidesfoundation.org



Philanthropic Objectives

The Rapides Foundation provides funding for projects which effectively address the following Philanthropic Objectives:

HEALTHY PEOPLE

To promote healthy behaviors and improve access to healthcare.

EDUCATION

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

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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

Charting the course for the next five years

The Rapides Foundation has devoted over a decade to its mission of improving the health status of Central Louisiana residents. Whether it is helping people get medication they can't afford or supporting efforts to raise people's income and education levels, we believe the Foundation has made a difference.

Our Board in 2006 launched an intensive planning effort that led the Foundation to narrow its grantmaking focus. As a result, we announced new guidelines that reflect a bold direction to address the issues that are critical to accomplishing our mission.

Over the next few years you will see some new programs designed to help people get healthier. Our Healthy Behaviors Initiative will specifically focus on tobacco, nutrition and physical activity. One reason we feel so strongly about these specific issues is because statistics show the need in Central Louisiana – as well as the potential to make a difference.

Our goal is simple: to help people get healthier. We know that smoking cigarettes or using smokeless tobacco is not healthy behavior, so our programs will focus on helping tobacco users to quit and in preventing young people from ever starting. Likewise, it's no secret that a good diet and exercise can keep people healthy, so you will see programs that promote these behaviors.

You'll also see some additions to existing programs and new directions in others.

Most of the Foundation's work now falls under the category of Initiatives. We determine specific areas of interest by first researching and understanding health issues in Central Louisiana to determine their root causes.

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

Message from the President and Chairman

We work to create strategies to address these issues, involve the community and create partnerships for program implementation by issuing requests for proposals.

In addition to our Healthy Behavior Initiatives, the Foundation will be spearheading Initiatives in the following areas of interest: screenings for colon, prostate, cervical and breast cancers. We will be looking for the best way to leverage our resources to create Initiatives to improve access to primary healthcare and mental health services. We also will award grants for projects that address teen pregnancy, alcohol use and certain immunizations.

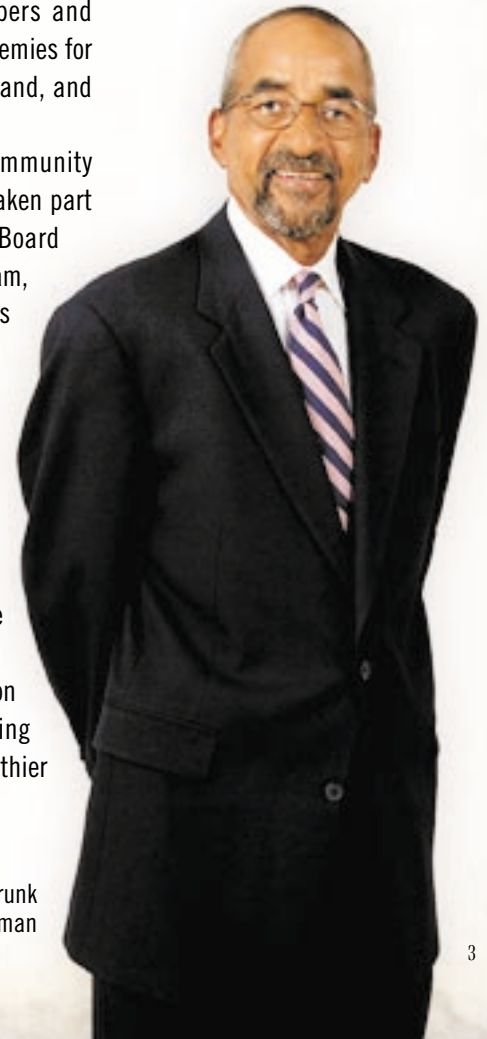
The Foundation's Systemic Initiative in Education brought School Board members and superintendents together for a first-of-its kind conference in 2006. We're conducting academies for school system leaders and emerging leaders. Our work in education will continue to expand, and in the coming years we will place an added focus on science and technology.

Community Development Works is a program designed to enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations. More than 740 people have taken part in our nonprofit and citizen training courses. In addition, 32 successfully completed Board Builders, which trains people to serve on Boards. Our popular Cenla Medication Access Program, or CMAP, continues to help people get prescriptions they need. The Foundation also continues to initiate projects in the area of economic and workforce development. Cenla Advantage Partnership (CAP) is a nonprofit that works to help develop Central Louisiana's workforce, raise income levels and be the catalyst for effective, positive relationships among economic development organizations in Central Louisiana.

Another program funded by The Rapides Foundation is the Entrepreneurial League System® of Central Louisiana, which helps local entrepreneurs grow their businesses. We're proud of the fact that ELS was featured in The New York Times.

Over the coming years, we plan to initiate even more projects relating to workforce development, business startups and expansion.

We are excited about the future for Central Louisiana, and pledge that the Foundation is dedicated to researching the critical issues – to find solutions for positively impacting the health status of our communities. By working together we believe Cenla will be a healthier place to live and work.



Regionald Seastrunk
Board Chairman



HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

A Three-Pronged Approach to a Healthier Cenla



The Rapides Foundation has dedicated its resources to health and healthcare during its history of innovative philanthropy. To continue that effort, The Foundation in 2006 began extensive planning on a new initiative designed to prevent people from getting sick by helping them lead healthy lifestyles.

“Our history is tied to Rapides Regional Medical Center, which has a legacy of healthcare and community service that spans ten decades,” said Joe Rosier, President and CEO of The Rapides Foundation. “Naturally, health and healthcare are of primary importance to us and always will be.

“We made significant investments in primary care development, medication access and mental health access. We established an ongoing relationship with local and state leadership to develop a sustainable system of funding for these types of programs.”

“The reason people are unhealthy is not so much because of a lack of access to medical care, but is more related to our behaviors, the things we do every day.”

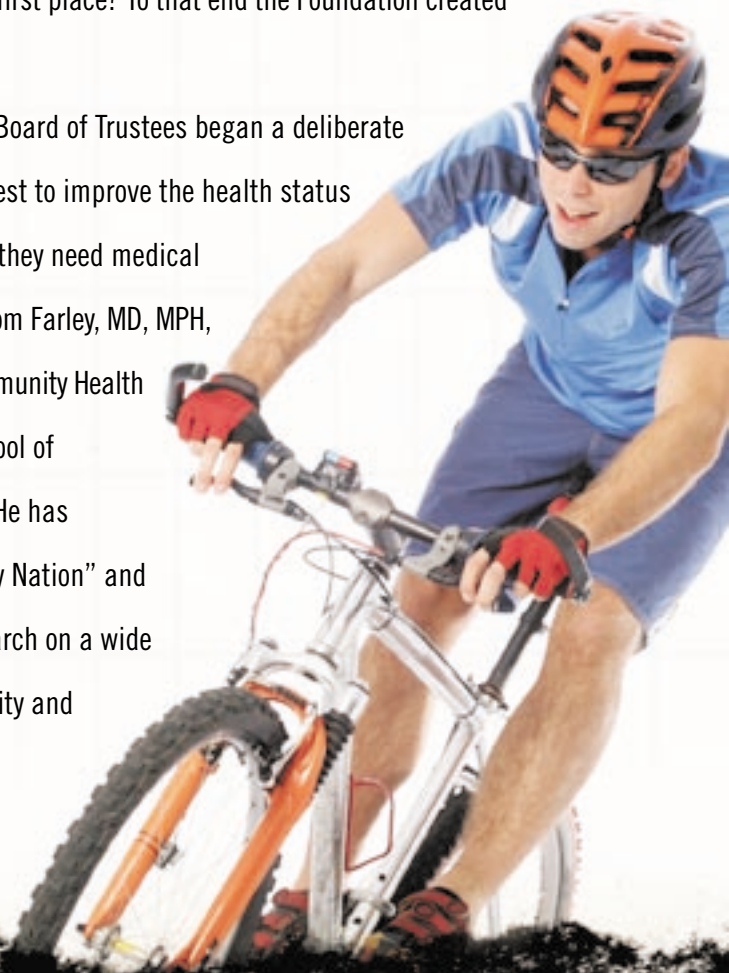


Tom Farley, MD, MPH
Tulane Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Healthy Behaviors

The Foundation's efforts helped to develop a system of comprehensive care for lower income and uninsured residents in our area. The Foundation will continue that, but now is looking at an approach to healthcare from another direction, that of prevention – how can we stop disease from occurring in the first place? To that end the Foundation created a Healthy Behaviors Initiative.

In 2006 The Rapides Foundation Board of Trustees began a deliberate and in-depth discussion about how best to improve the health status of Central Louisiana residents before they need medical treatment. That discussion included Tom Farley, MD, MPH, who is Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He has coauthored “Prescription for a Healthy Nation” and has done numerous studies and research on a wide range of health issues including obesity and infant mortality.

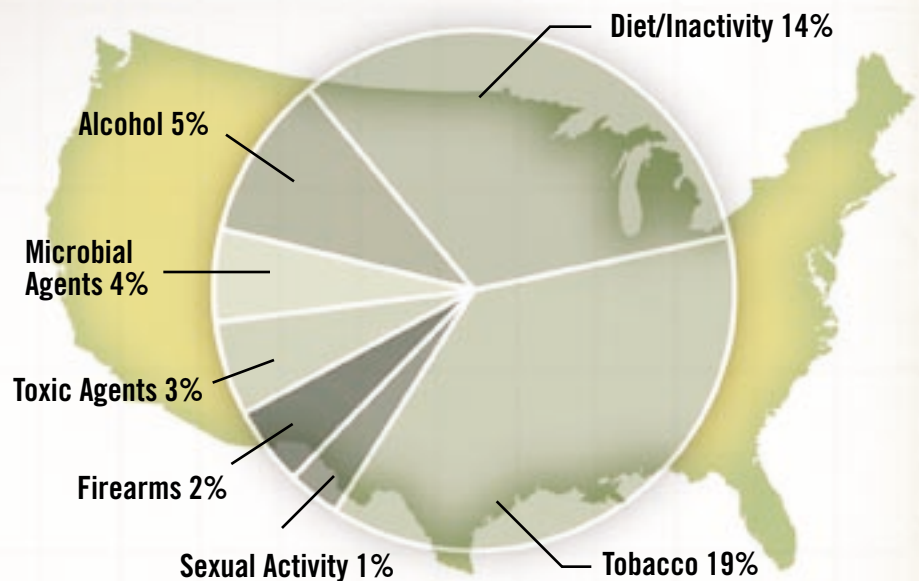


Healthy Behaviors

“The reason people are unhealthy is not so much because of a lack of access to medical care, but is more related to our behaviors, the things we do every day,” Farley said. “That’s whether you smoke, how much physical activity you get, what your diet is like, what you drink and other behaviors like that. But the vast majority of health dollars in this country are not going to changing those behaviors, they’re going to medical care.”

He advised the Foundation to devote its efforts into promoting healthy behaviors. “It’s a great use of their dollars. Hospitals are limited because there isn’t much you can do in a healthcare setting to change behaviors that occur every day, all the time. People don’t go to doctors that often, and the doctor just isn’t in a position to change that everyday behavior.”

50% of all Premature Deaths are attributed to Lifestyle Behaviors in The United States



Healthy Behaviors



Novella Coleman,
Senior Project Asset Accountant,
Cleco Corporation



Healthy Behaviors

“I wanted to be around to see my grandchildren grow up, and have quality of life for as long as I can for their sakes.”

Novella Coleman

Senior Project Asset Accountant,
Cleco Corporation

The Board of Trustees agreed the Healthy Behaviors Initiative should focus on three critical areas: tobacco, nutrition and physical activity. Use of tobacco products, a poor diet and a lack of physical activity can lead to any number of major illnesses such as lung cancer, heart disease and diabetes. So enormous is their impact that they rank as the leading causes of preventable death in the United States.

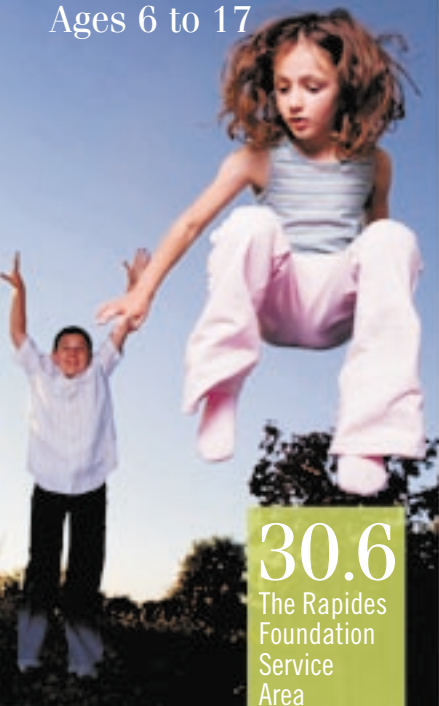
The Foundation will be launching a series of programs and projects aimed at helping the people of Central Louisiana to lead healthier lives. People like 53-year-old Novella Coleman, an employee of Cleco, a major supplier of electricity in Central Louisiana. In 2002 she was diagnosed with diabetes and had to learn to change her eating habits and exercise more. “The hardest part for me,” she said, “was just trying to cut down the amount of food I was eating.” Part of her exercise regimen was provided through a Foundation-funded health project piloted at her workplace called *Wellness Works*. Coleman lost over 50 pounds. “I feel wonderful,” she said.



Healthy Behaviors



Percentage of Overweight Children Ages 6 to 17



30.6

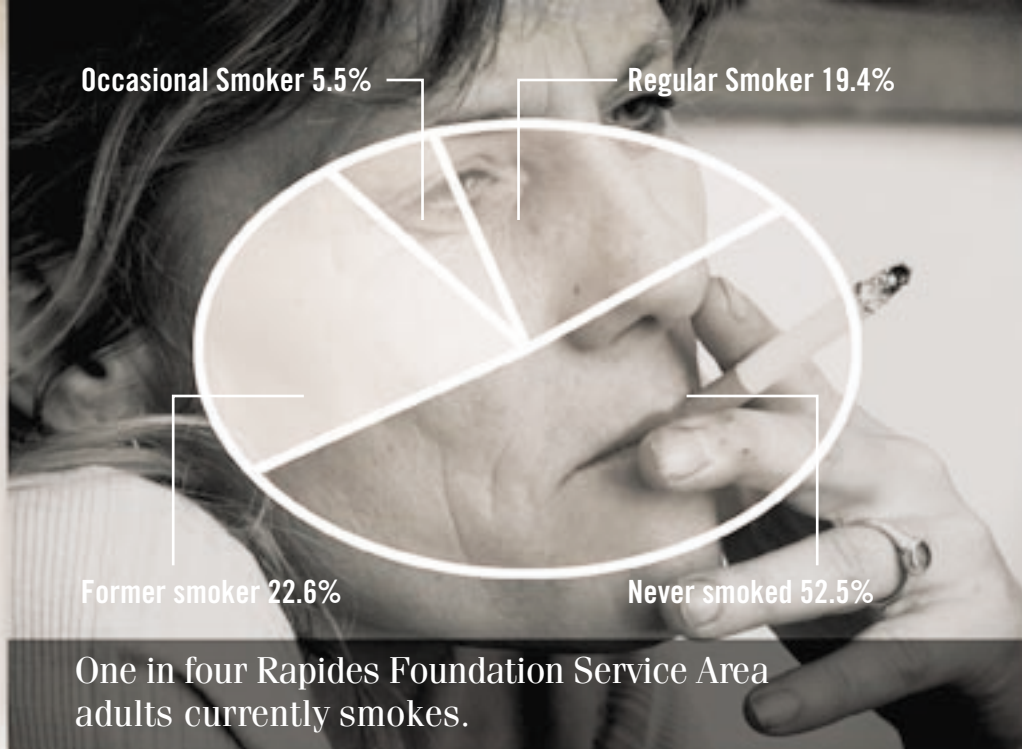
The Rapides
Foundation
Service
Area

14.1
United
States

Childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions. The Foundation wants to reach out even more to the area's schools to help them confront this serious health issue. That includes schools like Pollock Elementary School in Grant Parish, which received a matching grant from The Rapides Foundation for playground equipment.

And then of course there's tobacco use, a formidable obstacle to healthier living. The Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium (TTAC), an organization that provides training and technical assistance to national, state, regional, and local organizations working on tobacco control efforts, will be advising the Foundation on strategies to help people stop smoking, and also to help keep people, particularly children, from ever starting.

And we need the help. "In the United States 20 percent of the population are smokers. In Louisiana 23.4 percent of the population are smokers. When you take a snapshot of The Rapides Foundation service area, you're up to 24.9 percent," said Pamela Redmon, BS, MPH, Managing Director of TTAC. "That's almost 5 percent more people in The Rapides Foundation's service area are smokers than in the United States at large."



The Health Behaviors Initiative has a daunting mission – try to instill healthier living habits in people of all ages in Central Louisiana. But we feel ready for the task. A healthier Central Louisiana will help bring down hospital costs, healthcare rates, insurance rates, and can result in less on-the-job absenteeism, fewer visits to the doctor, and a longer lifespan. The Foundation’s investment in its Healthy Behaviors Initiative has the potential to have a remarkable effect on the overall health of the area.

We’re ready, we’re committed, we’ve begun.

Healthy Behaviors

“Decreasing your smokers in your community is going to bring down healthcare costs, and that affects your insurance rates, it affects your hospital rates, it affects so many things.”

Pamela Redmon, BS, MPH

Managing Director of the Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium (TTAC).



Community Development Works

CDW trained close to a thousand local residents through its Nonprofit and Citizen Training Courses in 2006.



In all, Community Development Works (CDW) conducted 46 training sessions during a highly productive year.

As the nonprofit and organizational development arm of The Rapides Foundation, CDW's work helps a wide range of people and organizations, all devoted to making their communities better places to live.

CDW is a capacity building Initiative that provides free access to training, leadership programs, and informational resources to support citizen-led efforts that address local issues in Central Louisiana. The programs are designed for nonprofit organizations, congregations, and citizens working to increase the quality of life in Central Louisiana. CDW programs and services include Nonprofit Management Training, Board Builders, Board Works and the Learning Lab.

To date, more than 32 people have been trained and matched for board service with a nonprofit organization under our popular Board Builders program. Our Board Builders graduates gathered recently for the first-ever Alumni Meeting, giving them the opportunity to network and expand their knowledge.

Our Board Works series serves seasoned Board members. To date, 89 graduates keep up on the latest trends and share best practices in Board development through this program.

The CDW Web site, www.communitydevelopmentworks.org, continues to reach even more residents. The site had more than 1,600 visitors who reported successfully obtaining the information they needed.

BoardBuilders 2006 Matches

Participants, Pictured at Left: (Front row L to R)

Participant	Title/Employer	Board Match
Stephanie Prestridge	Attorney, Provosty, Sadler, deLaunay, Fiorenza and Sobel	T.R.E.E. House
Robbie LaBorde	General Manager of Project Development, Cleco Corporation	Renaissance Home for Youth
Rebecca Galliano	Staff Accountant, Payne, Moore and Herrington	Friendship House Adult Day Services
Gary LaCaze	Human Resources Director, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital	YMCA of Central Louisiana

(Back row L to R)

Troy Guilbeaux	Training Manager, Paragon Casino Resort	Avoyelles Society for the Developmentally Disabled
Steve Walker	Account Executive, The Town Talk	Avoyelles Council on Aging
Jared Hicks	Business Banker, Capital One Bank	Volunteers of America
Jeff Blackmon	Assistant Vice President, Capital One Bank	Rapides Habitat for Humanity



Wayne and Brenda Gremillion with their son, Blake, inside one of the new homes built by Construction & Design of Alexandria. Joining C & D allowed Blake and his wife, Bonnie, to move back to Alexandria from Baton Rouge.



Economic Development Programs

Research shows a direct correlation between a vibrant economy and the health of a community's population. According to Healthy People 2010, inequalities in income and education underlie many health disparities in the United States. Populations with the highest poverty rates and lowest education levels suffer the worst health problems.

People with higher incomes have better access to medical care. They can afford better housing, live in safer neighborhoods and have the means to engage in healthy behaviors. Community members who achieve these goals are, on average, in much better health than those unable to do so.

For that reason, The Rapides Foundation supports efforts in the area of economic and workforce development. Two major projects in this area reflect our overall goal of improving the health status of Central Louisiana's residents.

Cenla Advantage Partnership

The Foundation played a major role in the creation of Cenla Advantage Partnership (CAP), a regional, independent economic development nonprofit. CAP's funding comes from private business investors with an equal match from The Rapides Foundation.

CAP's staff and board of directors in 2006 began developing "Bring 'em Home," a campaign effort targeted at recruiting back workers for skilled positions in Central Louisiana. CAP's newest workforce program, "Raise 'em Up," is designed to help our region's under-employed find careers that pay them a living wage and benefits, particularly health insurance. At the same time, it is designed to meet the needs of our employers looking for an entry-level workforce with the skills needed to learn and succeed on the job and move up to better positions.

"We think this is a win-win-win program," CAP President George Robertson said. "Employers get the skilled workforce they need so badly; individuals are given an opportunity to raise themselves out of low-paying dead-end jobs to create a better life for themselves and their families; and communities have individuals who have more time to participate in the life of the community with their families."



Help Build Healthy Communities



Coach Edwin Caplan works with entrepreneur Carol Ulmer of Jigsaw Events, a convention and trade show business.

Entrepreneurial League System® of Central Louisiana

The Entrepreneurial League System® of Central Louisiana is an innovative approach for transforming the Central Louisiana economy by developing entrepreneurs' skills, creating successful companies and building entrepreneurial communities. Considered a major component of The Rapides Foundation's economic development Initiative, ELS uses the baseball league concept to successfully train and guide teams of Central Louisiana entrepreneurs. ELS launched its first two "teams" in 2006. The program has been so successful that it quickly added two more teams to the roster. In addition, ELS was featured in The New York Times in April 2007.

Education

Systemic Initiative Plans Focus on



Systemic
Initiative in Education



Science, Technology

The Systemic Initiative in Education is The Rapides Foundation's ambitious undertaking dedicated to improving education and increasing student achievement in Central Louisiana. In 2006, the Initiative successfully assembled school superintendents and School Board members from throughout Central Louisiana for a first-of-its-kind conference.

With a focus on high school redesign, "Why Boards Matter – Building the Bridge to Effective Change" helped board members and superintendents understand their important and unique roles when it comes to effective change in their school districts.

"We are committed to working to enhance the educational opportunities of each child in Central Louisiana and to support the continued educational improvements and growth of each school district within our coverage area," said Joe Rosier, president and CEO of The Rapides Foundation.

Started in 1998, the Foundation's Education Initiative evolved from individual, school-level grants totaling close to \$10 million to Systemic Initiative grants involving all public school districts in a nine-parish service area. The Rapides Foundation dedicates 25 percent of its funding to education under the belief that strong public education systems play a vital role in creating healthy communities.

The Systemic Initiative has focused on improving classroom instruction in such key areas as language literacy and mathematics, as well as building leadership skills in schools and Central Offices. Future plans are to add another element: improving science and technology in all grade levels in an effort to prepare Central Louisiana children to compete in the global market. The focus will be on cutting-edge thinking and learning in the sciences, and using technology in the most creative and innovative ways.

Meanwhile, leadership development has remained a key focus of the Systemic Initiative's work. In 2007 we saw the beginning of leadership academies for emerging leaders, new principals, school administrators and Central Office staff. In all, about 200 educators participate in the monthly academies, said Wilma Delp Hamilton, Technical Assistant for this Initiative.

The Initiative also plans to sponsor networking sessions for Central Louisiana's educators. These sessions will feature the best of the best in the areas of math, reading and high-level thinking. As a result, teachers will be able to exhibit their talent and learn from their colleagues.



CMAP

Cenla Medication Access Program

Connie and Mike Couvillon of Sicily Island with some of the medications they depend on daily.

‘A Blessing’ For Some Residents

Since its inception in 2001, the Cenla Medication Access Program (CMAP) has helped thousands of Central Louisiana residents get prescription medications for chronic medical conditions.

To people like Connie and Mike Couvillon of Sicily Island, CMAP turned their lives around by providing the medicine, education and tools they need to keep their diabetes under control.

The Couvillons were living in Marrero when Hurricane Katrina hit, so they relocated to Sicily Island to live with Connie's mother. They already were having a tough time paying for their diabetic supplies and other medications. So when Connie's new doctor told her about CMAP, their lives changed overnight.

“It's been a blessing for us. Through it all, CMAP has been there for us. They are the light in the darkness,” Connie Couvillon said. “Our diabetes is under control, thanks to CMAP.”

The Rapides Foundation established CMAP as three components. An outpatient pharmacy at the region's public hospital – Huey P. Long Medical Center's England Airpark Clinic thrives today. Another component, the Patient Assistance Program, involves CMAP staff working with Central Louisiana physicians in signing up eligible patients for free medications. In 2006 alone, some 1,672 people were served under the Patient Assistance Program.

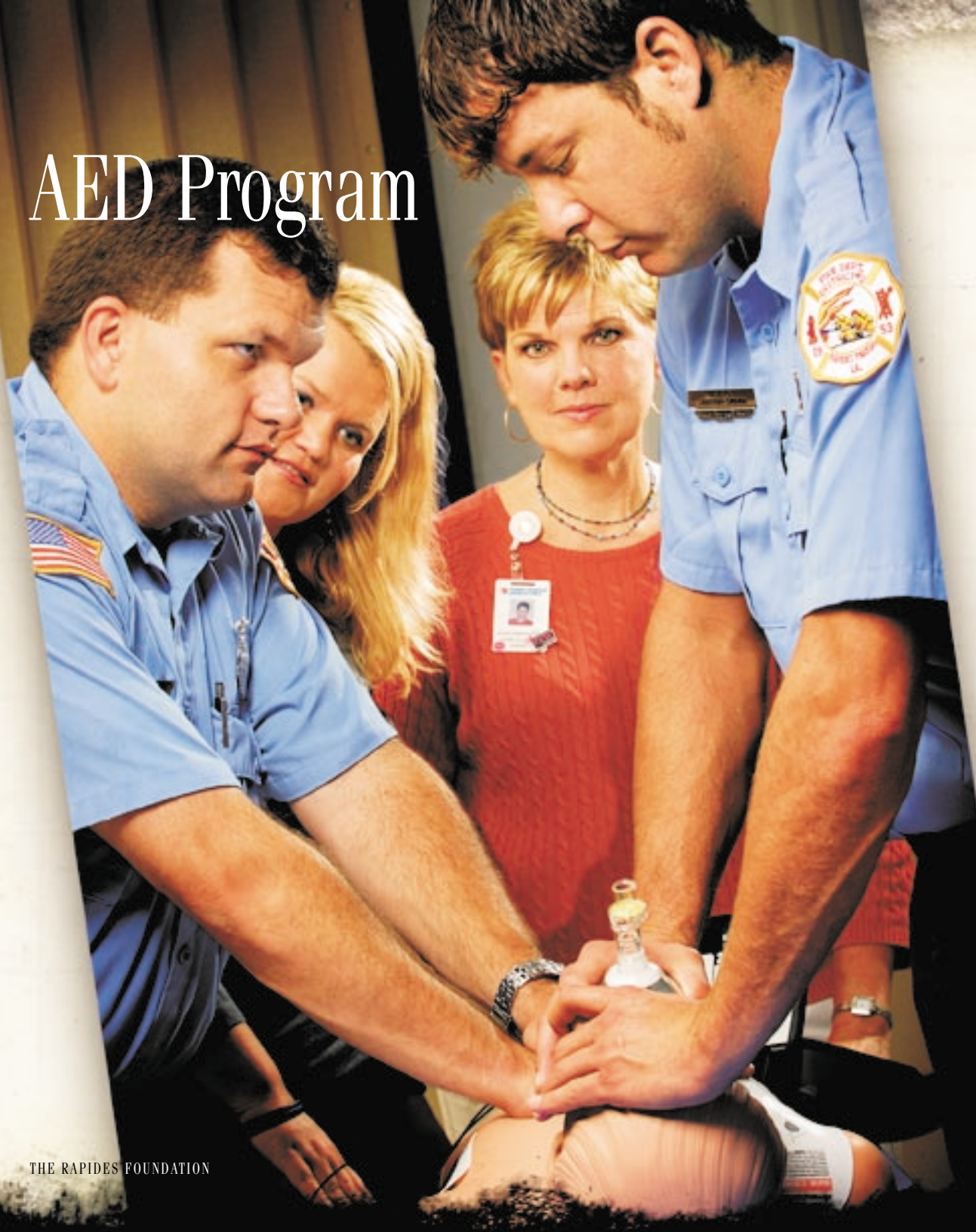
A third component, the CMAP Card System, was phased out in 2005 when the federal government's Medicare Part D program helped senior citizens pay for their prescription medications.

CMAP responded in two ways: by placing a focus on people under age 65 who cannot afford their prescriptions and by establishing a central fill pharmacy, one of only a handful in the country. The pharmacy is able to quickly get medications to a large number of Central Louisiana residents by receiving bulk shipments from various drug manufacturers.

The Couvillons describe CMAP in much simpler terms: it keeps them healthy.



AED Program



Training, AED Upgrades Help To Save Lives

Since 2000, The Rapides Foundation helped place more than 450 Automated External Defibrillators throughout Central Louisiana and trained more than 3,000 people on how to use them.

In 2006 the program began expanding in two ways: through a massive AED equipment upgrade and a new training effort.

MedExpress, the company that maintains the AEDs for The Rapides Foundation, wanted to ensure that all of the AEDs complied with new American Heart Association guidelines. The solution was to visit each and every AED site in Central Louisiana to install AHA-approved updates to the machines.

The result was a massive yet rewarding undertaking, said AED Project Manager Cathy Pittman. “Some departments couldn’t wait for us to upgrade their AEDs,” she said. The Rapides Foundation, meanwhile, voted to fund the AED Network for two additional years.

It didn’t stop there. The Foundation also agreed to fund a new training effort to ensure that Central Louisiana has enough people qualified to perform CPR.

It awarded the American Heart Association a grant to train 35 Heartsaver Instructors in the nine-parish Rapides Foundation service area. Each instructor has agreed to provide training for 24 additional students. The result – up to 840 Central Louisiana residents certified to use an AED and perform CPR under the new American Heart Association guidelines.

AEDs have been proven to save lives. Several Central Louisiana residents can attest to that. We hope to save even more.

Rapides Heartsaver Instructor Training (left to right) **Julius E. Peterson, Jr.**, F.E.O. Rapides Fire District #2; **Deputy Wendy Charrier**, Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office; **Karen Hathorn**, RN, MSN, Director Rapides Health & Lifestyle Center, RRMCC - AHA BLS Regional Facility; and **Justin Smith**, F.E.O. Rapides Fire District #2.



Wellness Works



Wellness WORKS IN CENLA



Working Wonders at Work

What started out as a pilot program involving five local businesses is now a full-scale project designed to help Central Louisiana companies keep their employees healthy.

Wellness Works in Cenla provides companies the tools they need to start or enhance worksite wellness programs. It begins as a simple question for local employers: Would you like to see healthier employees, decreased absenteeism, increased productivity and much more? If the answer is yes, *Wellness Works in Cenla* is ready to help.

“We want everyone to understand that they can offer wellness at their worksite, regardless of how small or large their company is, or where they are located in the nine parishes in Central Louisiana,” Executive Director Ginger Humbles said. “We can make each business’ program as simple or extensive as they are willing to go.”

Studies show that healthier employees are more productive, more positive and have better company morale. The result is a decrease in absenteeism, health insurance claims and more. “The return on investment for every dollar spent by the employer is \$3-\$6 within two to six years,” Humbles said.

She and Program Manager Jodie Mallette proudly talk about *Wellness Works* success stories. There’s one company that in 2006 offered a Weight Watchers program for their employees. The employees collectively lost more than 1,730 pounds. Another company reported an \$118,000 decrease in diabetes-related claims after offering wellness programs. Then there’s the company that began offering an annual health fair for employees. Because of that, three employees were diagnosed with early prostate cancer, helping save their lives.

Wellness Works was originally funded by The Rapides Foundation as a pilot program proposed by Central Louisiana Occupational Health Nurses (CLOHN). The worksite health model was so successful and promising that in 2006 it was awarded three-year grants by The Rapides Foundation and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As a matter of fact, *The Wellness Works of Cenla* expansion project was one of only 12 national projects selected by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2006 through its Local Initiative Funding Partners Program.

Wellness Works consults individually with employers to help them tailor a plan that best fits the needs of their employees. Customized options range from worksite walking breaks to physical fitness incentives; and from diet tips to onsite nutrition consultations for employees and their families. “Our mission is to enable employers of all sizes to implement wellness in the workplace regardless of size and company location,” Humbles said. “Our vision is to improve the overall health of our community. After all, healthier workers make a healthy community.”



Dr. Vincent Mallory discusses cholesterol results with Tim Milam at Boise Cascade’s employee health fair.

Walking Trails / Playgrounds

Walking Trails, Playgrou



John and Cathy Ridenour exercise on the Walking Trail in the Wardville area of Pineville.

Ends Keep Cenla Physically Fit

The Rapides Foundation has been promoting healthy behaviors for years in Central Louisiana through its Walking Trails and Playgrounds programs. In 2006 we funded six new playgrounds and eight new walking trails, all designed to keep both young and old active and physically fit.

It's not uncommon to see whole families getting their daily exercise at a neighborhood walking trail. And playgrounds are very important, not only for children but also for communities. They have the potential to bring communities together by providing an attractive feeling for neighborhood and family gatherings. Playgrounds also provide young people with a chance to be physically active.

To date, The Rapides Foundation has provided matching cash funds of up to \$10,000 to help build approximately 60 walking trails and playgrounds in Central Louisiana.

Our Walking Trail and Playgrounds programs have been temporarily suspended while we revise our grantmaking priorities. However, we expect to revive these two popular programs as they fit well into our Healthy Behaviors Initiatives.



Grants and Program Information

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

The Rapides Foundation has two types of grants available – Program Opportunity Grants and Mini Opportunity Grants.

Qualified organizations requesting funds through the Program Opportunity 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 Opportunity Grants (up to \$10,000) can submit at any time.

Application materials and eligibility criteria are contained in the booklet titled, *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 submission.

First Stage: Letter of Intent

(Program Opportunity Grants)

Before submitting a Letter of Intent under any of the grant programs, an applicant should request the booklet *Program and Funding Interests* 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 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.

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

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Second Stage: Project Proposal

(Program Opportunity 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 and the Board of Trustees. 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 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: New guidelines instituted in 2007.)



Grants and Program Information

PROGRAM PRIORITY SUMMARY

Healthy People

Healthy Behavior

The historic public health work by William Foege and J. Michael McGinnis has demonstrated that at least 50 percent of all illness and premature death is directly connected to lifestyle choices. Smoking, obesity, lack of exercise, alcohol and substance abuse all contribute to early death and disease.

Healthcare Access

An unacceptable number of communities cannot get the medical, dental and mental services they need. Because of this, some people delay or neglect treatment and their health problems get worse. The Rapides Foundation will continue to work to support efforts that help people get access to the healthcare services they need.

Education

Systemic 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

This organization provides 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.

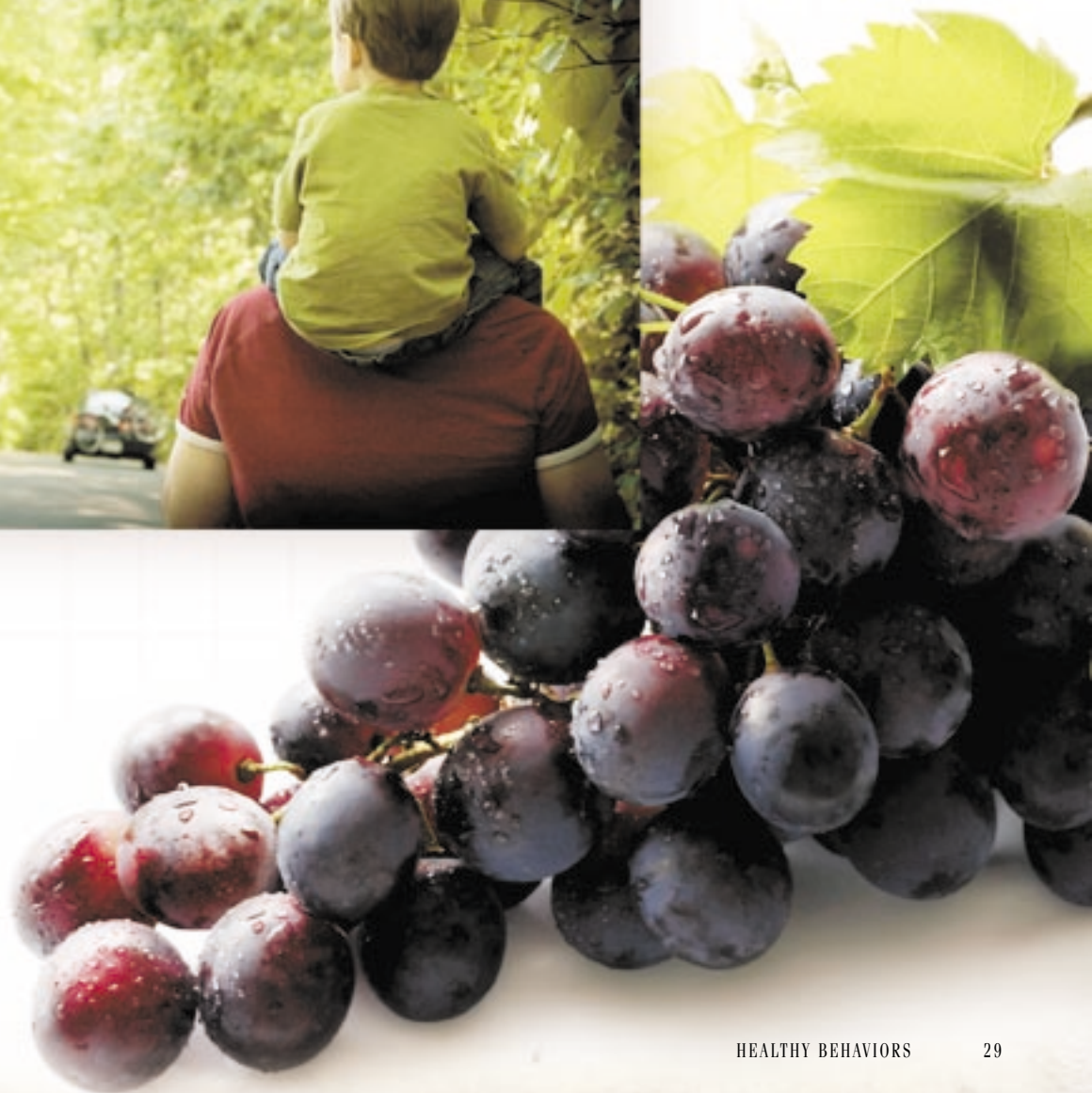
Economic Development

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.

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.

2006 Grants



2006 Grants

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 more than 7,000 people with regular source of chronic care medication and medication education.	
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.	

EDUCATION

Buckeye High School	N/A
For reuse of CAD lab computers, printers and software in instruction programs.	

HEALTHY PEOPLE

American Heart Association	10,000
To support distribution of CPR Anytime kits via cardiac rehab staff of local hospitals.	
American Heart Association - AED Heartsaver Instructor Course	10,000
To train 35 CPR instructors in the 2005 guidelines for Heartsaver CPR and AED. The instructors would subsequently train 840 other people in support of the 450 AEDs placed in the AED Network. Funding will cover recruitment of instructors, instruction material and certification cards.	
Central Louisiana Breastfeeding Coalition	375,000
To support education and outreach program for employers to accommodate breastfeeding mothers returning to the workforce, and to educate mothers and the community about the benefits of breastfeeding.	
LA Chapter of National Alzheimer's Association	37,500
To support development of patient and family support services and education and outreach within Central Louisiana.	
LSU HSC - Department of Psychiatry	50,000
Planning for telehealth program to enhance operations and business plan.	

2006 Grants

LSU HSC - Department of Psychiatry	450,000
To provide psychiatry services via resident faculty and residents at 1) Huey P. Long England Airpark Hospital as ER consultants and 2) via telehealth link for broader community at HPL ER clinic.	
Renaissance Home for Youth	205,000
To provide structured health, nutritional and life skills education for youth in residence.	
The Health Enrichment Network	300,000
To support an expanded diabetes maintenance support to adults in Allen, Avoyelles and Catahoula parishes, and to launch a student-targeted program to raise awareness and offer prevention behaviors.	
Tobacco Control Initiative	2,580,000
To support development and implementation of Foundation-led and managed tobacco control campaign.	
Wellness Works	600,000
To support work with employers to develop self-care, health promotional programs for employees.	

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Boys & Girls Club of Natchitoches, Inc.	10,000
To support a long-term strategy for fundraising to support the organization's programs.	
Cenla Healthcare Ethics Coalition (CHEC)	10,000
To support community education and outreach about end of life issues, including advance directives, living wills, pain management options and life-sustaining treatments.	
Central Louisiana Arts & Healthcare, Inc.	10,000
To provide consultation and training for staff and board members, develop a strategic plan for growing the organization and its programs.	
Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education	2,000
To support an annual youth education seminar about law, inner workings of the legal system and community service.	
Next STEP of Central Louisiana	10,000
To support development of and training in a venture system as an organizational funds development strategy that will provide workforce development skills for survivors of domestic violence.	
Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith	10,000
To develop a job training model providing advanced skills training and identify a pool of employers to hire workers that receive training.	

2006 Grants

Rapides Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.	10,000
To create public awareness, recruit and train volunteers as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in Central Louisiana.	

United Way of Central Louisiana	10,000
To engage an experienced consultant to help UWCL determine the appropriate strategy or strategies to improve school readiness for targeted communities in Alexandria, and to develop the initial workplan.	

PLAYGROUNDS (Matching Dollars \$1 to \$1)

To support development and installation of playground equipment for the following:	
Hope Development Center	10,000

To upgrade surfacing and fencing for school playground.	
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Standard Baptist Church	10,000
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Playground for low income, at-risk children in the Standard Community of Olla.	
Town of Hornbeck	10,000

To add playground equipment to a town recreational park.	
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Town of Kinder	10,000
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For playground equipment at the public park area.	
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Village of Forest Hill	10,000
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For a public playground in Forest Hill.	
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Village of Reeves	10,000
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To update playground equipment in Reeves City Park.	
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WALKING TRAILS (Matching Dollars \$1 to \$1)

To develop a walking trail for the following:	
Avoyelles Parish Council on the Aging	10,000

To construct a walking trail at Edgar Coco Park off Highway 1 in Marksville.	
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Avoyelles Parish Police Jury	10,000
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To construct a walking/fitness trail in Fifth Ward.	
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City of Oakdale	10,000
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To construct a walking trail within the city limits.	
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Hayden R. Lawrence Middle School	10,000
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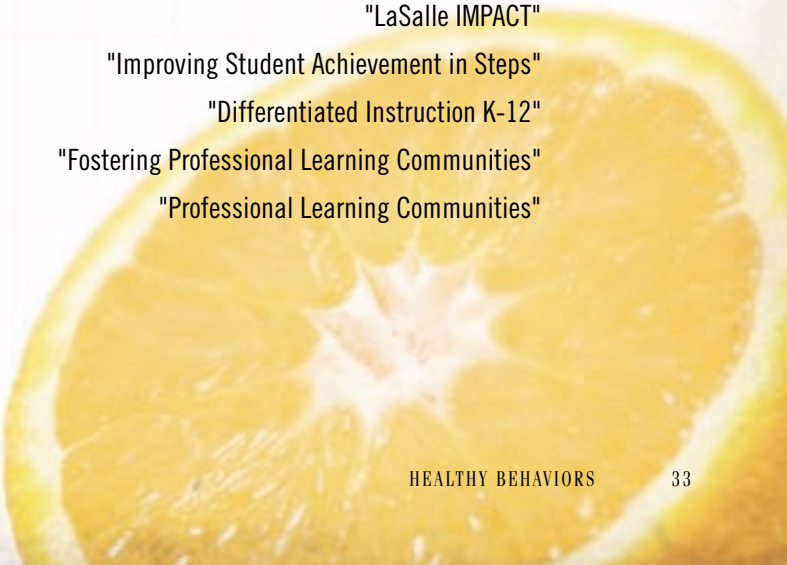
For a community walking trail in front of this school in the Buckeye community.	
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Oak Hill High School	10,000
For a walking trail at Oak Hill High School for student and community use.	
Pineville Concerned Citizens for Lakeside/Wardville Communities	10,000
For a lighted walking trail on city-owned property adjacent to the softball complex.	
Town of Colfax	10,000
For a walking trail within Colfax.	
Town of New Llano	8,000
To overlay the town's walking path with asphalt, beautify edges, and repair drainage areas.	

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"



Financial Summary

Combined Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the Years Ended December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004

	2006 Consolidated	2005 Unconsolidated	2004
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:			
INVESTMENT INCOME:			
Income on cash and long-term investments	\$3,386,410	\$4,002,991	\$2,952,454
Gains and losses on securities	21,312,043	8,302,313	13,490,200
Equity in earnings of jointly owned companies	3,621,423	8,492,265	6,161,414
Rental Income	50,375	38,750	-
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	\$28,370,251	\$20,836,319	\$22,604,068
INVESTMENT EXPENSE	637,602	383,982	710,158
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	27,732,649	20,452,337	21,893,910
CONTRIBUTIONS	285,737	168,350	52,900
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Grants	1,517,368	4,140,647	9,357,609
Memorial Contributions	-	-	3,447
Direct Charitable Expenses	2,865,118	2,953,045	3,865,777
Development	1,128,254	1,337,982	871,095
Administration	1,256,413	1,807,829	1,619,054
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$6,767,153	\$10,239,503	\$15,716,982
INCREASE / DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	21,251,233	10,381,184	6,229,828
EXPENSES FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS	-	-	-
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	21,251,233	10,381,184	6,229,828
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	212,177,719	201,796,535	195,566,707
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$233,428,952	\$212,177,719	\$201,796,535

Financial Summary

Statements of Financial Position For the Years Ended December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004

	2006	2005	2004
ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,477,838	\$5,442,599	\$1,614,751
Accounts receivable			
Prepaid expenses	38,391	39,497	31,322
Furniture and equipment, net	3,298,909	3,375,554	3,052,540
Assets whose use is limited	407,980	427,320	444,473
Marketable securities	176,905,971	154,863,543	154,435,085
Accrued RHS Settlement - PUT	-	2,606,529	-
Investments at cost plus equity in undistributed earnings	52,843,272	51,565,834	53,499,618
Total Assets	\$236,972,361	\$218,320,876	\$213,077,789
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	879,896	689,711	753,954
Payroll, payroll taxes and benefits payable	117,431	150,529	128,278
Grants payable	2,275,398	5,012,893	6,543,689
Annuity obligations payable	270,684	290,024	307,177
Total Liabilities	\$3,543,409	\$6,143,157	\$7,733,098
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	410,106	221,250	52,900
Net Assets - Unrestricted	233,018,846	211,956,469	205,291,791
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$236,972,361	\$218,320,876	\$213,077,789

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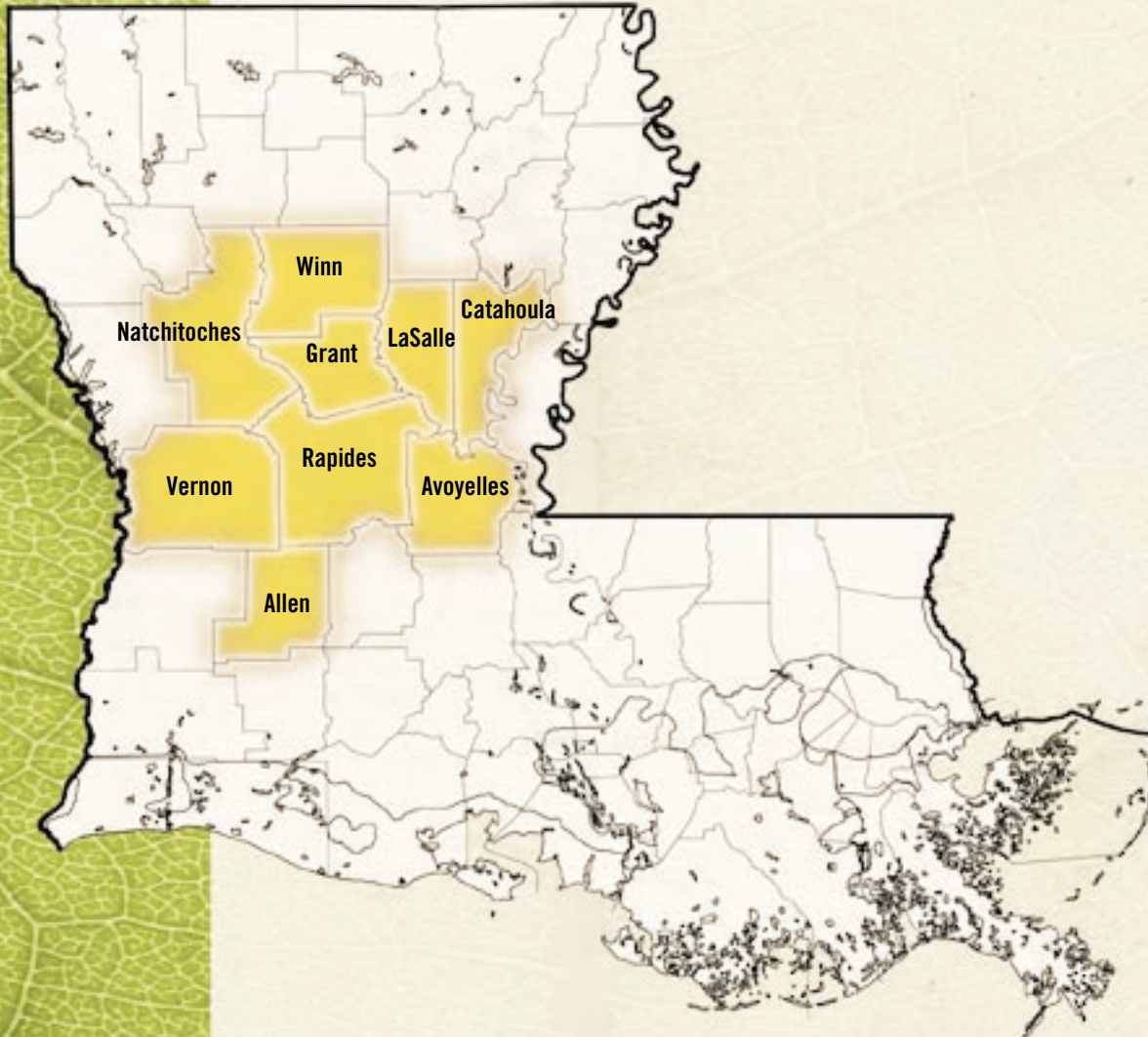
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Associate Professor of Health Ministries
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The Rapides Foundation Service Area



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