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 multiyear 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 Petit
Board President

2016 department leaders

Dr. Emily Boudreaux
psychologist
Julie Chappell
director of development
Missy Devillier
director of occupational therapy
Natalie Emerg
Director of operations and administration
Dr. Jane Morton
director of autism services
Meg Sprunger
director of speech
Nicole Stackist
lead audiologist

2016 board of directors

officers
Robert Petit
president
Christopher Odinet
vice president
Ryan Thibodeaux
treasurer
Melissa Blake
secretary
Jean Paul Perault
immediate past president
Colleen Wagunpark
past president emeritus
Melissa Juneau
executive director

directors
Verena Auberry
Marc Blazer
Marvin Borgmeyer
Vicki Crochet
Michael Defalco
Camilla Ford
Temrence Ginn
Mark Goodson
Dr. Charlotte Holland
Jaker Mayo
Kate Stenberg
Traci Thompson
Audyce Wasmome
Dr. Keremy West
Organization Highlights

accomplishments
In 2016, we served 933 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 Faeth Kids Foundation and the Montana 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 multiyear 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, 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
396 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 ForeKids 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 headline 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

$242,766
Net Revenue

**fifty-two**
Corporate Sponsors

**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: 81,390

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

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

### Revenue and Support:

**Program revenue:** $3,886,980 (77%)

### Support Revenue:
- Capital Area United Way: 288,310
- Contributions: 173,576
- Grant income: 107,250
- In-kind donations: 68,771
- Special fund raising events: 511,169

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)
Client and Financial Data

Client Demographics
- Ethnicity:
  - Caucasian: 44%
  - African American: 39%
  - Hispanic: 2%
  - Asian: 2%
  - Other: 2%
  - Unspecified: 11%
- Parishes served:
  - East Baton Rouge: 62%
  - Livingston: 10%
  - Iberville: 3%
  - East Feliciana: 3%
  - Pointe Coupee: 1%
  - Other: 6%

Revenue Breakdowns
- Program revenue:
  - Early Intervention: 1.4%
  - Speech/Language: 27%
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): 24%
  - School Readiness: 7%
  - OT: 11%
  - Audiology: 6.6%
  - Pediatric Behavioral Health: 3%
  - Capital Area United Way: 6%
- Funding sources:
  - Grants and Contributions: 6%
  - Events: 10%

Service Delivery
- Clients served, by department:
  - Pediatric Behavioral Health: 1,980
  - Speech/Language: 896
  - Audiology: 989
  - OT: 249
  - School Readiness: 7%
  - Early Intervention: 1.4%
  - Capital Area United Way: 6%
  - ABA: 109

Revenue breakdowns and service delivery based on 2016 data; Client demographics based on July 2016-July 2017 data.
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 Lumericenter. The following gifts were made between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

from $1,000 to $2,499
Joe and Anne Allen
AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
Arkel Construction
Mark and Jeanne Babin
AST Engineers
Beverly and Chuck Assaw
Baker Donelion
Peter and Lauren Banks
The Baton Rouge Clinic
Rupin and Ede Biller
Scott and Leslie Berg
Craig and Angelina Bergeon
Charles and Merci Blake
David and Jeanne Bonini
James and Simul Brouet
Brouet & Alfey
Catalin Dermatologist Associates
Luc and Rebecca Davy
Coliseum Partners Architects
Jeffrey Conchello
Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge
Laura and Becky Dounion
Tommy and Kelly Drenan
Michael and Patty Dufault
Doeby Electric
Emergent Method
John and Rose Marie File
Gary and Lisa Gilbert
Temple Garner
Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
Cardinal and Avra Haymon
Kyrith Hop
Jay and Charlotte Holman
Hula International Gulf South
Inland Bank
K.C. Construction
Jeffrey Koars
Friedrich and Lake Knaus
Keepstyle Inc.
Level Construction and Development
Louisiana Lottery
Maxwell Group Management
Charles and Jean Morette
Sandi O’Dell
Will and Yvette Owen
Helios Development
Frank and Maria Pontiff
Jean-Philip and Paula Powell
Kevin and Wifred Porey
Stephen and Beth Resor
Lenny and Melissa Samuel
Stephen and Maria Lampe
Frank and Marc Simonno
Jean-Claude and Nance Spasheau
Nick and Ashley Speyer
Starmark Life Assurance
Skeen and Lisa Stempel
Taylor Pines
The Money Company Foundation
Ryan and Kim Thibodeaux
Frank and Loury Tocino
Stephan and Colleen Wauquycq
Eugene and Beverly West
Gordy and Kate Waters
Whitney Bank
Leonard Woyt and Jacques Woyt Wex

from $500 to $999
Michael and Leslie Albright
James and Denise Angelou
Barbara Blackman
Bob and Sandra Bocan
Melissa Blake
Dean and Anne Brown
Keith and Lori Borel
Marek and Stephen Brown
Brannan and Emily Boudreaux
Emily Bouvier
Brasilac, Sadie & Wilson

from $100 and above
The Alzheimer Foundation
The Ardmore Foundation
The Collier Foundation
Drafords Foundation
Excel Group Services
Foxworth Foundation – Zerich Classic
Mary Terri Joseph
Marti and Melissa Juneau
Lake and Kathryn Kissam
Matt and Shelley Kuehne
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
Jim and C. P. Pennington Foundation Family Bob Pettit
Mimi and Mark Robe
Settlements Out of Baton Rouge, Inc.
Bruce and Tami Taber
The Midfield Wampold Support Foundation
Hans and Angelina Wilson Foundation

from $5,000 to $9,999
Dane and Mary Andreeff
Artsim Foundation
Eli and Marty B. Ouzo Family Foundation
Enterie Louisiana
John Turner and Jerry Fischer
Phofoe Haughton
Gary Gaydash
Louisiana Television Broadcasting LLC
Chris and Kathy Heidner
Norwood and Mourne Oge
Raising Care’s Chicken Fingers
Sean and Jennifer Hazel
Rite Aid Foundation/AstraZeneca
Paul and Alaina Harfamaggio
Mike and Kam Wampold
William Edwin Morain - Charitable Trust

Terrell and Mary Kay Brown
Dr. Bruce
Celtic Media Centre
Cortina Design & Construction Inc.
Colin’s Wauquycq Interiors
Charles Costerino and Vicki Crockett
Charles and Susan D’Agostino
Jay and Cynthia Danner
Paul and Ely Fair
Greek and Elizabeth Fie
Charles and Pam Fisher
Frederick and Lopper and Gold Foundation
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
Harry J. Bourgeois & Co.
Hertz Financial Consultants
Daniel and Jaryn Jacek
Alton and Cebree Landry
Bill and Lorraine Lung
Louisiana Chemical Association
Jay and Emily Maiga
LaOne and Michael McNelis
Spike McKay
Ellis and Cynthia Michael
Jake and Adrienne McMorris
Breau and Holland Nader
Brent and Angela Next
Richard and Debi Nett
Kerry and Pattan Williams
Mark and Linda Poirier
Postlewaite & Netten
Quita International of Baton Rouge
Lisa Russell
Matthew and Catherine Sausage
Elle Sculli
Mary Ann Sesum
Shawn Center for the Arts
William and Page Ska
Todd and Kem Stevens
Vaughan Roofing & Sheetmetal
Cynt Veillet
Michael and Kortney West
Michael and James Wong