Creating a wonderful place for all of us.
Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana Board of Directors: Back row, left to right: Mark Boniol, Dan L. Donald Jr., Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux, David Reinauer and Jonald Walker. Middle row, left to right: Paul Pettefer, Dr. Lehrue Stevens, Vic Stelly, Phil Earhart and Reed Mendelson. Front row, left to right: Greg Webb, Mary Leach Werner, Lisa Verrette, Debra Vaughan, Susan Blake and Larry Maynard. Not present: Frank Pruitt, Tom Shearman and Edwin F. Hunter III.
At last year’s meeting, the gavel was passed to me from David Reinauer. His dedication to the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana was always displayed through his determined and persistent commitment, his tenacious leadership, and his calm, measured evaluation of the choices that led us to where we are today.

Last year, 2010, was an interesting and exciting year for the Foundation. We created a new strategic plan that resulted in a new mission: “The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana unites human and financial resources to effect permanent, positive culture change.”

We realized there was a need for us to follow in the footsteps of other community foundations nationwide and investigate civic initiatives where we might be of assistance. While we looked into areas such as health care and downtown development, we found we had a passion for our very own signature civic initiative—“Choosing Civility in Southwest Louisiana.”

We embarked on our first annual key indicator project, a tracking of about 75 statistical indicators in eleven categories, including culture, recreation, economy, public safety, social well-being and government. This project’s goal is to measure progress and inspire action. Our publication will be ready for distribution this year. It will be a roadmap for community improvement, telling us where we are, how far we have come and where we need to go. We also recognized that while we had grown in so many ways, there was still a vast audience that was unaware of the Foundation and the services and opportunities we provide to this region. So we developed the Brand Awareness Committee and, as a result, we hope you have seen our television commercial and have heard more about the community foundation. We thank Jim Serra and our friends at KPLC for taking our brand awareness concept and making it bigger and better than we ever anticipated. And our gratitude goes to Tia Seeley and our friends at Suddenlink for working with us as well.

The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana certainly has grown this past year. I am honored to have served and to continue to serve as Chair in 2011. My gratitude goes out to our friends at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for their continued support and guidance; to the Board of Directors with whom I have the pleasure of working with; to Debra Vaughan for her unwavering dedication and loyalty to the Foundation; and to Lisa Verrette, our president and CEO. Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Philip Earhart
About us...

The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana is among more than 700 community foundations across the country. We work in two ways to make Southwest Louisiana a better place for all our neighbors. We connect fund donors—philanthropists—to worthwhile projects and to nonprofits. With them, we have granted $4.3 million just since 2008. Second, we are ready to take on projects that change the direction of the region.

Your community foundation and others are nonprofits classified as public charities and dedicated to supporting and improving their individual communities. Each of us has a mission and primary service area, though our donors can make grants around the world.

Our Mission
The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana unites human and financial resources to effect permanent, positive culture change.

Our History
The Foundation began under the wing of the United Way. We ventured on our own, choosing a direction and hiring Lisa Verrette to lead the daily operations after Hurricane Rita. To gain our footing, we allied with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, which has provided more than $262 million in grants worldwide over nearly five decades, including underwriting the plan that is being implemented to reinvent the Lake Charles lakefront. With the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, we get support while remaining independent with decisions made by a board from Southwest Louisiana.

Service Area
Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Cameron and Jefferson Davis parishes. We provide financial support for charitable, social, educational and human service programs in these parishes.

Board of Directors...

The Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana operates with an independent board comprised of business and civic leaders from the region.

Phil Earhart, chair
Lisa Verrette, president/CEO
Greg Webb, vice chair
Dr. Lehrue Stevens, secretary
Dan L. Donald Jr., treasurer
David Reinauer, past chair
Susan Blake
Mark Boniol
Edwin F. Hunter III
Larry Maynard
Reed Mendelson
Paul Pettefer
Frank Pruitt
Tom Shearman
Vic Stelly
Hon. Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux
Jonald Walker
Mary Leach Werner
Charitable funds...

Donors come to us with a desire to change the world, and we're here to help them do it.

Kyle Broussard Memorial Fund
Chambers—Bokros Medical Fund
Emma Dee Gray Foundation Fund
The Foundation at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital
Juliet Hardtner Funds to Benefit Community Advancement
Ginny and John Henning Endowment Fund
Lena and Bill Henning Memorial Endowment Fund
Lena and Bill Henning United Methodist Church Fund
Susan & W.L. Henning Jr. Fund
Thomas G. and Shirley M. Henning Family Foundation Endowment Fund
Thomas G. and Shirley M. Henning Family Foundation Spenddown Fund
JPMorgan Chase SWLA Fund
Fritz Lang Foundation Fund
Mendelson Family Fund in Honor of Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Bishop Fund
Millennium Park Restoration Fund
Industrial Development Board of the Parish of Calcasieu
Hector San Miguel Memorial Fund
Southwest Louisiana Firefighters Fund
Southwest Louisiana Law Center
Bishop Jude Speyrer Fund in Honor of Monsignor Gouaux
The Stables of Le Bocage Fund

Grants...

The Foundation has granted $4.3 million to nonprofits since 2008.

2010 Grants

Barbe High School Soccer 5K Run—$200
Ethel Precht HOPE Breast Cancer Foundation—$250
First United Methodist Church—$75,000
National Lung Cancer Partnership—$1,000
St. Louis High School Lady Saints Basketball—$1,000
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School—$1,000
Trinity Baptist Church—$1 million
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital—$10,000
**Keeping them honest**

With the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana as a partner, the media has support in keeping the government accountable and comforting the afflicted.

In 2010, the Foundation honored Jim Beam with the first Hector San Miguel award, which was created to recognize outstanding achievement in journalism and/or relentless pursuit of truth. The charitable fund at the Foundation was established by Sonny Marks in memory of his friend and colleague, San Miguel, who died in 2009.

Beam was a former editor and columnist at the Lake Charles American-Press. “Hector was never scared of anyone or anything,” Beam said in receiving the award. “He got the facts and I was able to offer my opinions.”

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**Be good to each other**

A place can flourish if people treat each other with respect. Toward that goal, the Foundation last year decided “Choosing Civility in Southwest Louisiana” would become a signature project, which resulted in a second set of talks and discussions about the topic.

In spring of this year, Dr. P.M. Forni and Daniel Buccino, both founding members of the Johns Hopkins Civility Project; and Emily Post, author on etiquette, joined us and the community to advance civility.

“Since the English word “civility” comes from the Latin word “civitas” which meant “city”, the idea of community is embedded in that of civility,” said Forni. “We cannot have civility without a community and we cannot have a community without civility. No community can survive—let alone thrive—unless its members are willing and able to self-regulate. In other words, it is of essence that a critical amount of civility circulates in any given community at any given moment.”

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JoAnn and Jim Beam
2010 Membership...

Founders Forum
$5,000 to $10,000
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Blake
Capital One Bank
Mark Dodge Chrysler Jeep
Mark Boniol

Impact Alliance
$1,000 to $4,999
American Press Foundation
Tom and Nori Shearman
Dr. and Mrs. David Buttross Jr.
Penny and Dan Donald
Lucie and Phil Earhart
Langley Williams and Co.
McDonald’s of SWLA
Doug Gehrig
Reed Mendelson
Virginia and Frank Pruitt
Anne and David Reinauer
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Richard
Terry and Vic Stelly
Dr. and Mrs. Lehrue Stevens
Terri and Roland Terrell
Lisa and Dennis Verrette

Signature
$100 to $999
Arabie Environmental Solutions, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Boyer
Louie D. Barbe III
Edith and Bryan Beam
JoAnn and Jim Beam
Susan Blake
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Boyer
Dinah and John Bradford
Poddy and Joe Champeaux
Louise C. Christman
Mary Beth and David Conner
Mr. and Mrs. Payton Covington
Diocese of Lake Charles
Sandy Haan
Mark A. Hanudel
The Gardens/Guardian House
Mr. and Mrs. Art Hollins
E.F Hunter III
J and J Exterminating Company
Chuck Kleckley
Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Landry
Mr. and Mrs. W. Brent Lumpkin
Reverend Henry Mancuso
Stephany and Larry Maynard
Nadine and Bill McCall
Rob McCorquodale
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Monlezun Jr.
Senator Dan Morrish
Reverend John G. Myers
Paul Pettefer
J.B. Postell
Mavis Raggio
Jody and Jim Reed
Della and Billy Rose
Eston Singletary
Southwest Beverage Co. Inc
Judge and Mrs. Gene Thibodeaux
Jan and Chad Thielen
Todd and Associates
Louis Todd
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Viccellio
Sydalise Villaume
Dr. and Mrs. George Hardy Vincent
Tammy and Greg Webb
H. Aubrey White III
Sheila and Charles Whitson
Frank A. Wood
Mrs. Henry L. Yelverton