Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana

117 Hall Street
Monroe, LA 71201

2017 - 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ENVISION • EMPOWER • ENGAGE
To “envision” is to imagine a future possibility which may or may not be grounded in reality. A year ago, I would never have envisioned that our new home would be surrounded by a Family Garden and Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Center, or that thousands of parents would be better able to talk to their teens about difficult topics through monthly columns in Bayou Life and bi-monthly radio spots on KEDM. I could not have foreseen that Youth Development would be providing Child Sex Trafficking prevention programs, nor that child care centers would need us to help pay for background screens for their employees.

Each new program came out of a voiced need from our community—a place outside for families to learn and play together, accurate information about “hot” topics for parents and teens, a rise in child sex trafficking in our region, and a new federal policy. As my predecessor, Lynda Gavioli, has often said: the power of a local non-profit is that we can be “nimble and quick” in responding to community need. Your membership dollars and donations support these essential—but unexpected—programs.

We have also maintained and grown our existing programs by empowering both those we serve and our staff. Programs like Al’s Pals have expanded outside our region at the request of child care centers in Jackson Parish, our Family Resource Center classes are at capacity and our Early Head Start classrooms grew from 60 to 132 spots for infants and toddlers.

As you read through the annual report, take a moment to engage with the people and programs of the Coalition and envision where we can go in the coming year. Together we can truly create communities where children and families thrive.

- Dr. Lynn Clark, Executive Director

Having been involved with this organization from its beginning 20 years ago and recently returning to the board during the Director transition, it is quite amazing where we are today as an organization. Dr. Lynn Clark has built upon the foundation laid by those before her and has expanded our organization in ways that have reached more children than ever before. We currently have 17 programs across 14 parishes. None of this would have happened without the extremely dedicated staff that all work from a place of passion when it comes to the children we serve. Enabling our passion to be carried out is you - the partnerships, financial support, relationships that have evolved over many years, our members, board, educators, parents and businesses that all believe that the children are truly the key to our future.

This has been a year of transition in many ways, chief among them was a move to a new location where we now house all facets of the Coalition under one roof. Remodeling a building in downtown Monroe seemed only fitting as it places us closer to those we serve along with transportation just around the corner. Add to this our beautiful child playground and gardens area and you truly have a unique center for children and parents. We look forward to the exciting plans for continued expansion of the Children’s Coalition in the years to come. Your role will become increasingly important as these new things happen and we look forward with the help of your continuing participation. Again, thank you for helping us make this happen.

- Mark Parrish, Board President

Cover photo: Bellamie Bridges exploring our Family Garden during Super Saturday
LaDarrica Sims has been part of the Children’s Coalition family for six years. It began when she became part of the Early Head Start home-based program. Her home visitor taught her important lessons such as how to swaddle and care for her daughter Makenzie. Six months later, she was enrolled in our Early Head Start center-based program at our Beverly Street location. Early Head Start (EHS) programs serve infants and toddlers under the age of 3, providing intensive comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families. The program is designed to promote the development of the children, and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as parents as they move toward self-sufficiency. While Makenzie received quality child care, LaDarrica was able to participate in parent involvement activities and continue her education. Makenzie, now six years old, is thriving in school; she loves to read and is above her reading target level for her grade.

When the Children’s Coalition expanded its Early Head Start program in 2018, LaDarrica’s two sons Makhari (age 2) and Mekade (10 months) were the first students at our new center at Louis Locke. As her children get an “early head start” on school readiness, LaDarrica is continuing her own education in the Children’s Coalition Ancillary Teaching Certificate program. This program provides early childhood educators with the coursework and coaching to complete the national Child Development Associate credential (CDA) and apply for a state teaching certificate that will allow her to provide high-quality learning experiences for children in programs like Early Head Start.

LaDarrica and all three of her children play together at Super Saturday in the Family Garden. She has become an advocate among other Early Head Start parents about the importance of outdoor play and learning. LaDarrica and her children are just one example of how we can all work, play, and create communities where children and families thrive.

LaDarrica & Antoinette Hoard, EHS Program Director

The Coalition has given me the opportunity to advance my own career and help our whole family grow and thrive.

- LaDarrica

Donate to help families like LaDarrica’s at childrenscoalition.org
In 2017, the Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana received a $2.2 million grant to expand its Early Head Start and partner with child care centers resulting in 132 total slots in Ouachita Parish for infants and toddlers. As a result, the final three classrooms opened at a new Early Head Start center within the Monroe Housing Authority, located at 300 Winniboro Road in Monroe. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 22 to celebrate the center’s opening.

The Early Head Start Partnership and Expansion grant opened two new centers, one at 117 Hall Street and 300 Winniboro Road as well as classrooms in two child care centers—Living Way Infant and Child Development Center in West Monroe and Kiddie Garden in Monroe. Three additional Children’s Coalition Early Head Start locations include 907 Filhol Avenue in Monroe, 508 Austin Street in West Monroe and 811 Beverly Street in Monroe.

The Early Head Start program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the Office of Head Start (OHS). The Children’s Coalition is the grantee for the Early Head Start Program for Ouachita Parish.

Early Head Start provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and their families, and pregnant women and their families. The principles of Early Head Start are designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child, emphasize a strengths-based, relationship-centered approach to services, and encompass the full range of a family’s needs from pregnancy through a child’s third birthday.
Child Care Connections: Louisiana Department of Education  
Helping parents find quality child care, providing training, and technical assistance to child care providers region-wide (11 parishes).
- 106 foundational learning opportunities/trainings
- 1,851 teachers trained, an average of 195 per month
- 504 targeted technical assistance/coaching sessions
- 55 child care referrals

Community Networks: Louisiana Department of Education  
Working to unify the early childhood system through streamlined program expectations, supporting teachers and coordinating enrollment and observations in three parishes: Ouachita, Morehouse and Richland.
- 83 Early Childhood Learning Centers (Child care, LEA, EHS/HS)
- 526 CLASS observations
- 10,000+ parents contacted
- 55 Child Care Directors meet monthly

Preschool Expansion Classrooms: Louisiana Department of Education  
Providing quality preschool programs with a certified teacher in age-appropriate settings in 2 child care centers - Majestic Youth Development & Little Flower Academy.
- 50 Pre-K children served in 2 child care centers
- 117 children, birth to 4 years
- 3 certified teachers in partnership with Monroe City Schools

Childcare Pre-K teachers received STEM Grants, funded by School Readiness Tax Credits & were given kits to implement what they learned in their classrooms.

Children at Majestic Youth received a visit from Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo during Community Workers’ Week.

Ancillary Teaching Certificate, Children’s Coalition Institute: Louisiana Department of Education  
Providing education and training to teachers, enabling them to obtain credentials in early learning centers.
- 26 graduates from cohorts 1 & 2 completed the 8-month training
- 44 candidates actively enrolled in cohorts 3 & 4

Children’s Coalition Institute held commencement ceremonies for its second cohort of graduates to earn their Ancillary Teaching Certificate at Louisiana Delta Community College.

Ancillary Teaching Certificate, Childcare Pre-K teachers received STEM Grants, funded by School Readiness Tax Credits & were given kits to implement what they learned in their classrooms.

Barbara Doyle, Assistant Teacher at Little Flower Academy, received an Ancillary Teaching Certificate.

We have seen an increase in our CLASSroom scores since the coaching started. Seeing your diligence motivated me and my staff to work harder to provide teachable moments to every child we encounter.
- Tracy Landers, Owner of Kids Planet Learning Academy in Tallulah

Kids 1st Morehouse: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems  
Connecting systems that impact families to create improved developmental outcomes for children ages 0-3 in Morehouse Parish.
- 12 community partners
- 150 screenings completed for children 0-3
- 400 families reached
**HEALTHY LIVING OUTCOMES**

1. **Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices: Northeast Delta Human Services Authority**
   Teaching preschool children the social-emotional and resiliency skills to make healthy choices.
   - 37 schools and 6 child development centers
   - 116 classrooms receiving service
   - 1,765 children receiving weekly lessons in Ouachita, Morehouse, Union and Monroe City Schools

2. **Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices: School Readiness Tax Credits**
   - 5 Pre-K classrooms in Caldwell Parish Schools and Caldwell Head Start
   - 100 students served

3. **Mental Health Consultation: Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**
   Educating teachers and parents on developmentally-appropriate practices.
   - 5 parishes served: Ouachita, Lincoln, Morehouse, Caldwell, Union
   - 14 child care centers receive mental health support annually
   - 500 children served

4. **U-ACT: Northeast Delta Human Services Authority**
   Working as a Coalition in Union Parish to develop and implement a 5-year plan to address underage drinking and prescription drug abuse.
   - 738 pounds of “prescription take back” drugs collected at 9 sites in region
   - 23 U-ACT student ambassadors selected
   - 23 students at leadership retreat
   - 700 students at Red Ribbon Week (October) and Orange Ribbon Week (April)
   - Partnership with ULM School of Pharmacy to support National Prescription Take Back Day to collect expired, unwanted and unused prescription drugs
   - 265 trained as peer leaders for SADD during Ouachita Youth Summit

U-ACT Student Ambassadors during “Drug Free” Red Ribbon Week.

U-ACT not only encourages our generation to make wise choices, but also develops leaders who will blossom to be a light in the midst of darkness and to go out and make choices that will change the world.

- Rikenzie Johnikin, former U-ACT Ambassador & current student at Grambling State University

In honor of Orange Ribbon Week, students from U-ACT teamed up with Al’s Pals to donate two buddy benches at Union Elementary School. Each Kindergarten class learned how to treat others and how to make safe and healthy choices.

“On January 16, 2017, I lost a life-long friend, Devin Harper, to addiction. At just 23 years old, Devin lost hope for himself after an addiction to Adderall for six years. I decided to use my position as a student pharmacist at the ULM School of Pharmacy to work with the Coalition and educate our community about opioid abuse. I started an initiative called Devin’s Hope - to not only educate, but to instill hope for life in those like Devin who may have lost their way.”

- Carleigh Roberts, ULM College of Pharmacy student

Photo: Emerald McIntyre/ULM Photo Services
**Youth Development Outcomes**

1. **SOS (Signs of Suicide): Living Well Foundation, Union Parish, Ouachita Parish and Monroe City Schools**
   - Helping middle school students to recognize signs of depression and suicide in themselves and others.
   - 2,543 teens trained on how to recognize the signs of depression and suicide
   - 1,264 students screened for potential mental health problems
   - 101 students referred for further evaluation/treatment of significant mental health problems
   - 4 schools: Lee Junior High, Union Parish Middle School, Ouachita Junior High, West Ridge Middle School

2. **Youth Leadership Summit: Community Sponsors**
   - Developing leadership skills in students chosen by school counselors.
   - 265 middle and high school students from 34 Monroe City, Ouachita Parish, and area private and parochial schools attended the second annual summit on the beautiful campus of ULM
   - 5 students were awarded “Children’s Coalition Next Steps Scholarships”

3. **Ouachita Adolescent Health Coalition: Louisiana Public Health Institute**
   - Building a Coalition to help identify and meet the reproductive health needs of adolescents.
   - 230 participants at 6 Ouachita Parish Health Coalition meetings
   - 2 trainings - “How to Have the Talk” for professionals
   - 25 Parents trained

   *“Next Steps Scholarship” Winner of the Emile A. Barrow Jr. Scholarship for Ouachita Youth Leadership, Jordan Hunter. Jordan will be attending Xavier.*

4. **Not a Number: Louisiana Public Health Institute**
   - A child trafficking and exploitation prevention curriculum developed by Love 146.
   - 1 staff & 1 board member trained in curriculum
   - 6 students trained at Green Oaks

**Sponsor students attending the Youth Leadership Summit:**
- $50 provides opportunity for one student to attend
- Corporate sponsorship opportunities available
  - www.childrenscoalition.org/sponsorship

**I’ve learned so many life lessons about social media, suicide, confidence and making wise decisions that have shaped the way I think today as I prepare for college and the real world.**

- Brooke Edmonson, 2018 Next Steps Scholarship Winner & Ouachita Youth Summit attendee
**Parent Education Outcomes**

1. **Family Resource Center: Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services**
   - Providing parenting, family skills building and visit coaching to help reunite families in the DCFS and foster care system.
     - 206 referrals
     - 30 Triple P Seminars
     - 14 Ace Seminars
     - 7 Sixteen Week Cohorts for Nurturing Parenting Program
     - 42 Sessions Family/Life Skills and presented by community partners
     - 37 clients referred for Visit Coaching

2. **Strengthening the bonds of attachment through parent education.**

3. **Parenting for All: School Readiness Tax Credits**
   - Providing on-demand, evidence-based parenting sessions in the community.
     - 100 Grambling State University Social Work Students trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences & Triple P Seminar

4. **Time To Talk**
   - Partnering with KEDM & BayouLife Magazine to bring accurate and appropriate information from state and local experts about issues that affect children, so that parents can understand and communicate with and about them.
     - 8 monthly articles in BayouLife Magazine
     - 12 bi-monthly segments on 90.3 KEDM Public Radio
     - Over 7,000 people reached on social media

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**Thank you for restoring hope and reassurance to parents who feel lost or defeated by their own shortcomings or by our broken system and giving life back to one child, one family at a time. Teaching and learning will be the start to a lifetime of new, respectable and hopeful people.**

- Nurturing Parent Program Graduate

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**Your donation helps support Jus4Me Teen Parenting at a local high school**

[www.childrenscoalition.org/sponsorship](http://www.childrenscoalition.org/sponsorship)
NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION TAKE BACK DAY
October 28, 2017 & April 28, 2018
Expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications were collected during 2 national take back days. Partners included Louisiana Health-care Connections, U-ACT, RMMC, Union General Hospital, Aetna, Louisiana State Parks, Origin Bak and Southern Couture.

- 738 pounds of medicine collected at 9 drop-off locations in Morehouse, Union, Ouachita and Lincoln parishes

We've made countless connections with other outstanding community groups because of our work with the Children’s Coalition.
-Angela Hammond, Brookshire Grocery Company

In addition to working on programs in our four focal areas, the Children’s Coalition comes together as a staff to present several community-based events each year.

DIA DE LA FAMILIA
Lake D’Arbonne State Park, Farmerville, LA
Seventh annual year celebrating Hispanic culture and heritage in Union Parish, providing vital community resources for all ages. Partners included Louisiana Health-care Connections, U-ACT, RMMC, Union General Hospital, Aetna, Louisiana State Parks, Origin Bak and Southern Couture.

- 460 registered attendees

“BULLYPROOF” BULLY AWARENESS/UNITY DAY
October 25, 2017
Schools in Union Parish, Morehouse Parish, Ouachita Parish, Monroe City and child care centers wore orange to pledge their stand against bullying. Schools are supporting efforts year round by placing Buddy Benches on playgrounds - students feeling lonely or upset can calm down and are encouraged to meet friends.

- 2,000 participants

Ouachita Youth Summit
November 8, 2017
Third annual gathering of nominated junior high and high school students from area public, private and parochial schools to learn leadership skills. Students learned about topics ranging from healthy choices, social media safety, bullying, suicide and more.

- 265 students representing 34 schools

Family Day in the Park
April 21, 2018
In partnership with the City of Monroe, this event combined games, activities, crafts, music, food and fun at Forsythe Park to celebrate National Week of the Young Child, funded in part by School Readiness Tax Credits.

- 2,000 participants

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BAYOU DESIARD DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
Friday, May 11 – Saturday, May 12, 2018
The 2018 First National Bank Bayou DeSiard Dragon Boat Festival is our signature fundraising event, supporting underfunded programs within the Coalition. Of the 26 teams, 18 were corporations and 8 were youth.

Premier Sponsors were Choice Brands, Southern Beverage, Entergy & Aetna.

- 546 rowers (21-person team)
- 2,500+ attendees
- 100 participants in Fun Run

2,500+ attendees

SUPER SATURDAY IN THE FAMILY GARDEN
Third Saturday each month
A major part of the revitalization effort in downtown Monroe, the Family Garden opened on June 21, 2018. With garden based activities for children and adults, activities in the outdoor learning center, seminars for parents and volunteer opportunities in the garden and in the community, Super Saturday welcomes families to grow and learn together.

- Summer sponsored by Aetna
- 102 attendees

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Volunteer with us!
Programs like Rock ‘N Read and Super Saturday playground cleanup offer opportunities for all ages to make a difference. www.childrenscoalition.org/volunteer

October 1, 2018
Bullyproof Campaign Kickoff

October 2, 2018
Founder’s Day Breakfast

October 13, 2018
Dia De La Familia

October 27, 2018
National Prescription Take Back Day

November 7, 2018
Ouachita Youth Summit
For every dollar up to $5,000 contributed to the Coalition, businesses will receive a dollar-for-dollar refundable credit on Louisiana State taxes - redirecting tax liabilities locally into quality early childhood experiences through training, coaching, equipment and partnerships.

Adrian James Logging, Inc
Angie Sanders Ad Group
Atkins Well Service, Inc
B&A Smith Enterprises LLC
B.A. Electrical, LLC
Bamburg Consulting Inc
Barton Mowing Service
Benny Hailey Consulting, Inc
Billy Doughty Consulting, LLC
Blake Wheels Insurance Agency
Brad Pritchard Consulting
Brent Bryant
C and A Development Corp.
C3 Consulting, LLC
Car Town Of Monroe
Car’s Dirt Works & Pipeline Services
CBN Interest LLC
CC. Sambogno
Central Industrial Supply
Corbin J Turpin
Crewsdow Land Mangement LP
Cruse Enterprises
CTR Warranty LLC
Cub Creek Investment Corp.
Custom Call Center, LLC
Custom Fabrication & Consulting
D and L of Ouachita
David Cole, CPA
Delta Tire of Winnfield, Inc
Don Tant Logging, Inc
Dr. Linus Carroll
Dustin Bailey Adjuster, LLC
FEPs, LLC
Financial Instution Service Corp.
Gaar Timber, LLC
Garr Equipment Sales
Glen Peppers Consulting, Inc
Gregoire Consulting, LLC
Griffin Funeral Home
Gulf Inland
Gulf South Warehouse
Hatten Tire Center Inc
Heard, McElroy, Vestal
Herrington’s, Inc
Holyfield Investments, LLC
Ingles Timber Inc
J & J Consultants Inc
J&K Drugs
JC Maxwell Consulting, Inc.
Jeffery V. Analone, DDS
JGH Architectural Interiors Inc.
JM Neatherland Consulting
John S. Carroll, CPA
Joseph Lang Logging
JRU Consulting, LLC
K & K Boyd Enterprises LLC
K&M Equipment LLC
KB Will Inc.
Keahey Flying Service of Columbia, Inc.
Kim Hayes Boyd, CPA, LLC
Lane Eildeman, DDS, LLC
Larry Bratton Drilling Co, Inc
Laurer Wood Agency, LLC
Lenol Kenney Farms
Liles Parker, PLLC
Louisiana Agricultural Corporation, LLC
Louisiana Plastic Industries, Inc.
Luke Bird Consulting Inc
M D Smithumber Company
Mark Johnson Plumbing
McFarland Timber Inc.
McKithen & Lewllyan Professional Law
Macs Fresh Market #1 & #2
McManus Timber Company, Inc.
MCS TWO, LLC
Michael Franks Logging
Michael or Andrea Engler
Mixon & Carroll, APLC
Mixon, Carroll, & Fraizer, PLLC
MLP Enterprise, Inc.
Moss Logging, Inc.
Murphey Consulting Services
Murchrhey Oil Company, Inc.
Northgate Development, LLC
NY Francis Consulting, LLC
Ongin Bank
P, Duo, LLC
Parts and Service, Inc
Penland Contracting Inc
Pioneer Consultants Inc
Pipe Line Constructors, LLC
PK Morris
Progressive Bank
RAL Interests, LLC
Raw Restaurant
Ricky G. Caples D.D.S.
River Ridge Renovations, LLC
RJP Enterprises, LLC
RO Wheeler Enterprises, LLC
Robert Franks Logging
Robertson Fruit & Produce, Inc.
Rodney Alexander, LLC
Ronne Darden Farms
Rosalie Estate, LLC
Rowland Logging
Scott Equipment Sale, LLC
Scott Equipment Sale, LLC
Scott Financial Services, LLC
Seven R. Consulting, LLC
Sierra Land Services
Skn N Dent Home Appliance Outlet
Sleepy Hollow Furniture
Standard Enterprises Inc
Steven H. Gaar Logging, Inc
Stott Transport
Stott Wood Company
Straus Properties, LLC
Straus Tallulah, LLC
TV Resources, Inc
The Kirksey Agency Inc
The Orthopaedic Clinic of NEA
The Scott Corporation LLC
Thera-Pax Enterprises Inc
Therapy Fields Farms
Thomas & Farr
Tim Simons Logging, LLC
Turner Raxall 1136, LLC
Twin City Investments
Vantage Health Plan
Williamson Consulting
WoodmenLife/Woodmen Financial Services
www.childrenscoalition.org