

1998 - 2013

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The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana

"Creating communities where children and families thrive"

- 1997, a group of Louisiana delegates attended the Presidents' Summit on America's Future chaired by General Colin Powell. Inspired by the message that communities had to come together to address the issues confronting our children, Louisiana's Promise was organized.
- 1998, Northeast Louisiana's Promise held its own summit with over 250 delegates attending this one day meeting. The overwhelming mandate coming from this meeting was for a children's coalition for the northeast region that would bring people and programs together to work collaboratively on children's issues.
- 2000-2001 Board of Directors was formed. "Bridging Our Communities: Development of a Plan for Early Childhood" was released, culminating a year of work by 100+ volunteers in consultation with Dr. Craig Ramey and Dr. Billy Stokes with Civitan International Research Center at University of Alabama. This report continues to guide the work of the Children's Coalition.
- 2001-2003 Children's Coalition incorporated--first grants received from Office for Addictive Disorders, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Covering Kids and Families.

And the work continues . . .



Leaders of the very first Northeast Louisiana's Promise Meeting held March 13, 1998



A friend recently made the statement, "When your passion and your talents meet you can really do something to help the person sitting across the table from you." Everyone at the Coalition has a passion for children's issues whether we are male or female, officer, director, or employee. The Coalition is about helping children get a good start in life and helping parents make that happen for their families. Now, that is a concept that we can all get passionate about. So, who is sitting across from us at the table? At some level we are all affected by issues like child care, health care, mental health—all issues being addressed by the Children's Coalition.

In Louisiana, we are operating in a rapidly changing environment. The program needs are changing and so are the means of funding them. The Children's Coalition has the kind of leadership and talent necessary not only to navigate these uncertain waters but to stay ahead of the curve. I am very proud to be associated with this organization. There are several areas of the Coalition's work that I would like to see evolve. One area is the diversity of our board. It takes mothers and fathers to make and raise families, and the Coalition needs men as well as women to work with those who come to us for help. Our balance, perspective and talent will deepen with a diverse group of leadership.

A second area we are seeking to address is funding. Local funding by individuals and corporations is critical to future efforts with less reliance on state and federal government programs. A broad base of support will make us more durable and nimble going forward. We look forward to having you join us through your membership and involvement with our work.

Burton Wade - Board President 2012

Notes from Our Leaders...



**Lynda Gavioli,
Executive Director**

We are so excited to be able to celebrate the 15 years that the Children's Coalition has been working in our region! The fact that the Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana continues to exist and create change in our communities is a testament to the vision and commitment of its members. As we have evolved into an umbrella organization, we

have succeeded for 15 years by being flexible and willing to constantly re-create ourselves in response to the needs of our children, their families and our communities. Now we work through various coalitions, advisory groups and task forces to create change in many areas. This is the work we have committed ourselves to over the past 15 years, and the work that will chart the future.

In the coming year, we have many opportunities and challenges that will require our collaborative efforts. Our work on the Community Pilot Network for Ouachita Parish (OPENetwork) and the Lincoln, Union, Jackson pilot is critical as we work with the Louisiana Department of Education to create an early childhood system focused on school readiness. We are expanding our presence in Union and Morehouse Parishes with the pilot of the Early Development Initiative in looking at early childhood services available in every neighborhood. These pilot efforts are essential as we learn to work with community members to address the needs of our youngest children. This year we will continue to focus on early childhood, parenting, child health and safety, juvenile justice reform and suicide prevention through 11 different initiatives.

In addition to the initiatives we lead, educating our community and building capacity are fundamental to the work we do. This year we will hold our second "What Works" Conference—bringing to our community the latest research on child development, evidence based programs, standards, and quality programming for our children.

We encourage you to get involved as member of the Children's Coalition and join us in "creating communities where children and families thrive." We have only just gotten started on this important work!



**Bonnie Robbinette,
2013 Board President**

Members of our community came together 15 years ago as a cohesive team to ensure that the children of this community thrive. Our mission has been successful, but it is not complete. A foundation has been laid, but our task is far from over. We, as board members of this organization, as

professionals in this field, as members of our community, are all watchmen. We must come together in new ways. We must use creativity and develop new paradigms to achieve our task of creating a community where children thrive.

We are in a season of unprecedented change. Yet, we are in a season of defining moments. A defining moment does not occur in good times, during business as usual, but in the tough times. Something must be pulled from each one of us that from that point forward defines us.

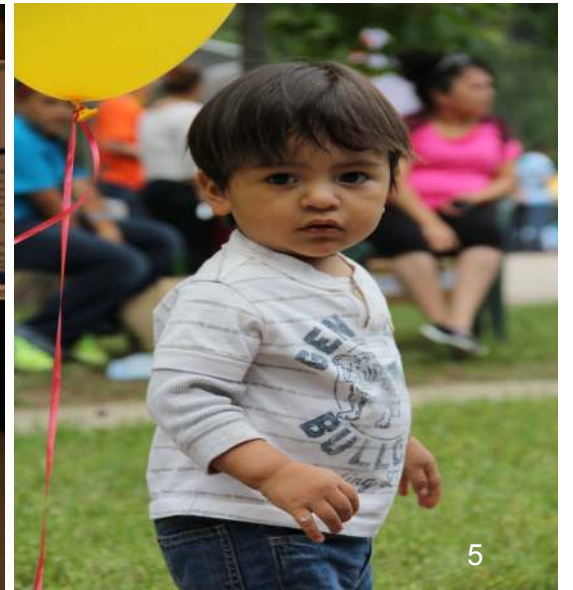
Be encouraged to see the future with a renewed sense of purpose. These are not times where hope is lost. These are times where we can assess our challenges and define our most critical role. It is in these roles that our defining moment arises. It is in these critical roles that we find our purpose.

Take up the challenge. Move into this season with confidence. Have confidence in your abilities, confidence in your fellow citizens, and confidence in this community. We can make this community a better place. We can create opportunities for children and their families to thrive.

It is within us and we will see it done.



Through the Years in pictures 1998 - present



1. Former staff member Donna Winters 2. LEGOS Youth Leadership Team 2006 3. Lynda Gavioli leading a Youth Volunteer Corp meeting 4. Courtney and Caleigh Bennett attend the 2008 Start School Right Health Fair at the Monroe Civic Center 5. Dia De La Familia at Lake Darbonne State Park May 2013 6. Dr. Craig Ramey, Billy Stokes and Lloyd Lindsay 7. Krewe of Janus Mardi Gras Parade for LaCHIP outreach February 2009 8. Fashion Fusion 2012—Denna McGrew, Patti Nelson and Maureen Gallagher



9



11



12



14



10

© Petty Stewart



13

"It is hard to believe that it has been fifteen years since a committed gathering of volunteers and community leaders decided that we needed a children's coalition in northeast Louisiana! The desire to change the outcomes for children in our area remains undimmed. In spite of all that has been accomplished together, the work remains of continually identifying critical issues and working to bring about change. As we celebrate the 15 years of success and growth, we look forward to the next challenge, the next opportunity to make life better for all of the children in northeast Louisiana."

-Melinda Mintz, Board Member 1999-2000

9. Madelynn Lowery at Dia De La Familia 2013 **10.** Governor Bobby Jindal visits our office in June 2008 l to r: Lynda Gavioli, Robin Pierce, Gov. Jindal, Evol Alexander, Jan Daniels, Lindsey Murry, Gatha Green, Andrea Dyer, Katie McLain, Coby Wells, Penny Haire, Sonja McAlister, Gerry Binkley, Thelma Minnewether and Carey Tomlinson **11.** Lynda Gavioli conducting an on camera interview for KNOE **12.** 1998 Youth Volunteer Corp. **13.** A mini health fair at Little Flower Academy 2011 **14.** Misti Thomas, former Al's Pal's Coordinator with a Monroe City Schools classroom



Highlights - Early Childhood (Birth to 8)

Purpose: Young children will be nurtured to be successful in school and in life by providing quality environments that promote their physical, social and emotional well-being.

NELA Child Care Connections:

- 3,035 units of child care provider training were delivered (one unit = 1 person receiving 3 hours of training) for a total of 9,339 hours of training provided within the northeast region.
- 634 child care centers and family child care providers were supported through technical assistance.
- 45% of the centers in our region are participating in this voluntary rating system.
- 27 start-up centers were supported in obtaining their Class A License.
- 35 Family Child Day Care homes were supported in obtaining their licensure.
- \$253,900 in school readiness tax credit donations were raised from 56 companies.
Funds will be used for grants for Quality Start Child Care Centers, parenting classes in child care, speakers, training and technical assistance for child care professionals.
- Ouachita Parish was selected 1 of 13 Community Network Pilots for the implementation Act 3.

Funding provided from Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, private donations and School Readiness Tax Credits

Mental Health Consultation:

- Mental health consultation is provided by a licensed professional counselor in child care centers participating in Quality Start to improve the social-emotional development of children.
- Six months of consultation services are provided to a rotating group of 7-8 centers.

Funding through a grant with Tulane Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Al's Pals--Kids Making Healthy Choices:

- Al's Pals was recently expanded to include all Pre-K classrooms in Ouachita Parish, Monroe City and Morehouse Parish Schools.
- Al's Pals is currently being implemented in 9 child care centers and 67 Pre-K , 25 Kindergarten classrooms--a total of 1,960 children will receive 46 lessons this school year.
- Evaluation of Al's Pals program for all school years to date (2008-2012) shows statistically significant improvement in both social skills and behavior.

Funding provided by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health and School Readiness Tax Credits

Nurturing Parenting and Triple P:

- Staff support for the Northeast Louisiana Parenting Education Network was provided and partnerships with the Louisiana Parent Education Network and the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund were continued.
- 7 local providers in the evidence-based "Triple P: Positive Parenting Program" were trained and accredited.
- Parent education services to pregnant & parenting teens was provided in Monroe City Schools.
- "Just 4 Me" support group for teen parents was fully implemented and expanded in partnership with Monroe City Schools, Volunteers of America, Our House for Teens and Nurse Family Partnership.
- Parenting education services were provided to 5 agencies, 70 sessions were conducted with 390 participants.
- New partnerships were developed with Louisiana Assistance Employment Program (LEAP) ULM, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and OMCAP Head Start.

Funding provided by Louisiana Children's Trust Fund; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, School Readiness Tax Credits

Region 8 Maternal & Child Health:

- Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (2009): 1 case
- Fetal & Infant Mortality Review: abstracted--26 cases (July-Feb)
- Case Review Team--5 meetings held;
- Child Death Review Panel: 15 cases reviewed and 5 meetings held;
- Community Action Team: 4 meetings held; issues covered: unintended pregnancy prevention, pregnancy complication prevention, infant sleeping death prevention, child injury prevention, bereavement resources, policy/advocacy, and evaluation.
- Presentations given: 9 (July-June).

Funding from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Family Health

Nurse Family Partnership:

- Two registered nurses, trained and accredited by the Nurse Family Partnership, provide services, mentoring and education in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes with first time moms for up to two years.

Funding from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Family Health

Safe and Healthy Kids:

- 29 pack and plays and 40 car seats were distributed after the completion of safe sleep/child passenger safety education to parents in partnership with parenting director Gatha Green since June 2012
- 40 presentations were made on safety topics including safe sleep, bicycle safety, child passenger safety, home safety and safety around vehicles throughout the region. This included the distribution of bicycle helmets and water watcher bracelets through summer campaigns.
- In partnership with the LSU AgCenter, the Traveling Kitchen reached 46 parents or caregivers of children and taught them how to make healthy choices and prepare healthy meals through interactive classes and food preparation.
- Dia de La Familia 2012 and 2013 were held at Lake D'Arbonne State Park in Union Parish in May of both years. 343 and 600 participants (respectively) attended and learned about healthy lifestyles while celebrating the growing Hispanic community.
- The Safe Sleep Summit was held in October 2012 with 150 attending. Dr. Rachel Moon, an internationally recognized expert in SIDS and lead author of the most recent AAP sleep standards, was the keynote speaker.
- The Safe and Healthy Kids Coordinator was selected as one of two Safe Sleep Champions for the state of Louisiana by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. A total of 40 champions were selected nationally to promote the newly expanded "Safe to Sleep" Campaign.

Funding from the Living Well Foundation



Highlights—Youth Development (8 - 21years)

Purpose: Youth are supported to lead healthy and successful lives by promoting access to evidence based programs and screening instruments to assure that their needs are both identified and met.

Teen Screen:

- During the current school year, 200 students have been screened through Garrett Lee Smith Act funding.

Louisiana Partnership for Youth Suicide Prevention for Region 8:

- The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Ouachita Parish has met monthly for the past year.
- The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Morehouse Parish began meeting in January 2013.
- 5 Assist trainings have been provided in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes involving 150 people in evidence based suicide first-aid training designed to intervene and reduce the risk of suicide.
- 3 Safe Talk Trainings have been conducted in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes which teach students to recognize risks of suicide while providing communication tools and resources.
- Dr. Frank Campbell, forensic suicidologist, trained 148 school counselors and psychologists on suicide First Response in the fall of 2012. In May 2013, Dr. Campbell returned and conducted sessions for first responders.
- Coordinator, Jan Daniels, became certified to conduct Train/Trainers in Safe Talk.

Funding provided by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health—Garrett Lee Smith Act Grant; Junior League of Monroe; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate word

Juvenile Justice Reform: MacArthur Foundation Models for Change:

- A Regional Advisory Committee was formed comprised of the regions behavioral health service providers that utilize best practices; facilitated a one-day retreat of these providers along with national experts to begin the process of creating a plan to address gaps in services within Northeast Louisiana.
- 110 regional behavioral health services providers participated in a conference during the fall of 2012 that focused on evidence-based programs in behavioral health treatment and assessment.

In partnership with the Louisiana State University's Institute for Public Health and Justice through a contract with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation



WHAT WORKS

:: Birth to Adolescence ::

March 8-9, 2013

A state wide conference for parents, teachers, social workers, therapists and child care professionals was held at the Monroe Civic Center on topics ranging from social/emotional development of children to evidence based practices in an early childhood setting. Key speakers included: Dr. Charles Zeanah from Tulane University; Kim Bortle of the CPS Initiative and Toni Ledet, PhD from the Arc of Baton Rouge, La.




15
YEARS
1998 - 2013

FALL FIT FEST

nutrition
fitness
fun

September 22, 2012
Forsythe Park—Monroe, La

A family fun day in Forsythe Park helped to kick off the fall season! Participants enjoyed a 5K Run, a children's 1K Fun Run, healthy snacks, Zumba, a mum sale, dance demonstrations, a hay maze, rock climbing wall and much more. Partner agencies were able to showcase their services by having booths set up. *Stuffee* from the Children's Museum also stopped by to teach children about our internal organs through their interactive, oversized replicas.



Pictures courtesy of Steven Palowsky Photography

FASHION FUSION 2013

Where Dance Meets Design



Community Trust Bank and the Debbie Bourg Dancers presented Fashion Fusion 2013 at the West Monroe Convention Center on April 6, 2013. Proceeds from the show benefitted the Children's Coalition. The theme of the show was "Let's Rock the Runway" featuring music from the 1970's & 1980's. Local boutiques were able to showcase their fashion while local celebrities showed their support. This high energy runway-type style show delighted all audiences with dance, fashion and entertainment.



Lisa & Beryl Richardson

Mark your calendars now for
April 7, 2014 !



Membership

Platinum \$1,000 and up

Capitol One Bank • CenturyLink • Community Trust Bank • Dr. and Mrs. Louis Gavioli • Jean and Saul Mintz • P & S Surgical Center • The Thomas H. & Mayme P. Scott Foundation • Julie and Dewey Weaver • Dr. and Mrs. Keith White •

Gold \$500 - 900

Jan and Derrick Daniels • Gretchen Dean • Heard, McElroy and Vestal, LLC • Connie Smallwood • St. Francis Medical Center • Melinda and Morris Mintz • Kristin McMillan • Patti and Todd Nelson • Mary Kate Smith • Patti and John Wilhite •

Silver \$250 - 499

Stalanda Butcher • Cognitive Development • Debbie's School of Dance • Dr. and Mrs. Hardy Gordon • Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Haik • Kool Smiles • Senator and Mrs. Bob Kostelka • Dr. and Mrs. John Ledbetter • Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale and Soignier, LLP • Denna and Jim McGrew • Lindsey and Heath Murry • Dr. and Mrs. Mark Napoli • Robin and Pat Pierce • The Prep Center • Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Stratton •

Bronze \$50 - 249

ARCO	French Insurance Group	Dr. Charles Morgan
Believe and Achieve Physical Therapy	Kathy and Dick Gallagher	Sue and Tom Nicholson
Judy and Charles Bell	Maureen Gallagher	North Louisiana AHEC
Gerry and Paul Binkley	Wendy and Stewart Gentry	Our House
Kasy and Matt Black	Harvey Hales Insurance	Loria Pierce
Karen Blackman	Mildred Hill	Carlene Riley
Boys and Girls Club of West Monroe	Michelle Holyfield	Bonnie and Stewart Robinette
Margaret Brock	Home Assistance Services	Dr. and Mrs. Art Richert
Peggy Buffington	Patricia Hudson	Dawn Sager
Caroline and Rodney Cascio	Janie Humphries	Ed Seymore
Center for Children and Families	Kristie and James Jones	Sylvan Learning Center
Mary Crandall	Rhonda and Bill Jones	Dr. and Mrs. Terry Thomas
Creed & Creed, Attorneys at Law	Kay K. Katz	Ann Tubre
Joan Chardkoff	Kiddie Korral	ULM Speech/Language Pathology
Sarah Davis	LaCARE	United Way for NELA
Mark DeBord	Learning Tech/Quest School	Volunteers of America
DHH-OBH-Mental Health	Lefebvre Vet Clinic	Senator Mike Walsworth
Jim Dimos	Life Choices	The Wellspring
Earnestine Dunn	Sharon Marchman	Emily and Robert Williamson
Dr. and Mrs. Lane Eddleman	Connie McCants	Dr. and Mrs. Jason Wilson
Jennifer Edwards	Dorothy Minor	Pat Wolff
John Ensminger	Monroe Chamber of Commerce	Suzanne and Jerry Wolff
Families Helping Families	Morehouse Community Medical Centers	Mr. and Mrs. Ray Young
Family Life Home Health		Avius Zimmerman
Food Bank of NELA		

Board and Staff Members

Administrative Staff:

Lynda Gavioli, Executive Director
Andrea Dyer, Director of Grants/Budgets
Lindsey Murry, Development Director
Kasy Black, CPA
Sandra Harrington, CPA
Kelly Lowery, Administrative Assistant
Renaë Williford, Administrative Assistant

Staff:

Mary Barrios, Safe and Healthy Kids
Gerry Binkley, Child Care Specialist
Chelle Brown, Resource and Referral Director
Dee Cramer, Child Care Specialist
Samantha Crawford, RN, NFP
Jan Daniels, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Earnestine Dunn, Child Care Specialist
Maureen Gallagher, Diverse Delivery—Bright Start
Gatha Green, Parent Education Director
Brenda Handy, RN, NFP
Denna McGrew, La. Models for Change
Patti McGilton, Mental Health Specialist
Robin Pierce, Training Director
Amy Pyles, Maternal and Child Health
Romona Reed, Child Care Specialist
Tammy Washington, Al's Pals Coordinator
Carey Tomlinson, Child Care Specialist

Board of Directors 2013

Bonnie Robinette, President
Burton Wade, President-Elect
Jody Stratton, Secretary
Caroline Cascio, Treasurer

Darian Atkins
Stalanda Butcher
Margaret Brock
Mary Crandall
Adrian Fisher
Lois Jordan
Felicia Kostelka
Patti Nelson
Jacquelyn Matthews
Beth Ricks
Carlene Riley
Michelle Saucer
Mary Kate Smith
Jody Stratton
Donna Underwood
Julie Weaver



School Readiness Tax Credits

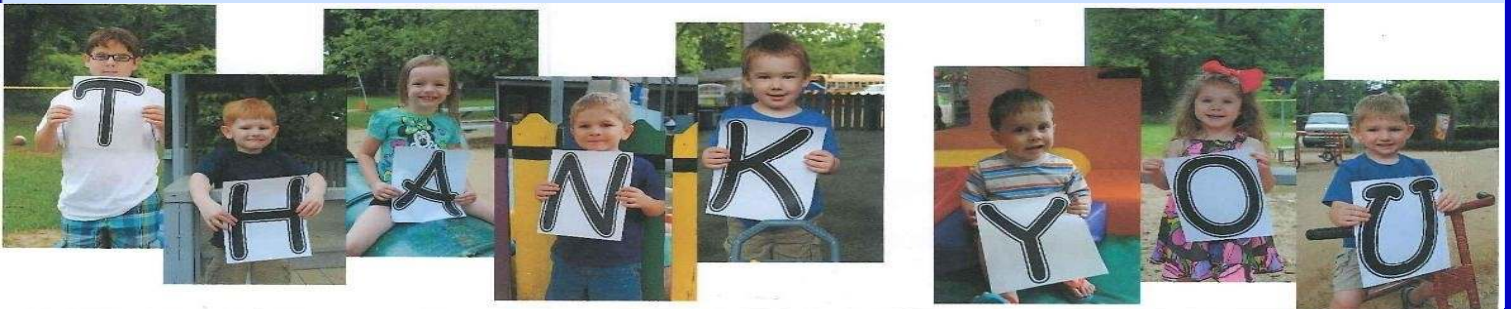
The following businesses have donated \$253,900 in 2012 to make a banner year for the SRTC program! A total of \$719,365 has been contributed in northeast Louisiana since 2008 and re-invested locally into quality start child care centers, scholarships, seminars, technical assistance and coaching to the early learning community.

Argent Financial Group
Blake Wheelis State Farm Agency
Car Town of Monroe, Inc
CBS Interest, LLC
Center for Children and Families
Chadco, LLC
Community Trust Bank
D & L of Ouachita
Don Tant Logging, LLC
Donald K. Hammett, MD
Douglas Caldwell, Attorney
Financial Service Institution Corporation
Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC
Holyfield Construction, LLC
Holyfield Investments, LLC
Ingles Timber Inc
James W. Moore Properties, LLC
Jamey May Logging, Inc
John S. Carroll, CPA
Johnston, Perry and Johnson
Key Tech Communications, LLC
Kimpa Boyd, CPA
Larry Harper Consulting, LLC
Lelon Kenney Farms
Louisiana Agricultural Corporation
Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier
Mark Meredith, DDS
Mark Napoli, MD
McCartney Well Service
Mixon & Carroll, PLC
Ouachita Independent Bank
O'Neal Gas

North Louisiana Sports Medicine
and Orthopaedic Clinic
Poly Corr, LLC
Premier Plaza of Monroe, LLC
Progressive Bank
RAL Interests, LLC
Riddle Builders, LLC
Scott Equipment Company, LLC
Scott Equipment Sales Co., LLC
Scott Financial Services, LLC
Shipp Family LTD Partnership
St. Francis Medical Center
Steven H. Gaar Logging, Inc
Strauss Interests
Sylvan Learning Center
The Scott Corporation, LLC
Thomas and Farr Insurance Agency
Vantage Health Plan



Strauss Interests received the first Saul Mintz Early Childhood Champion Award at the 2012 SRTC Breakfast
Pictured l to r: Tom Nicholson, Burton Wade, Lynda Gavioli and Melinda Mintz



Financial Statement and Funders

The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, Inc.
Statement of Activities for the Years Ended June 30, 2012 and 2011

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012 AND JUNE 30, 2011

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$ 276,486	\$ 205,722
Fixed Assets	134,601	84,764
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 411,087	\$ 290,486
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$ 184,739	\$ 148,161
Long-Term Liabilities	14,868	3,185
Total Liabilities	199,607	151,346
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	152,083	123,569
Temporarily Restricted	59,397	15,571
Total Net Assets	211,480	139,140
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 411,087	\$ 290,486

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012 AND JUNE 30, 2011

	2012	2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 157,735	\$ 182,021
In-Kind Donations at Fair Value	54,177	10,952
Grants	1,442,102	1,145,063
Registration and Tuition Fees	36,554	42,249
Memberships	25,990	25,583
Interest	697	1,768
Contributions and Net Revenue from:		
Special Events		
Special Event Revenue	42,820	59,025
Costs of Direct Benefits to Donors	-	(19,211)
Other Revenue	5,207	10,331
Total Support and Revenue	1,765,282	1,457,781
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Health Care	362,875	338,481
Early Care and Education	757,690	802,052
Youth Development	328,046	157,164
Parenting Education	39,563	84,590
Hurricane Relief	-	1,289
Total Program Expenses	1,488,174	1,383,576
Supporting Services		
Management and General	145,353	232,388
Fund Raising	59,415	52,910
Total Supporting Services	204,768	285,298
Total Expenses	1,692,942	1,668,874
Change in Net Assets	72,340	(211,093)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	139,140	350,233
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 211,480	\$ 139,140



The Thomas H. & Mayme P. Scott Foundation



Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
Celebrating 25 Years of Efforts on Behalf of Children





1998 - 2013

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Monroe, La 71201
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www.childrenscoalition.org