the
emerge
CENTER
for communication, behavior, and development
Soaring
higher
2016 Annual Report

2016 department leaders

Dr. Emily Boudreaux
psychologist

Julie Chappell
director of development

Missy Devillier
director of occupational therapy

Natalee Menge
director of operations and administration

Dr. Jane Morton
director of autism services

Meg Sprunger
director of speech

Nicole Stockstill
lead audiologist

Our 2016 annual report reflects a year in which we made great strides in serving this community in ways some had never imagined possible. As we focused our efforts on expanding The Emerge Center's capacity to serve, our community suffered tremendous losses. We were encouraged by the outpouring of support from across the country, as well as the financial contributions that were made to our center to provide some respite to our families and staff.

Even with the tremendous impact of the floods, we managed to press forward. We served more families than ever before and held true to our commitment to provide services to all, regardless of their financial situation. We remained focused on building a sustainable source of funding through our philanthropic efforts, and established the structure for the Monarch Circle, representing multi-year leadership gifts from individual donors.

As an advocate for the children we serve, I am honored to be a part of the Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services. This group was formed to assure that Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is covered by insurance and Medicaid, and that families have unrestricted access to quality care. The coalition has worked tirelessly to protect access to therapy for families, and there is still much work to be done.

At Emerge, it is our vision to serve as a beacon of hope for children, adults, and their families facing communication challenges. This vision became a reality for the children and families of our community with the Emerge School for Autism. The commitment of our board, along with countless hours of planning, rolling up our sleeves and sheer willpower made this reality possible. On May 18, 2017, The Emerge School for Autism was approved by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board as the first tuition-free charter school of its kind in Louisiana.

Our work and future growth would not be possible without the support of a dedicated team, an invested Board of Directors and loyal donors. I hope that you will enjoy reading about all that we have accomplished in what has been an exceptionally challenging year.

Sincerely,

Melissa Juneau
Executive Director

As the Chair of The Emerge Center's Board, I am constantly reminded of the incredible work that takes place here on a daily basis. As a parent of a child with Autism, I am keenly aware of the small miracles that Emerge provides for families each and every day. I am honored to be a part of the leadership of this exceptional organization, and pleased to share some highlights of this past year's accomplishments with you.

Last year brought the completion of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAF) study on autism, representing a critical step for our community. Emerge, along with other community partners, played a pivotal role in the development of this report. The formation of the Emerge School for Autism directly responds to a key area of growth referenced in the BRAF study.

2016 was a challenging year for our community and Emerge was not spared from the financial impact. In the aftermath of the floods, we learned firsthand the importance of creating a sustainable fundraising stream for Emerge. Financial stability is paramount in meeting the ever-growing needs of our clients and families, and we look toward the future with a strategic focus on further strengthening our core, while also exploring smart, sustainable growth.

To respond to the increasing demand for our services with a focus on long-term stability, we partnered with a third party consulting firm to facilitate the process of developing a three year strategic plan for The Emerge Center. This plan is particularly focused on optimizing our growth, including the expansion into a charter school and in the development of a foundation. As we plan our next steps, we hope to achieve ambitious yet sustainable milestones to continue to serve our constituents and expand our service offerings in Louisiana.

This is an exciting time for Emerge and for families in our community. We are thrilled to be moving forward to better serve the families who need us and thankful to all of you who have helped make this journey possible. A great future lies ahead for Emerge and we are eager to watch it unfold.

Sincerely,

Robert Pettit
Board President

2016 board of directors

officers

Robert Pettit
president

Christopher Odinet
vice president

Ryan Thibodeaux
treasurer

Melissa Blake
secretary

Jean-Paul Perrault
immediate past president

Colleen Waguespack
past president emeritus

Melissa Juneau
executive director

directors

Verge Ausberry
Marci Blaize
Marvin Borgmeyer
Vicki Crochet
Michael DePaul
Camilla Ford
Terrence Ginn
Mark Goodson
Dr. Charlotte Hollman
Jake Mayo
Katie Sternberg
Traci Thompson
Audrey Wascome
Dr. Kortney West

Organization Highlights

accomplishments

In 2016, we served 953 children in our Children's Development Center. Our team remained focused on developing innovative programs to meet the needs of our clients and families. One way we improved our service delivery involved the implementation of a new data collection system - Catalyst - for our Autism Program. This system was incorporated into our program in 2016 and assists our Board Certified Behavior Analysts with data collection to help plan effective Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapies for our kids. We are grateful to the Fore!Kids Foundation and the Montan Trust for helping to underwrite this program.

annual fund giving circles

In the effort to build a sustainable source of funding for The Emerge Center, we created a range of giving circles to acknowledge our annual fund donors in a special way. Giving circles will go into effect in 2017. As part of this effort, the Monarch Circle was established to recognize multi-year donors with gifts of $10,000 or more.

grant funding

Grants play a critical role in supporting our programs at Emerge. We received significant funding through grants to support many of our programs, including the expansion of our Pediatric Behavioral Health department, the purchase of assistive communication devices for families, and the establishment of an automated reminder system for patients and clients. Additionally, Emerge was honored to receive an increase in annual funding from Capital Area United Way, with a new funding source for our Pediatric Behavioral Health department.

celebrations

Every year, Emerge hosts events to celebrate our staff, clients, and their families, and this year was no exception. We enjoyed regular visits from the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and pet therapy (with actual puppies!) from Paws for a Cause.

Mardi Gras parades and Easter Egg hunts were enjoyed by the entire Emerge family. These activities are not only a fun change of pace for our friends, but also provide a great opportunity for our therapists to change their daily therapy routines with each child.

2016 marked The Emerge Center's 2nd annual Family Day. Held in October each year, this fall celebration offers the unique opportunity for our clients, their siblings, and their families to dress up in costume and trick or treat at Emerge. This is a fun-filled day that is sure to remain an Emerge tradition for years to come.

in my words

Former Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation client, now published author, Robbie Clark, wrote a book that provided his perspective on his 20-year journey, from a nonverbal three-year-old to a successful author.

Robbie participated in a book signing of his newly published book *In My Words: The Stories of an Autistic Boy*, and donated a portion of all book sales to Emerge. The outpouring of support from current and former clients, his family, and the Baton Rouge community was overwhelming. His books sold out within 30 minutes! We were so grateful to be a part of this special occasion, and honored to be a recipient of funding.

Program Highlights

speech-language pathology

In 2016, 394 children enrolled in our group speech-language classes, 234 children participated in individual speech therapy, and we provided 627 speech evaluations.

With support from Cox Community Grants, we were able to launch an iPad loaner program for families in need of assistive communication technology. By using a particular software system, our clients can use iPads to more effectively communicate.

occupational therapy

We increased our capacity to serve by increasing our number of full time occupational therapists and provided 249 children with OT services. By working collaboratively with our social work department, we were able to streamline our intake, evaluation, and placement process, ultimately increasing the number of children served from 2015.

pediatric behavioral health

390 children received behavioral health services last year, representing 742 therapy appointments and 240 evaluations. On average, Emerge receives 300 physician referrals each month across all services. With support from the Wilson Foundation, our Pediatric Behavioral Health department expanded to better meet the needs of the families that we serve. With the growth of our social work program in particular, we were able to increase the number of children served by 12% in 2016, decreasing the number of families on our waitlist, and providing services faster to families who have been waiting.

autism and school readiness programs

In 2016, we added 50 new clients to our caseload. Combined with additional consultations and existing clients, we served 109 clients in our ABA department last year.

In addition to increasing our caseload, we focused on improving and expanding our parent training sessions for families of children enrolled in our program. We are able to provide 307 parent training sessions, ultimately helping parents more effectively interact with their children at home.

Our school readiness program offered Bloom, a five day therapeutic program, and two kindergarten classes. A Transitional Kindergarten for those needing an additional year before entering a mainstream Kindergarten; and a Facilitated Kindergarten, for children needing more support in an academic setting. Last year our program received two or more applicants for every seat available.

hearing services at emerge

In 2016, our Audiology department increased staff to 1.5 full time audiologists in order to expand scheduling options. We also launched a separate website - www.emergehearing.org - with a goal to increase visibility of this service for all in the community. With a grant provided by the Fore!Kids Foundation, we were able to install Dynamic Sound Fields in each of our classrooms. These systems are in place to amplify the therapist's voice which has proven to improve students' performance.

Fundraising Events

emerge into dance

The Emerge Center's second annual signature gala, Emerge Into Dance, was once again a tremendous success. Guests enjoyed an evening of food, dancing and live entertainment, ending with a headlining performance by the Village People.

The funds raised at this event each year play a critical role in allowing us to serve the growing number of children and families in need of our services. With help from our generous sponsors and guests, we were able to net over $240,000 to support the daily operations at Emerge.

This event simply would not be possible without the support of our community. We are extremely thankful to The Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Family Foundation, who has been the presenting sponsor for our gala since its inception.

village people
Headline Performer

sixty-nine
Host Committee Members

four hundred
Guests in Attendance

fifty-two
Corporate Sponsors

$242,766
Net Revenue

baton rouge area volunteer activists

Emerge has hosted the Baton Rouge Area Volunteer Activists since 1971. Each year this highly anticipated awards luncheon honors those who give of their time and talents to organizations across our community, and raises critical funds for our center. 2016 welcomed a new class of dedicated community volunteers to our growing list of volunteer activists.

Each year, the Margaret Neely Award is awarded to an individual for outstanding service to The Emerge Center. The award is named after Speech Pathologist Dr. Margaret Neely, the first Executive Director of Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation. The 2016 award was presented to our long-time employee, Ann Nader.

Ann has faithfully served the children and families of The Emerge Center since 1979, when it was known as Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation. In the early 1980s, Ann pioneered our groundbreaking preschool language classes. The program was born from a desire to make the greatest impact on the greatest number of children, which is a goal that continues to drive our Foundation Program today.

Ann relates and understands the struggles our families face as she is blessed with a daughter of her own who has autism. Her family is grateful for their daughter's positive experiences and the opportunities she gained while attending one of the first preschool language classes at the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation 37 years ago.

Annual Financials

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	$985,122
Accounts receivable - program (net of allowances)	175,699
Promises to give receivable (net) - current portion	124,500
Other receivables	30,641
Prepaid expenses	81,861
Total current assets	**$1,397,823**

OTHER ASSETS:

Promises to give receivable (net) - long-term portion	10,000
Note receivable	6,095,390
Investments	1,075,313
Property and equipment - net	6,497,158
Assets under capital lease - net	88,702
	13,766,563
Total assets	**$15,164,386**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Obligations under capital lease - current portion	$2,074
Accounts payable - trade	49,691
Deferred revenue	92,866
Accrued expenses	248,721
Total current liabilities	**$393,352**

OTHER LIABILITIES:

Long-term debt	7,533,325
Total liabilities	**$7,926,677**

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted - undesignated	6,756,110
Unrestricted - designated	350,000
Temporarily restricted	36,149
Permanently restricted	95,450
Total net assets	**$7,237,709**
Total liabilities and net assets	**$15,164,386**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Program revenue	$3,886,980	77%

SUPPORT REVENUE:

Capital Area United Way	288,110	
Contributions	173,576	
Grant income	107,250	
In-kind donations	68,771	
Special fund raising events	511,169	
	1,148,876	23%
Total revenue and support	**$5,035,856**	**100%**

EXPENSES:

Program services	4,683,459	82%
Management and general	508,815	9%
Fund raising	495,685	9%
Total expenses	**$5,687,959**	**100%**
Decrease in net assets	**($652,103)**	

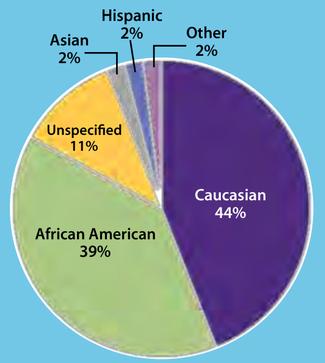
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

Client and Financial Data

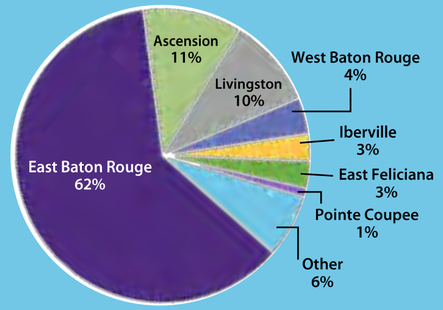
REVENUE BREAKDOWNS AND SERVICE DELIVERY BASED ON 2016 DATA. CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS BASED ON JULY 2016 - JULY 2017 DATA.

client demographics

Ethnicity

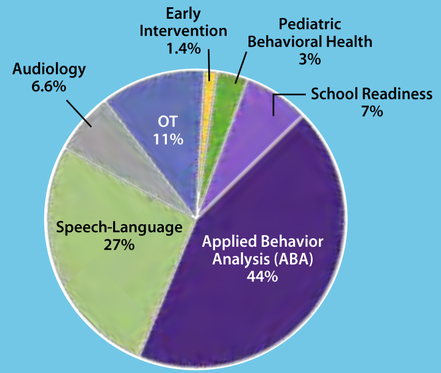


Parishes served

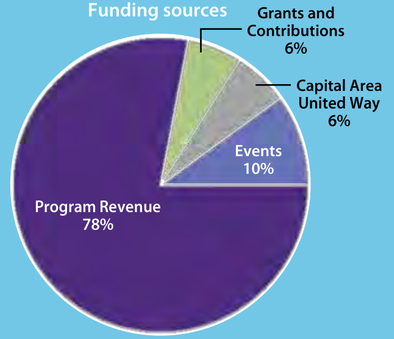


revenue breakdowns

Program revenue

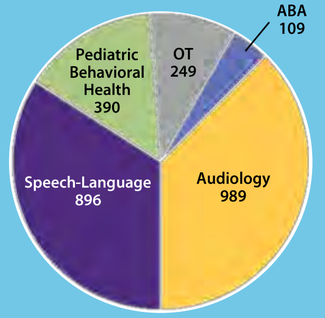


Funding sources

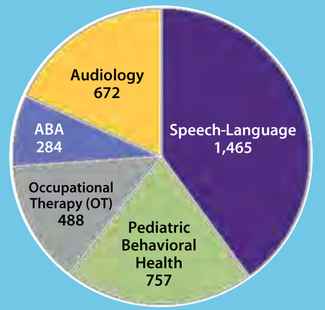


service delivery

Clients served, by department



Referrals received, by department



Annual Donor Roll

Our work simply would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. Our sincerest thanks to all of the individuals, foundations, and corporations in our community who helped to support the daily operations at The Emerge Center. The following gifts were made between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

$10,000 and above

The Albemarle Foundation
The Andreeff Foundation
Delta Zeta Sorority
Excel Group Services
Fore Kids Foundation Zurich Classic
Mary Terrell Joseph
Matt and Melissa Juneau
Luke and Kathryn Kissam
Matt and Sherri McKay
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Family Foundation
Bob Pettit
Mark and Rachel Rohr
Sertoma Club of Baton Rouge, Inc.
Kevin and Staci Tabor
The Milford Wampold Support Foundation
Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

from $5,000 to $9,999

Dane and Mary Andreeff
Anthem Foundation
E.J. and Marjory B. Ourso Family Foundation
Entergy Louisiana
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Fishman Haygood
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Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
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Mike and Kim Wampold
William Edwin Montan Charitable Trust

from $2,500 to $4,999

Boo Grigsby Foundation
Matthew and Maggie Brill
Capital One
Cox Community Grants
ExxonMobil Foundation Employee Volunteer Program
Faulk & Meek General Contractors LLC
Ted and Shelton Jones
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry
LUBA Workers Comp
Rolfe and Teeta McCollister
McGlinchey Stafford
Michael McKay
Med Data Service Bureau
Jeff and Jane Morton
Phelps Dunbar
Kent and Elizabeth Richards
Dave Roberts
Ryan and Amber Roussel
SGS Petroleum Service Corporation
United HealthCare

from $1,000 to $2,499

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AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
Arkel Constructors
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Baker Donelson
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The Baton Rouge Clinic
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David and Jeanie Bondy
James and Sinclair Buquet
Buquet & LeBlanc
Calais Dermatology Associates
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Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge
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Tommy and Kally Dennig
Michael and Patty DePaul
Doyle Electric
Emergent Method
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Gary and Lisa Gilbert
Terrence Ginn
Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
Cordell and Ava Haymon
Khanh Ho
Jay and Charlotte Hollman
Hub International Gulf South
IberiaBank
ISC Constructors
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Frederic and Cary Kearny
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Level Construction and Development
Louisiana Lottery
Massengale Grounds Management
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Jean-Paul and Wanda Perrault
Robert and Conway Pettit
Kevin and Winifred Reilly
Stephen Riedlinger
Lenny and Melissa Samuel
Stephen and Kally Sere
Frank and Marcy Simoneaux
John and Linda Spain
Sparkhound
Nick and Abbie Speyrer
Starmount Life Insurance
Erich and Katherine Sternberg
Taylor Porter
The Moody Company Foundation
Ryan and Kim Thibodeaux
Frank and Laurie Thigpen
Stephen and Colleen Waguespack
Eric and Audrey Wascome
Geordy and Kate Waters
Whitney Bank
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from $500 to $999

Michael and Leslie Albritton
James and Denise Angelle
Barbara Beckmann
Skip and Sandra Bertman
Melissa Blake
BMS Law LLC
Keith and Lori Boeneke
Marvin and Susan Borgmeyer
Brad and Emily Boudreaux
Tanya Bourgoyne
Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson
Terrell and Mary Kay Brown
Doze Butler
Celtic Media Centre
Civil Design & Construction Inc.
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Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
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Matthew and Catherine Saurage
Elise Scallan
Mary Ann Sessums
Shaw Center for the Arts
William and Page Silvia
Todd and Kim Stevens
Vaughan Roofing & Sheetmetal
Cyril Vetter
Michael and Kortney West
Michael and Jamie Wong

from $250 to $499

Charles and Kathy Allen
Frank and Copper Alvarez
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Randy and Carol Bonnecaze
Capital Area CASA
Michelle Carriere
Christopher and Allison Cascio
Scott and Katherine Chenevert
City Year Baton Rouge
John and Marcia Dabkowski
Laura Devillier
Robert and Marcelle Drumm
Parker and Mandy Ewing
Carl and Maria Giese
Giggles Toy Store
Mark and Katie Goodson
Edward and Patricia Henderson
Dana Holmes
Daniel Hotard
Jonesboro State Bank
Jodi Jowers
Thomas and Margaret Kleinpeter
Kevin and Debra Knobloch
Corey and Lauren Knotts
Joseph and Monica Landry
John and Bonnie Leerkes
Dax and Natalee Menge
Michael and Tami Moran
Susan Moreau
Paul and Tomi Morton
Sam and Ann Nader
Todd and Courtney Newbill
Keith and Betty Odinet
Joseph and Cheryl Olinde
Jeanette Plourde and Jeffrey Leichman
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Truist Campaign
Martin and April Setliff
Mark and Kristen Spring
Phillip and Margaret Sprunger
Ronnie Stamper
Brandon and Nicole Stockstill
Traci Thompson
Mareen Treese
Alison Walker
Walters & Mason Retail Inc.
John Whaley
Dr. and Mrs. John White
Martha Yancey

from $100 to $249

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Henry and Bernice Arboneaux
Kathy Arnes
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Paul and Barbara Baier
Brittany Barkley
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
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Baton Rouge Bolt
Felder and Shannon Beachem
Lorrie Bearden
Jeff and Megan Binder
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Uvonne Brewer
Cristina Caminita
Ursula Carmena
David and Camille Cassidy
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Holli Keller
Lawrence and Alice Kronenberger
Kent and Vicki La Place
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Charles Lee
Jernigan Lesley
Angela Lorio
Louisiana Art and Science Museum
Eric and Shelly Madison
Mary Kathryn Martin
Frank McArthur
Gary McConnell
Anice McGill
Mental Health Association of Greater Baton Rouge
Mercedes Benz of Baton Rouge
Mid South Equipment Sales and Services
Gary Miller
Stan and Charlene Montelaro
Patrick Mulhearn
John and Ruth Pace
Jay and Pamela Parker
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John and Jennifer Ratelle
Kenneth and Judith Roberson
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Lindsay Rougon
Randy and Darrelyn Roussel
Meliss Saltaformaggio
Shoresh Preschool
Bob and Connie Smith
Joanna Smith
Lois Smyth
Jerry and Judy Stovall
Johnny and Diane Tate
Theresa Teekel
Ronald and Barbara Thibodeaux
Suzanne Trahan
Arthur and Jeanne Tribou
Sue Turner
Thomas Weaver
Paul and Kathy West

from $1 to $99

Amy Allende
Logan Anderson
Rena Andrus
Richard and Cynthia Averette
Erin Ayme
Dustin Bane
Sharon Barksdale
Aaron Bayham
Glyn and Paula Bergeron
Sharon Bethea
Susan Blackler
David and Kimberly Boneno
Cynthia Bowling
Daniel and Leigh Bozard
Geralyn Brackin
Ellen Broussard
Leslie Browning
Jennifer Butler
John and Michelle Cambias
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Pamela Johnson
Diana Johnson
Emily Kornman
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Robert Krieg
Jo and Cleveland Leblanc
Orsonna Lee
Frances Lewis
Stephen Loy
Fatemeh Malekian
Juan Mateos
Mickey Matran
V. Lynn and Frances McCord
Bettsie Miller
Harriet Miller
Brandi Monjure
Belinda Morales
Katherine Negrotto
Sara Neumann
Leah Neupert
Miriam Overton
Roselle Paglomutan
Sharon Patterson
Carmen Patterson
Sterling Rabalais
Kelsey Reeves
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Jane Smith
Beverly Sonnier Plaisance
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Darcy Stowe
Jeremy Theriot
Keith and Catherine Thibodeaux
Jeffrey and Stephanie Trim
Andrea Turner
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
David Van Gelder
Gabrielle Vetter
Lawrence and Kim Vince
Diane Ward
Bodi White
Gloria Wiley
Renee Wilkerson
Ashley Williams
Theta Williams
Allie Wood
Lindsay Young

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for communication, behavior, and development

United Way
Community Partner

7784 Innovation Park Drive | Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820 | emergela.org