



Message from the President & CEO, David K. Kneipp



**Great
Place
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Thank you for making
VOASCLA
a Great Place to Work!

Because of your generous support, VOASCLA spent the past year fulfilling our mission – “Reaching out and uplifting all people and bringing them to the knowledge and active service of God.” Over the last twelve months, we positively impacted more than 38,000 individuals, children, and families. These include low-income seniors, veterans, pre-school children, those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, and adults with disabilities. Together, we are a dedicated team operating 48 programs across 27 Parishes in South Central Louisiana, helping to make the communities we serve better places to live.

We are passionate about what we do, and with your help, we do it very, very well. However, we couldn't do this work without the support you provide as our loyal friends, donors, and partners. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to help us provide a hand up to those who need it most!"

May God continue to bless you and yours,

Dave

"Celebrating Change" for America's Heroes

2025 Celebration for Change Honors Veterans

VOASCLA hosted our **16th Annual Celebration for Change** fundraising event on Tuesday, May 6th at **The Manship Theatre**. Despite the inclement weather, over 250 of our generous supporters, community partners, board members, and their guests attended the

event where they learned about the life-changing programs and services VOASCLA provides and how their support helps people in need.



As part of this year's program we highlighted our **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program (SSVF). We shared a touching video story, ***Unbreakable***, which featured **Army Veteran Joshua Gibson** and **Navy Veteran Talia Soriano** who came from very different backgrounds, but both found themselves facing homelessness. It tells of their military service and subsequent struggles, highlighting their journeys from despair to success and how VOASCLA's amazing SSVF team helped them get to where they are now. It was truly inspiring! For those of you who didn't get a chance to see the story, we've included it here. Just click below.

We are so thankful to our sponsors and everyone who attended and donated to our mission. If you didn't have a chance to attend and would like to donate or make a pledge, [click here](#).

****To learn more about the services we offer veterans, [click here](#).***

VIEW UNBREAKABLE STORY

VOASCLA Resumes Operations at the One-Stop Homeless Services Center

Partnering with St. Vincent dePaul for Maximum Impact

VOASCLA and **St. Vincent de Paul** have teamed up and as of April 1st, 2025, assumed full operational control of the **One-Stop Homeless Services Center** in Baton Rouge. This facility lines up directly with our mission, and we are honored to be able to do more for those facing homelessness as the need is great. In our first month, we served more than **1,200 individuals**, connecting them with essential support and services including: case management, and medical, dental, mental health, and legal services. We also provide facilities where our clients can seek refuge from the heat, take a shower, wash their clothes, have a snack, and simply feel safe.



SRTC Spells SUCCESS for Louisiana's Youngest Children

Making Difference for Louisiana's Next Generation

VOASCLA is so thankful to the more than 120 businesses who donated more than half a million dollars through the **Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credit program** in 2024! All the funds are used to increase the quality of early childhood education for our state's youngest learners. These donations enable us to fund new and exciting projects each year such as our **New Teacher Boot Camp**, **Teacher Institute** and our **Project PlaySmart Classroom Makeover program**.



This spring we gave four grand prize winners and four runners up new classrooms for a total **investment of \$100,000**. To date, we have transformed 63 classrooms with these funds and have raised more than **\$ 4.9 million dollars** for early childhood care & education. But there's so much more work left to be done!

If you you or someone you know owns a Louisiana business and might be interested in helping children in our community and receiving a **100% REFUNDABLE STATE TAX CREDIT** through this program, visit voascla.org/srtc or contact Jeanne Burns: jeanne.burns@voascla.org or call (225) 408-3796.



VOASCLA Donors Change Lives

Since VOA has been operating the **One-Stop Homeless Services Center** again, we are in great need of outreach bags, personal hygiene kits, laundry detergent, towels, and brown bag lunches. We are thankful to those who've been helping with this, including **Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, St. Aloysius Catholic School, and Broadmoor Baptist Church**, but the need is ongoing.

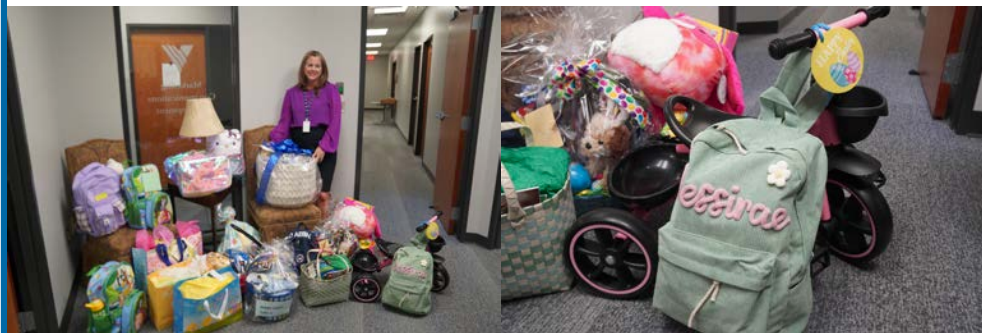


WANT TO HELP AT THE ONE-STOP?

Your donation, **BIG or SMALL**, makes a significant difference in the lives of people who are struggling!

Donate TODAY and CHANGE LIVES!

VOASCLA's **Hippity Hoppity Hope** was back this year and the outpouring of support was impressive! Thanks to organizations like **National Charity League** and **The Quota Club of Baton Rouge**, we were able to provide Easter baskets to more than 40 children experiencing homelessness or transitioning into affordable housing.



We can't forget our seniors! **Bonvenu Bank** hosted a supply drive at its Baton Rouge and New Orleans branches to help gather necessities for the **Community Care Closet** at our senior living center, **Oak Park Plaza**. (See photo below) The closet stocks household essentials and personal hygiene items for seniors in great need....things like cleaning

supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo, soap, lotion, and deodorant.

We are so grateful to all of our community partners for all of their support and dedication!

Want to Help? [Click here](#) for information on VOASCLA Volunteer opportunities, or contact Sarah Eunice: sarah.eunice@voascla.org, (225) 408-3793.



Community Partners "Grant" Us the Ability to Reach More People in Need

Of course, we at VOASCLA could not do what we do every day without the generous help of our community partners. In May, we learned that our **Housing & Homeless Services** program is once again the recipient of the **Capital Area United Way's Basic Needs Grant** and a grant from the **Boo Grigsby Foundation** to help individuals and families facing eviction and homelessness due to loss of income or employment. Grant funds will assist households with deposits, rental assistance, and utilities to help them regain their stability and ease financial hardship.

In May, our agency received a donation of close to 2,000 books from **The Molina Foundation's Book Buddies** literacy program. They provide free books and other educational resources to help children, parents, and caregivers create word-filled homes. The books are suitable for ages 0-12 and we are delighted to be able to provide them to the children in our programs.



OPERATION BACKPACK®



VOASCLA is thrilled to be launching our inaugural **Operation Backpack** program this year thanks to another generous grant! The goal is to support children experiencing homelessness or poverty by providing them with backpacks filled with essential school supplies.

Backpacks will be distributed to children in our **Housing and Homeless Outreach, Early Childhood, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)** programs. The initiative is designed to ensure that every child, regardless of their financial situation, has the tools they need to start the school year prepared and confident. We are so excited to help so many children get their school year started on a positive note! *If you or your business would like to help support this effort, [click here.](#)*

2025 Annual Meeting Highlights VOASCLA's Impact & Future Vision

Celebrating Milestones & Those Who Make Them Happen



VOASCLA wrapped up the 2024-2025 fiscal in June with our **Annual Meeting**. **President and CEO David K. Kneipp** highlighted the successes of the agency's 48 programs and the 38,000 people we served across 27 parishes.



VOASCLA welcomed new board member, **Julie McCall** to the team. Julie is an Attorney and Partner at Butler Snow, LLP.

Outgoing board members **Kim Brooks, Fulton Johnson, and Former Board Chair and Immediate Past Chair Ted Firnberg** were also recognized at the Annual Meeting. We are so thankful for their service and dedication to the VOASCLA mission and are forever grateful to them and other board members, present and past.

Johnny Masey, (pictured below, left) is a former board member who continues to serve as a Row Captain for our annual Celebration for Change event. At the reception, Johnny was presented with the award for **"Most Dollars Raised"** at that event. He is truly a fundraising ROCKSTAR, bringing in a total of \$57,000. We are so thankful to Johnny and his wife, Kathy for their steadfast support and generosity.



To learn more about VOASCLA's programs and services, visit our website, voascla.org or contact Shannon Abney, shannon.abney@voascla.org, (225) 408-3794.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!



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