Connecting people who care with causes that matter
We are very excited about our community and the amazing possibilities for growth and improvement that are before us in Southwest Louisiana. We are so fortunate to have fantastic philanthropy in our area. From the $50-a-year contributor to the $5,000-a-year supporter of a nonprofit; from the major gift-giver to the giver of time and talents, our people are giving and our community is strong. The challenge, as we see it, is how we harness all of our community’s resources in a strategic and effective way for the long-term good of our region. We strongly believe the answer is the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana.

At the Community Foundation, our mission is to make a lasting, positive impact by connecting people who care with causes that matter. We do this in two ways: 1) pooled, strategic investment of charitable dollars; and 2) leadership in civic initiatives.

The first way that we meet our mission is by helping our area’s philanthropists (i.e. individuals, families, businesses and even nonprofits) maximize their charitable investments by pooling their monies with those of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the Northshore Community Foundation in large and high-performing portfolios. This collaboration creates investment strength and opens up our investors to many more options and opportunities than those of single organizations. These charitable funds make positive impacts on important causes that benefit us today and in the future.

The second way we meet our mission is by taking supportive, collaborative and sometimes leadership roles in civic initiatives that will enhance the quality of life in our region. One of our current priorities is the anticipated bike and pedestrian path over the soon-to-be-constructed bridge over Contraband Bayou. Modeling upon the success of other thriving communities, it is our long-term strategy for this bike path to serve as a springboard for regional connectivity of paths between parks and other destinations in our area.

Our Board is using the Regional Impact Study as a guide for other community needs where a specific initiative could help bring a solution. It is our goal to coalesce private and public support for projects that benefit us today and in the future.

As you read this report, we hope you will consider how you can connect—or expand your connection—with the Community Foundation as a partner, an annual supporter or a fund donor. We are able to take action on causes that matter in our region because people like you choose us as a partner in philanthropy.

Tom Shearman
Publisher, American Press
Board Chair 2014–2016

Sara McLeod Judson
President/CEO
Community Foundation of SWLA
Board of Directors

Tom Shearman, Chair, American Press
Sara McLeod Judson, President and CEO, Community Foundation of SWLA
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Marshall Simien, Simien & St. Mary Law Firm
Lehrue Stevens MD, The Pathology Lab
Mary Leach Werner, The Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co.

*Ms. Rau is a member of the investment committee of Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The committee manages our assets, and the assets of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the Northshore Community Foundation.
About the Foundation

The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana unites human and financial resources to enhance the quality of life across Southwest Louisiana.

The Community Foundation pursues its mission in two ways.
1. The Foundation connects donors to worthwhile projects and nonprofits.
2. The Foundation takes on projects for civic good, such as planning for bike and pedestrian paths.

We serve the people of Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Cameron and Jefferson Davis parishes.

How we work:

We provide services to people and companies that make philanthropy easy, effective and enduring.

Philanthropists open donor advised funds at the Foundation and contribute to their charitable funds. Contributions are tax deductible. From their funds, they recommend grants to nonprofits, which are approved by our board. The Foundation’s staff issues the grants, sends acknowledgement letters and follows up with nonprofits.

The Foundation is operated by a board from Southwest Louisiana. We are affiliated with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, which has granted nearly $400 million since it was formed in 1964. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation contributed millions to master planning in Southwest Louisiana after Hurricane Rita.
The Community Foundation manages the Community Support Fund, which was created and initially funded by Sasol. This fund provides job and life skills to underemployed and unemployed residents so they can participate in the industrial boom in our region.
Sasol’s Solution

More than five hundred workers will turn ethane into ethylene at Sasol’s $8.9 billion plant in Lake Charles. Thousands more are needed to staff an industrial boom across Southwest Louisiana.

In these extraordinary economic times, Sasol found a chance to do good for Southwest Louisiana.

In 2013, the company was hearing from ministers and others that unemployed and underemployed residents were interested in industry jobs but were unaware of the employment process. Personal barriers also kept them from becoming part of the workforce. Responding, Sasol dedicated two years to develop a unique workforce training program.

The program can be personalized, directing people without high school diplomas, for instance, to GED programs, while offering customized instruction to graduates who are working but want higher levels of employment. To overcome social and financial barriers, job seekers will receive career counseling, tuition assistance and other support services while training for more promising futures.

“The program is need-based, very specific and tailored for each person’s circumstances,” says Kim Cusimano, Sasol senior public and government affairs specialist.

Sasol has opened a community development fund at the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana to pilot the program. The model was designed to be expandable, allowing other companies to support workforce and community development in Southwest Louisiana.

Sasol created the program knowing an established truth. “We value and know that it makes good business sense to hire local people, where possible,” says Cusimano. “This program creates a pathway for the unemployed and underemployed population to obtain valuable skills, enter the workforce and ultimately increase the pool of qualified candidates for jobs at Sasol and other growing industries in the area.”
Autism: 1 in 68

Autism is rising at an alarming rate. The developmental disability has been increasing at 6% to 15% over the last decade; one in 68 are on the spectrum now. In Southwest Louisiana, nonprofits are answering the need, and are preparing for a future in which more children and adults are expected to need the assistance that lets them live life as fully as they can.

St. Nicholas Center for Children, and Autism Services of SWLA are among the leaders. Both nonprofits have built a strong foundation of services, and generous donors have taken the next step of investing for their futures.

Since it opened in fall 2008, St. Nicholas Center has provided children with a range of therapies in a vibrant educational environment.

“St. Nicholas Center for Children is transforming the lives of children with autism by providing therapy and family support,” said Christy Papania-Jones, executive director of the St. Nicholas Center. “With a staff of licensed pediatric therapists, services are provided in a fun and reinforcing environment. Children are thriving and families now have hope.”

After donors funded a new, well-equipped building on Ryan Street, St. Nicholas Center decided it was time to look ahead.

“Choosing wise investments gives us and our donors the assurance that St. Nicholas Center for Children will be here for future generations, offering hope and progress to our community’s children through our life changing services,” said Michelle Mudd, St. Nicholas Center board treasurer.

Most don’t grow out of autism, and the services in Southwest Louisiana don’t stop once they are adults. Autism Services of SWLA has homes for adults living with autism. Each person has a room that can be made their own with photos, art and music. And they get time to spend with people they care about – the friends they’ve made at Autism Services. Plus, they participate in building their own plan of care, and do things daily to acquire new knowledge and skills.

“Independence and autonomy are so important for these adults, and we provide that in the home setting,” says Toby Osburn, executive director of Autism Services.

“The Community Foundation provides a well-managed and successful investment portfolio which will help us generate a good return. It’s also part of our local capacity building effort. When we leverage Autism Services dollars with other charitable dollars we widen the impact that we all have on the region.”

— Toby Osburn, Autism Services executive director
Kings of Philanthropy

Giving back to the community, especially to children, is nothing new to Willie and Wanda King. They have been mentoring young people most of their lives. As support for their work grew among friends and family, Willie gave his cause a name, “Bridge Builders for Life.” His next step was to open a charitable account at the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, leaving him more time to focus on what he does best.

“I was struggling to figure out how to organize all this as we were growing; the foundation made it so easy,” says Willie King. “When we explain to people that we have the Bridge Builders fund at the Community Foundation, it gives us additional credibility right from the start. It shows the public that this is 100% for a good cause.”
2014 Grants

Grants are made from donor funds at the Community Foundation. Our fund donors make tax-deductible contributions to their charitable funds and they recommend grants to nonprofits. The Foundation manages their funds, makes grants on their behalf, provides local knowledge of nonprofits and issues, and handles paperwork and advises on legal matters.

2014 GRANTS

Abrahams Tent Association $6,000
Alfred M. Barbe High School $1,500
American Heart Association Inc.$1,622
American National Red Cross—Southwest Louisiana $4,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana Inc. $1,500
Crime Stoppers of Lake Charles Inc. $500
Dominicans Province of St. Albert the Great $1,000
Elton United Methodist Church $50,000
Ethel Precht HOPE Breast Cancer Foundation Inc. $500
Family And Youth Counseling Agency Inc. $154,064
Fellowship of Christian Athletes $12,500
First United Methodist Church $16,700
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge $1,000
Hillsdale College $250
Immaculate Conception Cathedral School $2,000
Imperial Calcasieu Museum Inc. $2,500
LaGrange High School $1,166
Los Medicos Voladores $50,000
Louisiana Historical Association Memorial Hall Foundation Inc. $500
McNeese State University Agriculture Foundation $10,000
McNeese State University Foundation $14,500
National Lung Cancer Partnership $1,500
Our Lady Queen of Heaven School $2,000
Southwest Louisiana Hospital Association Foundation Inc. $50,000
St Louis Catholic High School $7,300
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital $5,000
St. Louis Catholic High School $10,000
Summerville Baptist Church $50,000
The Congregation of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church $2,600
The Salvation Army—Lake Charles Corps $1,000
The Whistle Stop $100
Trinity Baptist Church $32,740
Tulane University $1,000
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Baton Rouge Division $1,000
Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Inc. $2,000
Donor Funds

The Alley Family Fund
Autism Services of Southwest Louisiana
Bridge Builders for Life Fund
Kyle Broussard Memorial Fund
Staci and David Bruchhaus Fund
CFSWLA Key Indicators Fund
Chambers-Bokros Medical Fund
City of Sulphur Enrichment Fund
Coastal Plain Conservancy Fund
Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana Displaced Residents Fund
Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Relief and Recovery Fund
Community Support for Southwest Louisiana Fund
Community Support for Southwest Louisiana Scholarship Fund
SWLA Firefighters’ Fund
First Lieutenant Douglas B. Fournet Memorial Fund
Free Swim Fund
The Emma Dee Gray Foundation Fund
Juliet Hardtner Fund—Endowment
Juliet Hardtner Fund—Spenddown
Heckhaven Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Fund
Ginny and John Henning Endowment Fund
Lena and Bill Henning Memorial Endowment Fund
Lena and Bill Henning United Methodist Church Fund
Susan and W.L. Henning Jr. Fund
Thomas G. and Shirley M. Henning Family Foundation Endowment Fund
The Industrial Development Board of the Parish of Calcasieu Inc. Fund
JPMorgan Chase SWLA Fund
The LaGrange Athletic and Educational Fund
Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Foundation Fund
The Fritz Lang Foundation Fund
Jack E. Lawton Family Fund
Make a Difference Fund
The McLeod Family Fund
Mendelson Family Fund in Honor of Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Bishop
Military Veterans Fund
Millennium Park Restoration Fund

“The Community Foundation makes it easy for us to work with Sulphur residents and businesses to provide more arts opportunities for all ages.”
—Sulphur Mayor Chris Duncan, City of Sulphur Enrichment Fund

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Mixon Fund
Hector San Miguel Memorial Fund
The Saint Anthony Fund
St. Nicholas Center for Children
St. Nicholas Center for Children Endowment
Wayne Simmons Memorial Fund
The Bishop Jude Speyrer Fund in Honor of Monsignor Gouaux
The Stables of Le Bocage Fund
Southwest Louisiana Law Center Fund
Giving through Donor Advised Funds

Many nonprofit organizations are increasing the well-being of people in Southwest Louisiana, thanks to the philanthropy of John and Ginny Henning. Ginny had a strong desire to do something beneficial in memory of her friend, Shannon Cox, who died in a car accident in 2010. The Hennings funded the Shannon Cox Counseling Center at the Family and Youth Counseling Agency. Therapists at the center provide more than 8,000 hours of counseling each year, including grief counseling to children and families. John and Ginny continue their support of the center and many other projects through their Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation. Because of their generosity, there is much cause for hope for all the people of our region.
Annual Support

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
($5,000 AND ABOVE)
American Press Foundation
Tom and Noni Shearman
Axiall Corp.
Penny and Dan Donald
Audra and Glenn Pumpelly
Donna and Rick Richard

COMMUNITY LEADER
($1,000 TO $4,999)
Kay and Billy Blake
Dinah and John Bradford
Dr. and Mrs. David Buttross Jr.
Lucie and Phil Earhart
Madeline and Ed Ellington
Brian and Mary Shaddock Jones
Dick Kennison
Carrie and Jeff Kudla
Glenda and David McCarty
McDonald’s of Southwest Louisiana
Doug Gehrig
Lady Marilyn Q. McLeod
Reed Mendelson
Willie L. Mount
Cammie and Steve Shaddock
Dr. and Mrs. Fayez Shamieh
Paula and Marshall Simien
Southwest Louisiana Alliance Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Lehrue Stevens

FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION
($100 TO $999)
Louie Barbe
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beam
Susan Blake
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Boyer
Hyun and David Brossett
Karen and Darryl Drewett
Fred R. Godwin
Mark Hanudel
Caroline S. Hollins
Sara and Mark Judson
Hardtner Klumpp
Winfield E. Little, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mackey
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Jennifer and John Nichols
Mrs. Virginia Pruitt
JoAnn Reed
Mrs. Mavis C. Raggio
Della and Billy Rose
Karen and Scott Stubblefield
Lisa and Louis Todd
United Way of Southwest Louisiana
Joanna and Charlie Viccellio
Tammy and Greg Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wood
Mrs. Henry L. Yelverton
Memorials

Person being memorialized is in bold.

Kyle Broussard Memorial Fund

Mrs. Joyce Broussard
by Mr. and Mrs. Rayward Simon
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Rials
Mr. and Mrs. David LeBlanc

Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana

Mr. Bobby Dower and
Mr. Hector San Miguel
by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beam

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mann
by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Todd

Mr. Ben Mount
by Mrs. Willie L. Mount

Dr. F.W. Raggio, Jr.
by Mrs. Mavis C. Raggio

Mrs. Deryl Jean “Tiny” Seneca
by Mr. and Mrs. Scott Stubblefield

Mendelson Family Fund in Honor of
Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Bishop

Mr. Ronald S. Ortego
by Mr. Reed Mendelson
Ms. Shiela Doucet
Ms. Tracey Veillon

Honoraria

Person being honored is in bold.

Autism Services of Southwest Louisiana Fund

Mr. Graham Portus
by Dr. Alan Lacoste

Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana

Ms. Maci & Ms. Ellie Fontenot
by Mr. and Mrs. William Blake

Dr. Lehrue Stevens
by Mr. Dick Kennison

Southwest Louisiana Law Center Fund

Mr. Mark Judson
by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Roeh
Join us to connect people who care with causes that matter. We will turn your generosity into a positive impact for Southwest Louisiana.

Donate online at www.FoundationSWLA.org