

# MHSF

METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM  
FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

## **MISSION**

The Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to the support, development and management of health-related programs and services for the benefit of the citizens of East New Orleans and beyond. The programs expressly target health status improvement of the referenced population by addressing the key determinants of health including lifestyles, access to healthcare services, social, and environmental factors. This is accomplished through operational management, fiduciary responsibility, and exploring other business ventures that relate to healthcare.

## **VALUES**

In keeping with the Christian spirit, Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc. promotes health, wellness and wholeness through offering, supporting or advocating programs and services to the Greater New Orleans community and beyond. Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc. is committed to:

- Providing programs and services in a cost-effective and ethical manner.
- Being close to the community and responsive to their needs without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, creed, age or disability.
- The wellbeing of the Foundation family of the employees and constituents...emotionally, financially and spiritually.

## **VISION**

Though the United States spends more per capita on healthcare than any nation in the world, health status lags that of other industrialized nations. Population-based programs and personal health services that target the physical, mental and spiritual development of individuals and communities will improve health status. Our vision is for the Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc. to be a conduit for a healthy community that provides grants and health care services in addition to social, lifestyle, environmental and public policy programs that promote health and wellness.

## Message to the Community

Faith-based, legacy foundations exist to enhance the quality of life of its target populations. The Methodist Health System Foundation (MHSF) worked hard to achieve this objective during the past year. Simply, we have preserved our tradition of caring for and enhancing the lives of those we long ago vowed to support.

One of MHSF's benchmarks is to increase the scope of collaboration with dedicated partners through innovative strategies and a shared vision. This allows us to partner with organizations that support our mission to provide health-related programs and services for the benefit of the citizens of East New Orleans and beyond.

As of January 1, 2018, Mr. Frederick C. Young, Jr. retired as President of MHSF. His devoted leadership has been the cornerstone of MHSF's stability and success for nearly four decades. Happily, he will continue to share his wealth of knowledge, experience and compassion as a member of the Board of Directors.

Despite the challenges faced by the healthcare industry nationwide and the volatility in the financial markets, MHSF continues its tradition of strong financial performance through responsible stewardship across our organization.

MHSF approaches our mission with an unwavering commitment to excellence, and we strive to respond to the changing needs of the communities we serve. This year's report highlights a rich diversity of programs, services and productive partnerships. Our community partners help us to serve more families with greater needs and to provide higher levels of care closer to home. The school based health centers we support offer children and young adults uncomplicated access to healthcare in a safe and secure environment. MHSF healthcare discipline scholarships, in partnership with local universities, help to alleviate the shortages of healthcare professionals.

Throughout the growth and changes, our core values remain steadfast. These values are our legacy and have served as the basis for all of our service to the community; they will continue to guide us as we strive toward our future goals.

Your generous prayers and continued support inspire us and strengthen our resolve to remain an effective conduit to healthier futures for the communities and individuals we serve.

Sincerest Regards,

Mr. Patrick M. Gibbs  
Chairman

Mrs. Wendy M. Beron  
President

# Board of Directors



Mr. Patrick M. Gibbs  
Chairman



Mrs. Wendy M. Beron  
President



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Mrs. Mary B. Giraud



Dr. Joseph A. Labat



Mrs. Paula R. Singleton



Mr. Larry D. Wink



Mr. Frederick C. Young, Jr.

# MHSF Team



Ann Clayton Chamberlain  
Vice President of Program Mgmt.



Patrick Mottram  
Medical Director



Paul Page, Jr.  
Vice President of Finance



Wendy M. Beron  
President



Dana Biagas  
Medical Assistant



Pam Cutlip  
Executive Office Liaison



Audra Degan  
Nurse Practitioner



Giselle Diecidue  
Exec. Asst. to the President



Kaytlyn Gillis  
Social Worker



Katherine Grieshaber  
Social Worker



Barbara Henderson  
Accountant



Pattie Jarrell  
Nurse Practitioner



Mae Juan  
Registered Nurse



Steve Juan  
Registered Nurse



Cheryl Landry  
MSO Analyst



Glenda London  
Nurse Practitioner



Leslie Mathews  
Center Coordinator



Bonnie Miller  
Dir. of Community Relations



Carol Roger  
Center Coordinator



Heather Surcouf  
Dir. of Health Center Services



Mary Trupiano  
Grant Administration Assistant

# Frederick C. Young, Jr.



*"Methodist Hospital was 'up and running' when Fred Young joined its staff and I had been a board member barely one year. I cannot say how or when our friendship grew; what matters most is that it did!"*

*It took the right person to truly capture the vision of the founders of the hospital, and Fred Young was that person. Seeking the talents, the services, the programs, and the alliances needed for growth and success, Fred built our team and prepared us to lead. He instituted annual board retreats— meant to foster knowledge in healthcare and help us know one another. A board of strangers does not operate efficiently. Thus began that 'family' we cherish to this day!*

*Fred has retired and the baton has been passed on. Thank you, Fred, for being with us and leading us through all these times; you are the best communicator I have ever known!"*

*Marian L Eggerton, Former Chairman MHSF Board, Former Chairman PMMH Board*



# Retiring President



*“As a Methodist Hospital Board member, I recall when the hospital was trying to avoid bankruptcy. Fred’s ability to recognize and analyze the situation made him one of the most instrumental people in negotiating the sale and transaction that propelled the expansion of Methodist Health System Foundation.*

*His leadership launched this Foundation and look at the amazing work that has done over the years. This is a wonderful legacy and Fred’s commitment and efforts will be remembered for years to come.”*

*Donald Pate, MHSF Board Treasurer*



*“On the occasion of his retirement and on behalf of his many friends and colleagues, we offer our most sincere congratulations and professional and personal admiration for Fred Young.*

*As an industry leader, a pioneer, a visionary, a loyal and skilled executive, a community leader and, above all, a cherished friend, we wish Fred many richly deserved years of happiness in retirement.”*

*Patrick Gibbs, MHSF Board Chairman*

*In 1980, Frederick (Fred) C. Young Jr. joined the Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital (PMMH) family as Chief Financial Officer. He continued his service to PMMH as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In 1986 he became President and Chief Executive Officer of PMMH.*

*In 2002 he stepped into the role as President of Methodist Health System Foundation (MHSF). In his years as President, Young has guided MHSF in awarding in excess of \$14 million in grants to nonprofit organizations. One of the first, and perhaps one of the most memorable, grants awarded was for \$1,000,000 to the UHS Foundation, specifically for Methodist Hospital employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.*

*His legacy of caring has instilled excellence in the service of others in every member of the Foundation family. We are forever grateful for his diplomatic leadership, compassionate guidance and his unwavering loyalty to us, his “family”.*



# Retiring Board Members

The MHSF's Board, Administration and staff thanks them for their service and extends our sincerest gratitude and best wishes to both Dr. Singleton and Dr. del Portal, as they enjoy their well-earned retirement.



Dr. Enrica K. Singleton

Dr. Enrica K. Singleton was appointed to the Board in 2000 and brought with her a wealth of knowledge and dedication in the field of healthcare. Her strong administrative leadership experience has had an immeasurable impact on the Board and its ability to address the health and wellbeing of the communities MHSF serves.

Dr Singleton currently resides in Lafayette, Louisiana.



Dr. Oscar A. del Portal

Dr. Oscar del Portal was appointed to the Board in 2012. His seasoned perspective brought both insight and inspiration to the Board, from his unique blend of wit and wisdom. While with MHSF, he generously gave his time and talent in support of its vision to bring healthcare and wellbeing services to people and communities in need.

Dr. del Portal currently resides in Greensboro, North Carolina.



# Health Care Hero Award

Our success as an outstanding Health System Foundation is due to the caliber of our people. On January 1, 2018, the MHSF's Board, Administration and staff proudly welcomed Mrs. Wendy Beron to the position of MHSF President. Mrs. Beron's multi-faceted industry knowledge, operational expertise and proven leadership skills will help us enhance the quality of MHSF's mission and continue to advance its vision for the future.

Wendy M. Beron  
*Health Care Hero*



MHSF President, Wendy M. Beron was honored as the recipient of the 2018 Health Care Hero Award given by New Orleans City Business. The Honorees are selected based on their industry achievement and community involvement. This annual recognition is awarded to outstanding healthcare professionals who are making a difference. The reception was held at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

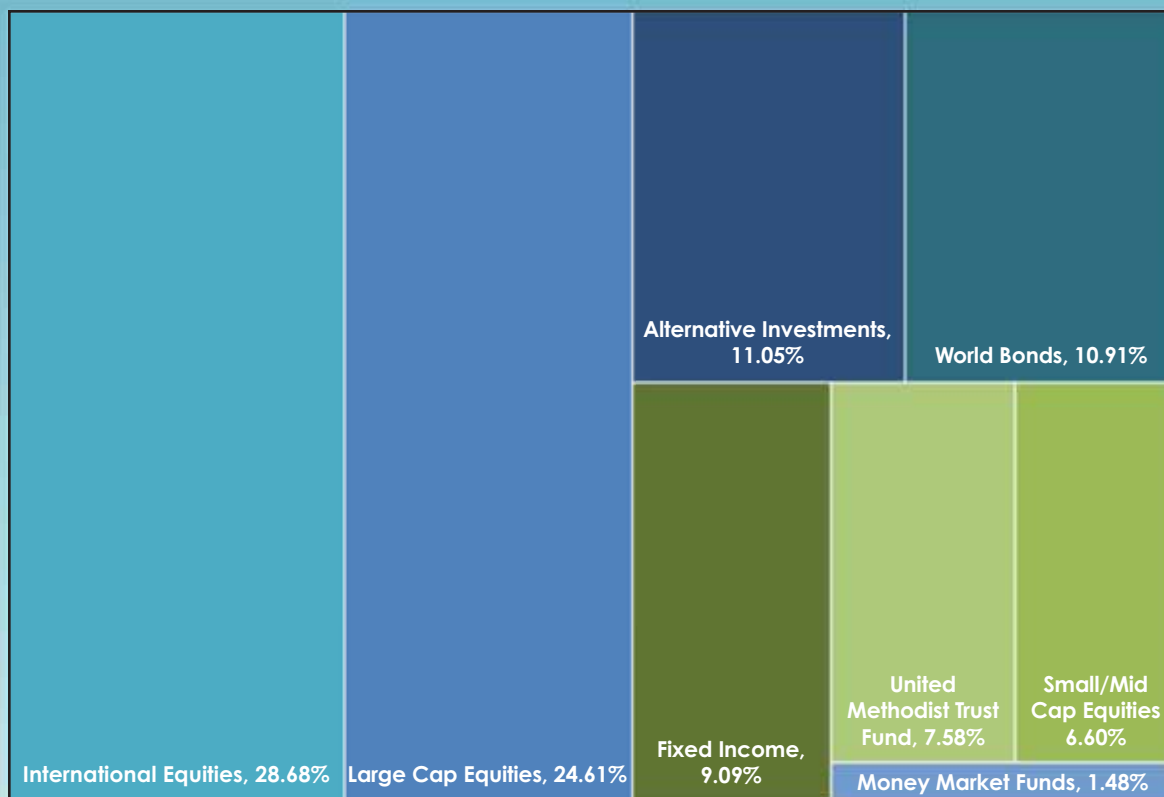


*Among the Health Care Hero well wishers in attendance from MHSF: Left to Right: Dr. Patrick Mottram, MHSF Board Member; Giselle Diecidue, MHSF Executive Assistant to the President; Wendy Beron, MHSF President; Heather Surcoft, MHSF Director of Health Center Services; Barbara Henderson, MHSF Accountant; Ann Clayton Chamberlain, MHSF Vice President of Program Management.*

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

PORTFOLIO TOTAL: \$69.72 MILLION



INVESTMENT POSITION	% TOTAL	AMOUNT
Large Cap Equities	24.61%	\$ 17,160,841.19
Small/Mid Cap Equities	6.60%	4,600,610.55
International Equities	28.68%	19,995,619.78
Alternative Investments	11.05%	7,707,355.86
Fixed Income	9.09%	6,336,831.47
World Bonds	10.91%	7,603,104.49
Money Market Funds	1.48%	1,033,419.49
United Methodist Trust Fund	7.58%	5,281,591.23
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 69,719,374.06</b>

KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION	CURRENT YEAR	5 YEAR TOTALS
Net Investment Income	\$ 3,171,149	\$ 18,513,810
Change in Fair Market Value of Investments	\$ (123, 869)	\$ 466,043
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 3,953,947	\$ 21,022,283
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 38,560	\$ 741,880

# ACTIVE GRANTS

Organization	Project Title	Terms (months)	Grant Amount
The Blood Center for Southeast Louisiana	Life Saver Program / Heart 2 Heart Program	60	\$497,696
Children's Bureau of New Orleans	Project Connect-Foundation Preparatory Charter School	13	\$ 10,000
Covenant House New Orleans	Rights of Passage	72	\$483,000
CrescentCare Holdings	CrescentCare Community Health Worker Project	24	\$118,914
Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans	Desire Community Square CHC	24	\$133,095
Family Service of Greater New Orleans	FSGNO Multi-Disciplinary Team	24	\$122,736
Greater New Orleans Immunization Network	School Kids Immunization Program ( SKIP )	72	\$778,016
Health & Education Alliance of Louisiana	Coordinated Care for the Whole Child	30	\$200,000
HOPE	Food Distribution and Hot Meals Program	12	\$ 37,550
LCMC	Diabetes Clinic and Education Center	25	\$180,120
Liberty's Kitchen	Youth Development Program	32	\$290,949
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	Children's Defense Team's Client Services Unit	36	\$249,451
Love In Action Outreach	Food Pantry Program	45	\$141,080
Marillac Community Health Centers	FQHC/School Behavioral Health Pilot	24	\$31,224
Nonprofit Knowledge Works ( The Data Center)	Disseminate Essential Planning Data	36	\$ 75,000
Ochsner Clinic Foundation	Mothers' Milk Bank of Louisiana	30	\$244,250
Second Harvest Food Bank	Therapeutic Food Pantry at UMC	36	\$240,000
St. Thomas Community Health Center	Columbia Parc CHC	50	\$341,291
University of Holy Cross	MHSF Endowed Nursing Scholarship	ongoing	\$100,000
University of Holy Cross	MHSF Richard A. Henault First Generation Endowed Nursing Scholarship	ongoing	\$ 60,000
VIA Link, Inc.	2-1-1 Crisis Intervention Call Center Volunteer Program	31	\$220,000
Xavier University	Pharmacy Scholarship Program	36	\$ 48,000
<b>Strategic Grants - Total</b>			<b>\$4,602,372</b>
School Based Health Centers	Health Centers at Chalmette High School & Nunez Community College (inception to date)	ongoing	\$4,911,551
<b>Active Grants</b>			<b>\$9,513,923</b>

# Grantmaking Initiatives in Su

**Grants In Action**

**Access to Health**

**Behavioral Health**

**Chronic D**

# Support of Programmatic Goals

“Grantmaking” describes a wide range of models - from “charitable bankers” to a strategic partner which creates value and population-driven healthcare improvement. At one end of the range, money is “given out”, hoping that it will do good at the individual or group level. At the other end, which is where we see MHSF, we’re investors and collaborators in creating healthier communities - setting our sights on identifying and solving systemic healthcare related problems. We are able to use our unique set of resources... people, dollars, reputation, data, and intellect...to create transformative change and to do it in a way that builds on evidence and lessons learned from our efforts to improve the quality of people’s lives.

**As is our tradition, MHSF’s grantmaking activities are grounded in the principles of: integrity, transparency, disclosure, performance, and accountability.**

1. **Improve the physical, emotional and mental health status of the citizens** of the metropolitan New Orleans area with an emphasis on the communities of New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard.
2. **Increase access to healthcare for the citizens** of the metropolitan New Orleans area with an emphasis on the communities of New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard.
3. **Promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention for the citizens** of the metropolitan New Orleans area with an emphasis on the communities of New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard.
4. **Assist, where applicable, in the recovery and reestablishment of healthcare services** in New Orleans East.
5. **Provide MHSF staff assistance to other non-profit entities in subject areas of our internal expertise.** This assistance would be directed towards non-profit entities within the New Orleans area with an emphasis on the communities of New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard.



## Xavier College of Pharmacy

### Scholarships Bring Honor and Stress Relief

Anthony Nguyen literally jumped for joy.  
Bria Broussard remembers the big smile on her dad's face.

The Xavier University Pharmacy students were delighted when they learned they were recipients of a Methodist Health System Foundation scholarship. The recognition came with big sighs of relief. Reduced financial obligations meant less stress on their families and more time for academics.

"My dad was so happy for me and for our family," says Broussard. "For the most part, my tuition comes out of my parents' pockets and that's a big stress for them. Using the scholarship money for tuition allowed me to keep my car running. Not having to worry about finding a ride to school or taking a long bus ride to school is a blessing."

For Nguyen, the scholarship represented his only source of funding outside loans and the money he made from part-time jobs. "Being the oldest child in a family of three is kind of tough to have that financial mantle, that burden," he states. "A lot of the funds went towards textbooks and, like Bria, I am a commuter driving in from New Orleans East. For me though, it goes beyond the monetary amount of the scholarship. I think the altruistic spirit behind it was what really made me so happy, blessed and thankful."

Pharmacy Dean Dr. Kathleen Kennedy emphasizes that students in their second year of Pharmacy studies are considered graduate students by the federal government. "That means large loans," she explains. "So, second and third-year students are eligible to apply for the MHSF scholarships to help minimize the amount of loans they might need for the last two years of our four-year program. Every resource helps and if they keep their grades up, the scholarship is a two-year grant."

"Many of our students don't come from families where there's a lot of wealth and so there's a need to try to help them," she continues. "I have students in the last semester of their fourth year who just don't have the money to make it to graduation. We work hard to identify resources and MHSF has been a big help in providing opportunities for these students."

The scholarship program is an honor, awarded to top students from the New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard areas in recognition of their academic excellence as well as their leadership, initiative and concern for their community.

"At Xavier we continually talk to our students about giving back to the community by eliminating or alleviating some of the health disparities that we see, especially in the Vietnamese and African American communities," Dr. Kennedy says. "Anthony and Bria represent a generation of young people who can address those disparities and make a difference."



The future looks good for Nguyen and Broussard – and the community. With graduation just around the corner, Broussard is looking forward to a career in clinical pharmacy either in an area hospital or neighborhood clinic.

One of only four students accepted each year into the College of Pharmacy's post-graduate Pharmacy residency program, Nguyen is training at both Xavier and University Medical Center for a clinical career focusing on the pharmaceutical aspects of patient care.

The Pharmacy curriculum includes “lots of hard work,” Nguyen and Broussard agree. Add in the need to make good grades, find a part-time job to help with tuition and you have an extreme challenge.

“If I didn't have the scholarship, I would be in a much deeper financial rut or working more hours with less time for studying,” Nguyen emphasizes. “Thank you, MHSF, for your help.”

“Thank you,” Broussard echoes. “Receiving the MHSF scholarship was a great self-esteem booster for me and an incentive to keep up my grades. And it made my dad smile.”

MHSF awards five scholarships each year to Xavier Pharmacy students from New Orleans East, Gentilly and St. Bernard and the surrounding area and is working to fund an endowed pharmacy scholarship program to provide funding for future Xavier pharmacy students.



*Xavier University College of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, center, congratulates Anthony Nguyen and Bria Broussard, two recipients of a scholarship made possible with a grant from MHSF.*



## St. Thomas Community Health Center

### Columbia Parc State-of-the-Art Facility Now Open

Ask a young mother why she hesitated to bring her three-year-old with a persistent cough and raging fever to the pediatrician. Ask a 70-year-old why he ignored chest pain for days before calling 9-1-1 and had an emergency room visit. Their answers will be the same. "I couldn't find anyone to drive me to the doctor's office."

Access to quality healthcare is one of the most significant barriers to treating a medical condition and minimizing complications. "Lack of transportation, availability of services and health insurance result in delays in care, the inability to prevent illness, and hospitalizations that may have been prevented," says St. Thomas Health Center Chief Executive Officer Donald Erwin, MD.

Providing easily accessible and affordable comprehensive quality care has been the steadfast mission of St. Thomas Community Health Center since 1987. Originating in the largest public housing complex in the United States, the organization's healthcare professionals met the needs of the underserved and underinsured New Orleans area community. Three decades later, St Thomas Community Health Center fills the need in seven neighborhoods, providing quality, convenient primary care and specialty services close to home and affordable to more than 60,000 patients every year.



*Nicole Griffin, one of four nurse practitioners on staff at the Columbia Parc Center, gathers background information as she gets to know one of her patients.*



*The Columbia Parc's staff enjoys a spacious work area that allows for easy communication and collaboration.*

"Patients not only deserve accessible and affordable healthcare, but also facilities that are comfortable, inviting, well-equipped and staffed with highly-trained physicians and ancillary staff," Dr. Erwin states. "We are particularly proud of our recently opened state-of-the art Columbia Parc Health Center which replaces a temporary trailer that served the community for three years."

Columbia Parc Health Center is part of a unique mixed-income residential community and open to all members of the community. Patients are treated at no cost or on a sliding fee scale depending on income and insurance.





Located on the corner of St. Bernard Avenue and Caton Street, the Columbia Parc Health Center fills a gap in services for individuals and families living in the Bayou District and Gentilly. The 4,900 square foot building features spacious exam rooms, a large reception area and an in-house laboratory,” Dr. Erwin explains. “The move to a larger facility has allowed us to increase staffing from two to four physicians who work with physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and a behavioral health specialist. The Health Center is experiencing a steady increase in patient visits and we hope to increase staff in the future.”

“MHSF has been a significant partner in helping us bring easy accessible healthcare services to the Columbia Parc community,” Dr. Erwin explains. “The financial support from the Foundation has been critical in our growth and development. Equally as important however, has been the Foundation’s willingness to share its healthcare experience in defining needs for our service area. I am not sure if we can really express how much the Foundation’s confidence and support in our mission has impacted the St. Thomas Health system.”

“We have a good relationship with the community,” Dr. Erwin emphasizes. “With the opening of the healthcare trailer several years ago, we established a presence and earned trust that has carried over to our new permanent facility. Our clients are neighbors who not only appreciate our convenient location, but also see the staff as people who are easy to talk to and who take the time to discuss patient concerns.”

The Health Center staff are also seeing an increasing number of pediatric patients. With KIPP Believe Primary and KIPP Believe College Prep Schools scheduled to open soon, St. Thomas Community Health Center administrators are looking at additional services to better meet the physical and emotional needs of students. Additionally, the staff is considering extending its hours to better accommodate the 9-5 workforce.

“Our goal is to fill a need and to improve the quality of life in the community with a focus on preventative medicine and patient education,” Dr. Erwin emphasizes. “By offering patient education workshops and discussions, and by minimizing roadblocks such as transportation, language, income and insurance coverage, we are poised to deliver accessible and affordable healthcare.”



*Nurse Practitioner, Devon Turvy enters one of the patient exam rooms at St. Thomas Health Center's Columbia Parc Health Center to greet a new patient.*



## VIA LINK

Via Link 2-1-1 Contact Center provides a safety net to help Greater New Orleans' most vulnerable people. Each year more than 72,000 people contact VIA LINK. From the most basic needs - food, housing, shelter, employment - to more challenging circumstances of medical/mental health, emotional issues, legal services, physical and substance abuse, disaster recovery, and suicide counseling; VIA LINK offers encouragement and guidance to desperate individuals.

Digital communication has become commonplace in the world and our community. VIA LINK expanded beyond its phone voice response services to offer technologically advanced text and chat platforms.

With MHSF's support, VIA LINK has added human resource capacity to provide the level of service to those desperately in need. VIA LINK has 30 paid staff members and 12 volunteers; all are housed in a spacious, 4500 square foot serene environment that offers privacy and the calm required to handle the oftentimes overwhelmed and distressed client.

A crisis intervention specialist responds to clients by assessing their needs, helping them to develop an action plan and referring them to an appropriate agency. Whether it is counseling, food, housing, or other needs, VIA LINK has the most comprehensive listing of health and human services in our area. Using a language translation line to provide access to speakers of more than 150 languages and partnering with 7-1-1 allows it to serve those who are hearing and or speech impaired.



VIA LINK is helping to save the lives of Louisianans. As a member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, VIA LINK answers the overflow calls for the Veteran Suicide Prevention Lifeline. VIA LINK is there to help, where they can, with whomever they can, and however they can.

*This is my first time I used this service but I will gladly recommend it to anyone in need and I would like to send a special thanks out to Mr. Smith for hearing me out and taking time with me, for being kind and very professional. Thank you; Mr. Smith. (from a client)*



Since the Youth Crisis Text Line's inception, in 2015, VIA LINK text specialists have engaged in more than 58,000 conversations through text messaging, and the volume continues to grow. Area youth have sought help for bullying, eating disorders, self-harm, physical and sexual abuse and thoughts of suicide. By simply sending a message to the text line (504) 777-3273 (EASE), a confidential support specialist is always available to them, 24/7.

This program has grown to include a web chat platform. People of all ages are encouraged to utilize this crisis chat. It is accessible through [www.vialink.org](http://www.vialink.org).



*Your representatives are very helpful. In 47 years, I have never had to ask for help, and she made me feel like it wasn't such a horrible thing and guided me the best that she could. (from a client)*

*I felt extremely comfortable with Jenny on the phone. She was very understanding and really put forth an effort to help me. I would tell my friends this is a good number to call if you need assistance looking for resources. (from a client)*

Primarily low income, uninsured or underinsured individuals seek help from the Crisis Center, however, VIA LINK is prepared for impending disasters for everyone in need. It has the capacity to respond with uninterrupted service to the needs of the community. Through Hurricanes, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Isaac and emergencies such as H1N1 Flu threat, Gulf Oil Spill and area wide flooding, VIA LINK has been, in many cases, the only live voice available to those in distress.



## HOPE The Food Pantry

In so many ways, the New Orleans area is rich; rich in culture, in history, and in traditions. One of our simple southern traditions is red beans and rice with sausage on Mondays. Young and old, rich and poor, it is a staple among the people of New Orleans. We love traditions and we love the food that surrounds them. Those traditions give us a sense of love, home, and sweet family memories, but for many, hunger surpasses tradition and their reality is survival.

All too often, people believe that the problems associated with hunger are confined to small pockets of society, certain areas of the country, or certain neighborhoods, but it is not always the case.

Today, millions of Americans and thousands of New Orleanians are struggling with hunger. We all know, and are in contact, with people affected by food disparity, even though we might not be aware of it. These are often hard-working adults, children and seniors who simply cannot make ends meet and are forced to go without food for several meals, or even days. Most of us have no concept of hunger and the choices people must make daily, to survive. Unforeseen conditions arise such as health problems, layoffs, weather disasters, etc., are just a few of the contributing factors to this growing crisis, in our communities.

Hope the Food Pantry is filling the gap and the bellies for many with food insecurities. In just one month this past summer, Hope served 13,047 hot meals to senior residents, and 1,584 hot meals to walk in customers at its New Orleans East location. This huge feat is done, in large part, through donated food supplied by area grocers and distributors.

MHSF has provided Hope The Food Pantry with funding needed to expand its kitchen to prepare delicious meals, along with a refrigerated delivery truck and fork lift to mobilize food and supplies in a timely manner. The funding allowed Hope to maximize its capacity to serve more people with a wide variety of fresh vegetables, frozen meats, dairy, canned goods and more.





On Mondays, you can smell the delicious aroma of red beans and rice, sausage and cornbread as it wafts through Hope's newly expanded kitchen. The gifted staff and thankful volunteers delight in sharing their time, talents and traditions with everyone they serve.



In addition to the kitchen, Hope the Food Pantry operates a Choice food pantry for those in need. It is set up like a grocery store which allows its clients food selection and a "shopping experience", rather than a handout experience.

The line is organized; customers patiently wait their turn, appreciative of the service. In July, Hope served 5,239 people. From the very young to very old, everyone leaves the Hope Food Pantry with a smile, a box filled with nourishing food, sprinkled with prayers and hope for a better tomorrow.

*On one chilly Saturday morning, an elderly couple, both using walking assistance came into the Food Pantry warehouse. They were accompanied by four young boys appearing to be between 8 – 14 years old. The woman shared that the boys were her son's children. She told of the challenges they were experiencing due to their fixed income and, with four young boys, there just is never enough food.*

*I thought how just the day before we received a pallet of kid's lunch meals. As the grandparents were checking in, they agreed to allow the boys to take a tour of the Food Pantry with me. We went straight to the area where the Lunchables were being distributed and I gave each boy a case for themselves. One of the boys took it and said, "is this all for me" of course, I replied. He said, "now I will have something to eat when I come home from school every day".*

*View from the inside: Betty Thomas, Chief of Operations, Director*



## Louisiana Center for Children's Rights



# Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR)

### Holistic Advocacy Helps Kids in Trouble

"Darrell." "Duane."

Social Worker Heather Kindschy smiles when she mentions the names of former Louisiana Center for Children's Rights clients.

Darrell is on his high school football team and, more importantly, excelling in the classroom. Duane is the first person in his family to attend college and he is a semester away from graduation. Not too long ago, their future was not as promising.



Darrell broke so many school rules that he was banned from campus. When he refused to leave, he was arrested for trespassing and disturbing the peace. Duane's confrontation with his new stepmother led to a first-time arrest that jeopardized his dreams of a professional career.

These young people are two of many who are now out of the justice system and moving forward with their lives, thanks to the assistance of the Louisiana Center of Children's Rights (LCCR) Children's Defense team. Supported by a grant from the Methodist Health System Foundation (MHSF), the Team guides children out of the justice system as quickly as possible. "There's a legal side to the justice system that must be addressed but there is also the client services, the human component that we need to consider with our youngsters," Kindschy emphasizes. "The system can have harmful effects on a child's education, employability, mental health, safety, and freedom. The MHSF grant increases resources for our social workers and youth advocates to focus on the unique needs and situation of each child."

LCCR Development Director Ryan Hill explains, "the holistic approach to client services that the team implemented in recent years has been recognized as a model program. We are especially proud of that recognition because it reflects our success and particularly grateful that the MHSF reached out, wanted to learn more and extended a helping hand."



As the juvenile public defender in New Orleans, the Children’s Defense Team is assigned to a child when he or she enters the juvenile justice system. “We provide each child with a holistic team including a lawyer, social worker, investigator and youth advocate,” says Kindschy.

Kindschy and her team look at a variety of factors as they assist children and families through the legal process. “We address the causes and consequences of an arrest, and make sure children have the support they need to access education, mental healthcare, and job opportunities so they can put the system behind them for good. A child’s entry into the justice system is usually paved by issues going on at school and at home. There are many factors that need to be addressed first before we can look at the root causes of his or her problematic situations,” Kindschy says.

**“A third to a quarter of juvenile arrests are happening within the schools.”** Kindschy continues, “school based advocacy is a priority for the Children’s Defense Team. If a kid is disconnected from school they are not getting the foundation necessary to thrive in life.”

“If we look at successful kids that are going to college and have everything together, they've got the pieces provided for them,” Kindschy states. “That's one of the things that privilege provides. But in a resource-poor area, those pieces come second to basic needs such as food and a place to live. For example, children entering the juvenile court system may be living in an apartment with no utilities or living out of a car.”

Children’s Defense team members take great pride in their ability to make connections with clients by standing up for them inside and outside of the court room. “Sometimes it takes weeks of seeing a kid every day before they let you in. But when they recognize we are fighting for them, they trust us and are more willing to work on a successful future,” Kindschy says. “We have kids who call us long after their cases are closed to share success stories. That’s a reason to smile.”



*Thanks to the Children's Defense Fund Team, New Orleans area young people can move out of the justice system and onto a brighter future.*

# School Based Health Centers

## The School Door is Open for Healthcare

Things were looking great for Renee. Two years after Hurricane Katrina her family home in St. Bernard Parish was repaired and renovated. Her room was just as comfortable - and beginning to be as messy - as it was before the storm. A Chalmette High School senior with college and a possible scholarship just ahead, she was celebrating her selection for the female lead in an upcoming musical theatre production.

“That celebration didn’t last very long,” she recalls. “The same week I was cast in the play was the same week I found out I was pregnant. I look back on that time of my life and realize I was one of those kids who said that will never happen to me. But it did. I thank God every day that the Health Center at my school was there.”

An occasional visitor to the Chalmette High School Health Center when she had one of her “every now and then” extreme headaches, Renee thought that seeing one of the nurses for her nausea would take just a few minutes for a dose of Pepto Bismol and she would head back to class. “I can still remember I didn’t want to miss my English class,” she says. “That was my favorite subject and yes, believe it or not, I was one of those kids who didn’t want to be absent.”

She did miss class that day. After an initial evaluation and lengthy conversation with a nurse practitioner, Renee took a pregnancy test. “I didn’t cry, but I immediately worried about telling my parents and what it would do to them after all the stress they had experienced with the hurricane,” she explains. “The nurse who gave me the test results spent a lot of time with me that day. I walked out in a bit of shock with a ton of information about teen pregnancy and some advice on talking to my parents.”



Today, Renee is the married mother of a third-grader and a soon-to-be college graduate. She’s happy, healthy and very eager to show you a picture of her daughter.

According to Chalmette School Based Health Center Director/ Nurse Practitioner Heather Surcouf DNP, MSN, FNP-C, the Health Center did fill a significant need in the healthcare gap following Hurricane Katrina. It also continues to be a powerful and well-utilized resource today.

**Chalmette High - Health Fair at the Health Center**  
Health Center’s staff - left to right: Center Coordinators, Leslie Matthews and Carol Roger; RN, Mae Juan; Nurse Practitioner, Audra Degan; Director of Health Center Services, Heather Surcouf; Medical Assistant, Dana Biagas; RN, Steve Juan; and Nurse Practitioner, Glenda London.







In addition to funding the staffing for the Chalmette High School Health Center, MHSF supports similar services at Nunez Community College. In the fall of 2018, after years of being housed in a trailer, the College will celebrate the opening of an expanded, permanent, on-campus Health Center, sponsored by MHSF.

*Pictured right is Pattie Jarrell, NP, hosting Nunez Health Center's **Mindful Monday** event.*



“Healthcare professionals are available for all students and their diverse issues,” she says. “Whether it is a cheerleader with a sprained ankle, an athlete with a possible concussion, kids with colds and sore throats or those who are depressed, we are there to evaluate and provide assistance.”

In addition to providing access to quality healthcare, the on-campus center works to reduce absenteeism and promote health education.

“We see about 50 students a day during the regular school week,” Surcouf adds. “Our visits have steadily increased each year through word of mouth and a deliberate outreach program. We recently completed health screening in the St. Bernard School District Middle Schools, establishing a relationship with students before they enter high school. That not only expands our goal to foster a healthier community but also helps the students learn about school based care and its accessibility.”

Last year, the Chalmette School Based Health Center opened its door 7,500 times to 1,100 different students. Eighty-nine percent of the students returned to the classroom immediately following a visit.

Recognized as one of the leading School Based Health Centers in the country, the Chalmette Health Center staff point to the support and persistence of St. Bernard School District Superintendent, Doris Voitier, and retired Assistant Superintendent, Bev Lawrason. Two of the strongest and consistent supporters of school based healthcare, Lawrason and Voitier worked tirelessly with the Methodist Health System Foundation to establish and promote the on-campus facility.

MHSF is also excited to expand behavioral and mental health on-campus services to C.F. Rowley Alternative School in St. Bernard, for the 2018-2019 academic year.



# Other Organizations Supported



Al Copeland Foundation

Alzheimer's Association

Bridge House

Café Reconcile

C.F. Rowley

Chalmette High School Alumni Association

Covenant House of New Orleans

Crown Community Garden

Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans

Hospice Foundation of the South

Junior Auxiliary of Slidell

Junior Auxiliary of New Orleans

Kingsley House

Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

Louise McGehee

Love In Action Outreach

Mary Queen of Vietnam CHC

Metairie Park Country Day

Mt. Carmel Academy

New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation

Poydras Home

Sisters of the Holy Family

Slidell Memorial Hospital Foundation

St. Bernard Parish School Board Employees Lions Club

Silence is Violence

Sister Servants of Mary

Spirit of Charity Foundation

St. Mary's University

The Links Incorporated

UNO Foundation

Volunteers of America





