2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Reaching new heights
VISION
A world where all individuals are able to maximize their potential.

MISSION
The Emerge Center empowers children with autism and individuals with communication challenges to achieve independence through innovative and family-centered therapies.

VALUES
Accountability
Collaboration
Compassion
Empowerment
Growth
Innovation
Quality
Respect
COMPASSION.  
COLLABORATION.  
INNOVATION.

These are just a few of the fundamental values upon which The Emerge Center is built.

Our unique model of care is unrivaled in our region. The substantial number of children we served in 2017 – more than 900 – represents not only the demand for our services but also a testament to our capacity to meet the community’s evolving needs.

Throughout 2017, we worked hard to continually enhance our services while also remaining accessible to families from all walks of life.

Our Board and executive leadership completed a three-year Strategic Plan that leverages Emerge’s formidable history and track record to position us for sustainable growth and an expansion of our footprint as a regional trailblazer in early intervention therapies.

A key component to our future growth is the launch of The Emerge School for Autism, Louisiana’s first and only public charter school for children with autism. The School represents a significant broadening of our educational offerings and we are looking forward to opening the new school for the 2018-2019 year.

Our work at Emerge is truly exceptional. Support from an engaged community enables us to do what we do best: empower children with autism and individuals with communication challenges to achieve independence and reach their full potential.

Because of your generosity, we are able to pursue new opportunities - like the School - that extend our impact. Thank you for your commitment and for championing the needs of the children and families in our care.

With thanks,

MELISSA JUNEAU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT PETTIT  
2017 BOARD CHAIRMAN
ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

INNOVATING IN EDUCATION

With the creation of The Emerge School for Autism, we have deepened our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible education services for children with autism. The School is a Type 1 charter, serving children living within the boundaries of the East Baton Rouge Parish School District.

The School will embrace the same customized focus on learning and progress as well as a collaborative team approach that is at the core of the Center’s therapy model. Starting with twenty children in kindergarten, the School plans to serve children ages five to eleven and grow to accommodate approximately 120 students.

Since receiving unanimous approval for our charter application in May 2017, we have worked diligently with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System’s leadership to develop the charter agreement and professional services contract.

In 2017, we hired a Principal to oversee operational planning and to prepare for our inaugural class of students in August 2018.

AFFIRMING Emerge AS A THOUGHT LEADER

The Emerge brand is equated with quality, excellence and success. Our active involvement in several initiatives in 2017 further confirmed that we are a highly respected expert in our field.

As part of our integral role in the 2016 Comprehensive Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders Resources in the Capital Region, we have begun to address the strategic next steps identified in the study. Emerge’s executive leadership has assumed key responsibilities in a new alliance that has been formed called the Capital Area Alliance for Autism and Related Disorders. Melissa Juneau serves on the Alliance’s Executive Board, and Emerge staff lead task forces focused on therapy and the advancement of educational opportunities for professionals in the field.

We also have continued our important work as a founding member of the Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services, whose mission is to improve autism benefits and services in Louisiana through advocacy and education.

Last summer, Melissa Juneau was honored to be selected as one of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation’s recipients of the John W. Barton, Sr. Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award. This recognition celebrates individuals who have significant experience in the nonprofit sector and a dossier of accomplishments reflecting excellence in leadership.

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

As part of our strategic planning process in 2017, we established The Emerge Foundation to provide sustained philanthropic support to The Emerge Center and The Emerge School. The Foundation is charged with strengthening the capacity of both organizations and ensuring broad access to our services.

We hired an Executive Director and initiated the recruitment of a Board of Directors. To grow our grant revenue, the Foundation hired a part-time grant writer to pursue opportunities with regional and national funders.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MAGNIFYING OUR REACH

2017 was a banner year for our Audiology Department. We increased partnerships to expand our ability to serve more clients, thereby increasing financial stability to the department.

Our Speech-Language Pathology team expanded their expertise and services in the area of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), including a parent training program and AAC loaner program. An AAC device, also known as a “talker,” is used to help non-verbal children communicate and develop language skills. Members of our team presented on multidisciplinary uses for AAC at a regional conference held by the Louisiana Assistive Technology Center. We are proud to be known as an innovative leader in the field of assistive technology.

In Occupational Therapy, we forged university partnerships and offered young professionals the opportunity for hands-on experience. Internships for undergraduates in Child and Family Studies and Kinesiology proved to be a great opportunity for Emerge and these aspiring professionals.

EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

Our Licensed Clinical Social Worker began offering parent training opportunities, expanding support and resources to the families we see in our Behavioral Health Department.

Within our Applied Behavior Analysis Program, we recruited our first bilingual Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), broadening access to our services for the growing diversity in our community. We also now offer financial assistance to our staff who are in the process of obtaining their certification, furthering the advancement of more BCBAs for our area.
"AUTISM AFFECTS ONE IN 59 CHILDREN. IN SEPTEMBER 2012, OUR SON PHILIP BECAME A NUMBER IN THIS STATISTIC."

Philip was an easy baby who rarely cried and seemed happy. He was content lining up toy cars or flipping pages in books. Around the age of two, Philip was not speaking and seemed frustrated. On his third day in preschool, the director expressed concerns about whether he belonged there.

We were devastated and had no idea what to do; so, the director suggested we contact the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation, now known as The Emerge Center. We immediately called, requesting help. Even though the clinic was on break, a wonderful therapist named Meg agreed to meet with us and assured us they would be able to help our family.

Philip began receiving therapy services two weeks later. On his first day, I was so scared Philip would once again be “too much to handle.” I remember peering into the classroom and seeing him have a tantrum. The therapist saw the horror in my eyes and ran to the door to meet me.
My heart sank as I knew she was going to say this wasn’t going to work…but I was wrong. She gave me a big hug and said, “We are having a rough day, Mom, but that is why Philip is here.” I began crying - but these tears were different; they were tears of joy. Our son was being accepted and helped.

Philip received countless hours of Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Applied Behavior Analysis over the course of four years at Emerge. He completed both their Bloom preschool and Kindergarten programs.

The therapists’ shoulders have been there for us to cry on, but they’ve also been with us to celebrate all of Philip’s achievements, including the first time he said, “I love you!”

Today, Philip has successfully finished first grade at a local parochial school and will be entering second grade in the fall. He has earned all A’s and B’s, made numerous friends, and was awarded the Christian Life Award for his class!

Most parents take for granted how easy it is to brush their children’s teeth or to tie their shoes, but Emerge recognizes things like this can be a constant battle.

They have become our family, and they’re aware of what it takes to give children the tools they need to function in society. Not a day goes by that we don’t say how grateful we are for The Emerge Center.

The Saltaformaggio Family

"WE SUPPORT Emerge AS DONORS BECAUSE WE HAVE WITNESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES AND THE IMPACT IT HAS HAD ON OUR FAMILY.”
ANNUAL FINANCIALS

In 2017, earned income and philanthropy totaled $5,766,767 compared to $5,035,856 in 2016. Total expenses in 2017 were $5,899,319 compared to $5,687,959 in 2016. Our annual financials represent data for the year ended December 31, 2017.

earned income and philanthropy

income
- Earned Income: 68% ($3,920,855)
- Philanthropy: 32% ($1,845,912)

expenses
- Program Services: 80%
- Management/General: 11%
- Fundraising: 9%

philanthropy by source

- Events: 6%
- Capital Area United Way: 9%
- Grants: 18%
- In-Kind: 8%
- Annual Giving: 17%
- Pledges*: 42%

program revenue

- ABA: 40%
- Occupational Therapy: 28%
- Speech-Language: 12%
- Audiology: 7%
- Behavioral Health: 9%
- School Readiness: 4%

*Includes multiyear pledges to The Emerge Center’s Annual Fund and to build The Emerge School for Autism
OUR IMPACT IN 2017

Our life-changing work would not be possible without our community supporters and their steadfast commitment to our mission.

67,377
therapy hours provided

3,431
referrals received

1,802
clients served*

1,593
phone screens completed by our intake coordinator

144
free community hearing screenings

31 parishes served

“I AM SO GRATEFUL ANNA HAS THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH SUCH AN AMAZING TEAM. ITS INCREDIBLE TO LOOK BACK ON HER LIFE AND SEE THE DRAMATIC CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. EMERGE IS A WONDERFUL PART OF HER STORY.”

-ANNA’S MOM

*Some clients received multiple services
PHILANTHROPY

Hundreds of children and families walk through our doors each month, and we work tirelessly to help them emerge from their challenges to reach their greatest potential.

Support from our donors allows us to enhance our ability to serve more children and develop new programs that reflect the needs of the families we serve. Unrestricted gifts make a significant impact on our center by allowing us to distribute funds to the areas with the greatest need.

We have continued to build our Giving Societies Program for donors interested in making multi-year gifts. With a minimum annual commitment of $1,000 for three years, individuals join an exclusive group of supporters who are working together to help The Emerge Center thrive. Giving Society pledges as of December 31, 2017 total $269,000 and those donors are:

- The Andreiff Foundation
- Mary Terrell Joseph
- Matt and Melissa Juneau
- Luke and Kathryn Kissam
- Milford Wampold Support Foundation
- Robert and Conway Pettit
- Mark and Rachel Rohr
- Erich and Katie Sternberg
- Kevin and Staci Tabor
- John Turner and Jerry Fischer

In 2017, we established two new Annual Giving opportunities:

- Our Friends of Emerge Program, enabling donors to make a recurring monthly gift.
- Our Employee Giving Program, giving our team members the option to donate via payroll deduction.
EVENTS

ANGLING AGAINST AUTISM
Angling Against Autism Founders Moonie and Angela Bergeron hosted the 7th annual event to benefit The Emerge Center. All funds raised at this event supported our programs for children with autism. Because of the tireless dedication of Moonie and Angie, coupled with the community’s support, this event raised more than $83,000.

EMERGE INTO PARADISE
As our signature fundraising event, this annual gala has become widely known as one of the best celebrations in Baton Rouge. While the event itself provides a truly memorable evening for our guests, the generous support from our community makes the gala possible. The Bee Gees provided a festive headlining performance at the event, which raised over $356,000 to directly support the life-changing services that Emerge provides each and every day.

BATTLE AGAINST AUTISM
2017 was a unique year for Battle Against Autism (BAA) in that two events were held due to being rescheduled after the historic flooding in 2016. The brainchild of former Emerge parents Chip and Sandi Robinson, BAA combines a golf tournament, vehicle raffle, and auction to directly support our autism programs. Just over $254,000 was raised, granting us the ability to provide comprehensive services to children enrolled in our intensive program for children with autism.

BATON ROUGE AREA VOLUNTEER ACTIVISTS
At the 46th annual Baton Rouge Area Volunteer Activists awards luncheon, Emerge honored another class of ten outstanding volunteers. While honoring volunteerism and the devoted efforts of individuals in our community, the luncheon also serves as an annual fundraiser for Emerge, providing dollars that support the programs and services we provide to families in need on a daily basis. The 2017 event raised over $79,000.
OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to our donors who continue to provide unrestricted operating support for our programs and services. The list below includes donors whose cumulative giving exceeds $500 in 2017. We have made every effort to include all gifts from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. If you feel there is an error, please contact us at giving@emergela.org.

ANNUAL GIVING

$10,000 and above
Albemarle Foundation
Delta Zeta Sorority, Sigma Chapter
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Family Foundation
Matt and Melissa Juneau
Reilly Family Foundation
Mark and Rachel Rohr
Kevin and Staci Tabor
Mary Terrell Joseph
The Andreeff Foundation
The Milford Wampold Support Foundation
John Turner and Jerry Fischer

$3,000 to $9,999
Crescent River Pilots Foundation
Luke and Kathryn Kissam
Robert and Conway Pettit
Rite Aid Foundation KidCents Program
Sertoma Club of Baton Rouge, Inc.
Erich and Katie Sternberg
ANNUAL GIVING, cont’d.

$1,000 to $2,999
Keith and Lori Boeneke
Dudley* and Beverly Coates
Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
Drs. Jay and Charlotte Hollman
Jones Walker
Jeffrey Kearns
KeepSafe, Inc.
Michael Moran
Paul and Tomi Morton
No Fault Sport Group
Bob Pettit Jr.
Dennis and Stephanie Simoneaux
Daniel Strecker
United Way of Midland County, Michigan
Unum

$500 to $999
Barbara Beckmann
Marvin and Susan Borgmeyer*
Steve and Belinda Cangelosi
Charlie and Susan D’Agostino
Michael and Patty DePaul
Christopher and Madison DeWitt
ExxonMobil Foundation Employee Volunteer Program
Taylor Garig
Terrence Ginn
Melissa Gregg Blake
Huber Slack Law Firm
Dan Huffman and Janna Oetting
Tim Hutchinson
In honor of Mary Terrell Joseph by Mr. and Mrs. Newton B. Thomas
McHenry Lee and Christopher K. Odinet
Michael Papizan
Phelps Dunbar
Lenny and Melissa Samuel
Stephen and Colleen Waguespack
Eric and Audrey Wascome
Dr. Kortney and Mr. Michael West
In honor of Sylvia Winder by Quota International

For a complete list of our donors, please visit emergela.org/giving.

EVENT SUPPORT

$50,000 and above
Excel
Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Family Foundation

$10,000 to $49,999
All Star Automotive Group
Bill and Mary Lee Dixon
Group Contractors
Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

$5,000 to $9,999
Albemarle Foundation
Amerigroup
Dane and Mary Andreeff
Apache Industrial
Capital One
Entergy Louisiana
Fishman Haygood
Gerry Lane Chevrolet
Healthy Blue
LUBA Workers’ Comp
Richard Manship
Raising Canes Chicken Fingers
Dave Roberts
The Lemoine Company
WBRZ

$2,500 to $4,999
BP North America, Inc.
Cox Communications
Hibernia Wealth Management
J. Alexander’s
Luke Guarisco
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry
MEDDATA/MEDTRON
Woody* and Maureen Oge
Matt and Tara Pederson
Phelps Dunbar
Postlethwaite & Netterville
Erich and Katie Sternberg
Taylor Porter
UnitedHealthcare

*Deceased
•Soft credit
EVENT SUPPORT, cont’d.

$1,000 to $2,499
Joe and Annie Alleva
American Cancer Society
Avelo Constructors
Mark and Laurie Aronson
Ascension Ready Mix, Inc.
Baton Rouge Area Foundation
Baton Rouge Clinic
Baton Rouge General Foundation
Scott and Leslie Berg
Charles and Marci Blaize
Brad and Emily Boudreaux
BREDA
Calais Dermatology Associates
Capital Area Finance Authority
Lee and Kristen Carney
Mike Champagne
Coleman Partners Architects
Charlie Cusimano and Vicki Crochet
Michael and Patty DePaul
David and Kim Faulk
Jim and Camilla Ford
Todd and Stephanie Foust
Terrence Ginn
Todd and Gwen Graves
Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
Hancock Whitney Bank
Leroy and Fran Harvey
Brian and Barbara Haymon
Cordell and Ava Haymon
Drs. Jay and Charlotte Hollman
Hub International Gulf South
Dan Huffman and Janna Oetting
Iberiabank
ISC Constructors
Frederic and Cary Kearny
Knock Knock Children’s Museum
Jay Labarre
Louis Dreyfus Commodities
McGlinchey Stafford
Charles and Jeani Moniotte
Dr. Jane and Mr. Jeff Morton
NRG Energy, Inc.
McHenry Lee and Christopher K. Odinet
Performance Contractors
Jean-Paul and Wanda Perrault
Robert and Conway Pettit
Prime Occupational Medicine
Prosorce Wholesale Floor Coverings
Quota International of Baton Rouge
Sean Reilly and Jennifer Eplett Reilly
Ragan and Virginia Richard
Emil and Susan Rolfs
Rollin Homes Parts and Service
Ruth Banker Scanlan Family Fund
Paul and Alaina Saltiformaggio
Lenny and Melissa Samuel
Nick and Abbie Speyer
Kevin and Staci Tabor
Ryan and Kim Thibodeaux
trepwise
Stephen and Colleen Waguespack
Kevin and Ginny Wilkins

$500 to $999
Thurston Allen
Bayou State Rabbit Hunters Federation
Brandon Bernhard
Dennis and Valerie Blunt
Gregory and Kathleen Bodin
Bunny Boxill
Daniel and Leigh Bozard
Cajun Foam
Christopher and Allison Cascio
Deloach Marine Services
Emily Douglass Stewart
Evans Investment Advisors, Inc.
Johnny and Rose Marie Fife
Ryan and Katie Forsthoff
Donna Fraiche
Craig Gehring
GMFS Mortgage
Matt and Melissa Juneau
Brian and Kellie Kerstetter
Kevin and Debra Knobloch
KRC Construction
Ellis and Cynthia Michael
Bill and Gail O’Quin
Petrin Corporation
Gordon and Alison Rogilio
Tri-Parish Contractors
Wells Fargo
Michael and Jamie Wong

GRANTS
Boo Grigsby Foundation
Capital Area United Way
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge
Charles Lamar Family Foundation*
Cox Charities Innovation in Education
Fore! Kids Foundation - Zurich Classic
Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation*
Junior League of Baton Rouge, Inc.
Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Foundation
Unum

*Includes grant support for The Emerge School for Autism
INVEST IN OUR MISSION

As you read in these pages, we are growing into our highest and best vision of what Emerge can be. The community built Emerge. In the past, we made decisions to expand with the faith that our community would wholeheartedly support us - and the community did. The generosity of our donors helps us continue to spark every client’s potential to emerge. Thank you for continuing to partner with us on this exciting journey.

2017 board of directors
Robert Pettit, president
Christopher Odinet, vice president
Terrence Ginn, treasurer
Melissa Gregg Blake, secretary
Colleen Waguespack, past president emeritus
Melissa Juneau, executive director
Marvin Bormeyer
Steve Cangelosi
Vicki Crochet
Michael DePaul
Madison DeWitt
Dr. Charlotte Hollman
Sunny McDaniel
Janna Oetting, Ph.D.
Katie Sternberg
Audrey Wascome
Dr. Kortney West
Sylvia Winder

2017 emerge leadership
Jenny Bonaventure, behavioral health
Leigh Bozard, the emerge school for autism
Missy Devillier, occupational therapy
Shelton Jones, the emerge foundation
Dr. Natalee Menge, operations and administration
Dr. Jane Morton, autism services
Meg Sprunger, speech-language therapy
Nicole Stockstill, audiology