

## A Message from President & CEO, David K. Kneipp



Welcome to 2023! I hope you had a wonderful and safe New Year! While 2022 is in our rear-view mirror, it certainly gave us much to be thankful for throughout our organization:

- Adding eight additional parishes and approximately 20 new employees in the central part of the state led to us changing our name to Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana.
- Our programs in Lake Charles are beginning to come back and grow post Hurricane Laura, including our Crisis Housing program, which was relocated from Baton Rouge to Lake Charles after two long years.
- Our Elderly Services program is growing at a remarkable rate in Lafayette, Shreveport, and Baton Rouge due to our amazing staff and the excellent service they provide.
- Our HUD Housing program added two additional affordable housing complexes in Rapides Parish.
- The Reilly Counseling Center is now able to accept private pay and private insurance, which has allowed us to serve more individuals in need in our community.
- Our Partnerships in Child Care program had a banner year, including the implementation of the Outdoor Learning Enhancement Opportunity, which included training, support, and the disbursement of \$3,000,000 in state funding to approximately 450 child care centers across the 24 parishes we serve.
- The programs under our Community Living & Vocational Services umbrella continue to provide top-of-the-line services for individuals with disabilities and those suffering from homelessness.
- Our ministry team is growing and spreading God's Grace across the agency.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers,

*Dave*

## Spreading Holiday Hope & Happiness

### *Hope Under the Tree*

It was a spectacular year for our annual Hope Under the Tree Christmas Giving Program. Our amazing donors and staff

went above and beyond to make sure Christmas was merry and bright for those we serve! Hope Under the Tree received more than **775 gifts**, which amounted to more than \$30,000 in in-kind donations. Because of YOU, more than 475 individuals, children, and families received special gifts under their Christmas tree that they would not have had otherwise. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who made it possible!



St. Margaret's Episcopal Church went above & beyond!



Our Day Center participants loved helping out!



Thank you St. Thomas More Catholic Church for supporting our seniors!



selflessly to VOA all year round.

### ***Stuffed with Love Thanksgiving Meal Kits***

We are so thankful to the many generous supporters who donated to our "Stuffed with Love" Thanksgiving meal kits in November. More than **135 kits** were donated to the individuals and families in our programs. As a result, those families were able to enjoy making holiday meals and memories together at Thanksgiving! We are so grateful for the support of donors and volunteers, like the young ladies of **The Class of 2028 National Charity League**, who give so

## **Our Re-Imagined Day Center Debuts**

***Our Day Center Re-Imagined***



Thanks to a grant from The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, our new Re-imagined Day Center is going strong and program participants are thriving! VOASCLA's Day Center provides personal growth, recreation, and social programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strive to provide an environment that promotes strength and growth in all aspects of life.



A special thank you to our generous donors and board members for sponsoring a Christmas lunch celebration and providing personalized gifts for everyone in the Day Center! Just look at the smiles on their faces! There's no doubt this was a holiday to remember for all of them!



## Thank You for Investing in Our Children



**Volunteers  
of America®**  
SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

### *School Readiness Tax Credit Donations Make a Difference*

We are so thankful for all of the Louisiana businesses that donated to VOA through the School Readiness Tax Credit program in 2022! We are excited to report that we raised over \$550,000 from 122 businesses in the Greater Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Acadiana and Central Louisiana areas. Thanks to these donors, we continue to move closer to our goal of ensuring that every child receives quality early care and education in Louisiana. Donations generated through this program enable us to fund new and exciting projects in our local communities, such as our **Project PlaySmart Classroom Makeover** program. Plus, businesses receive a 100% refundable state tax credit for their investment! To learn more, visit [voascla.org/srtc](https://voascla.org/srtc)





## A Powerful Partnership

### *Capital Area United Way & VOA*

We are truly thankful for our continued partnership with the Capital Area United Way. We share a common goal of empowering individuals in the communities we serve to achieve their full potential. We were honored to be the recipient of the 2022-23 Basic Needs Grant to address housing stability and crisis housing placement as well as the Innovation Grant benefitting our Reilly Counseling Center to assist with the cost of counseling sessions for low-income or no-income clients.

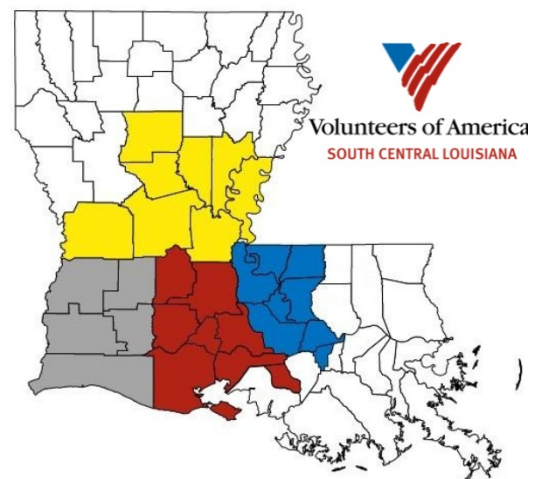


In addition, at this year's CAUW Annual Meeting we received the 2021 Campaign Excellence Award for employee giving as well as the 2021 United Way Campaign - Going the Extra Mile Award. Thank you CAUW!

## Making an Impact in 2022

### *Your Support Matters...*

Our consumers are obviously at the heart of what we do every day. Last year, we served more than **37,000** individuals in South Central Louisiana. The people we serve are some of the most vulnerable members of our community including families in poverty, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, homeless individuals, individuals with behavioral/mental health issues, veterans, low-income seniors, and at-risk youth and foster children.



With your support, Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana positively impacts lives every, single day. In 2022:



- **37,659** Individuals were served.
- **25,631** children received an improvement in the quality of their early care and education.
- **3,000** early childhood teachers and administrators and **38,446** parents received resources, coaching, and education.
- **87%** of clients receiving mental health services stayed out of the hospital.
- **306** individuals previously homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless found safe and affordable housing.
- **155** individuals who were former offenders were provided opportunities to support themselves & advance in life.
- **254** veterans who were formerly homeless transitioned into permanent housing.
- **205** seniors and individuals with disabilities received permanent, safe and affordable housing.
- **1,452** seniors and individuals with disabilities were able to live at home with our support.
- **424** families & children at risk of being separated stayed together.



**Our success is your success! We could not do what we do without your support!**

# Save the Date to Celebrate



## CELEBRATION FOR CHANGE

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana is hosting our 14th Annual **Celebration for Change** event. More than 300 guests are invited to attend this free, one-hour event to learn more about our life-changing programs and the people we serve. Funds raised during the evening will

be used to help close the funding gap and allow us to create new programs and services for those in need. Please join us for cocktails, food, and an inspiring story of hope at the Manship Theatre, 100 Lafayette Street in Downtown Baton Rouge. Wine Reception starts at 6 pm. The program begins at 6:45. We hope to see you there!

For more information or to sponsor the Celebration for Change event, contact Shannon Abney, Chief Development Officer, [shannon.abney@voascla.org](mailto:shannon.abney@voascla.org).

Ensure the future of our life-changing services by Giving a Gift today!

Click Here to Give Hope  
TODAY!



Follow all our social channels for the latest updates!



Visit our website at [www.voascla.org](http://www.voascla.org)

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