

Who we are...

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Hancock Whitney

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REV

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Gwen Price
Retired APSB

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Sherrie Jenkins
All About Insurance

VP of Finance

Nicole Reynolds
LaPorte

VP of Programming

Karen Webre
Community

VP of Public

Relations

Joseph Sergio
BASF

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*Abbott Prescott
Attorneys*

Michael Bonfanti

*Bonfanti
Investment Services*

Kim Landry

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*St. Amant Fire Chief
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Gwen Price

Retired APSB

Willie Robinson

*Ascension Realty of
Louisiana, LLC*

Tia Starr

Ochsner Ascension

Darby Lambert

*Ascension Parish
Schools*

Daniel

Waguespack

Atmos Energy

Executive Director

Sherry Denig

Administrative

Assistant

Tiffany St. Pierre



From the Director

Community

Investors:

Ascension Parish
Schools

Air Products

Atmos Energy

B.A.S.F.
Corporation

CF Industries

Rev (formerly Eatef)

LOLO Ascension

LOLO Physicians

Oxy-Chem

Hancock
Whitney Bank



*I thought to myself, "somebody needs to do something about that".
Then I realized...I am somebody.*

I ran across this quote not long ago and it honestly stopped me in my tracks. It is one of those quotes that not only spoke to me, but like a pesky note stuck to my bathroom mirror, it has become a constant reminder of something I don't want to forget.

Haven't we all been guilty of this way of thinking from time to time? Great causes can so easily grab our attention and our passion, but often in our minds, we task that responsibility to someone else. Instead, should not we BE the change we want to see in our community?

Let's commit to taking a good look around us. What are you truly passionate about? Are you looking for ways to make a difference? I invite you to join our team and be a part of our mission! As you explore our Annual Report, you will see that we have a wide variety of ways to serve, and we are always looking for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers. Give us a call today and let's talk about how we can match your talents and your passion with a local volunteer opportunity that's perfect for you!

Sherry Denig

Executive Director

Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Ascension Parish!

P. O. Box 1564, Gonzales, LA 70707-1564 . Phone: 225-644-7655

Website: www.volunteerascension.org Follow us on



What we do...

ConnectTeens Program -- "Don't just talk about, BE about it!"

20th year of matching youth (ages 12-17) with agencies that aid those in need

- In 21 years, 567 youth have volunteered over 11,000 hours to help our community



"Our young people are very passionate about improving their world. When given the opportunity to contribute, these young men and woman can make a positive and immediate impact within our community. Through the Volunteer Ascension ConnectTeens Program, teenage students are given such opportunities, providing them with an outlet to perform meaningful community services within our parish. Volunteering to assist those who are not always able to help themselves can provide these students fulfillment that will sustain them for the rest of their lives."

David Alexander, Superintendent of Ascension Parish Schools

Participating Agencies included: Special Tuesdays, Ascension Parish Library Summer Programs, Azalea Estates Assisted Living, The Fellowship Center, Francois Bend, Magnolia Assisted Living, St. Vincent de Paul, Loving Our Community's Children (LOCC), Ascension Parish Schools and Volunteer Ascension's "School Tools" program.

"Special Tuesday"

The first 4 Tuesdays of every summer is spent giving to the special needs individuals of our community. We meet at Gonzales Primary for an awesome day of food, games, and fun. The last Tuesday of our summer fun



ends with a very special "Mardi Gras" parade for our participants.

Special Tuesday is a program that was created almost 30 years ago by founder, Bobbie Blanchard. The program, officially named the "Beau Porta Special Tuesday" is in honor of Ms. Blanchard's late grandson. Special Tuesday is very near and dear to our hearts at Volunteer Ascension. Due to deep love for this program, in 2017 the Volunteer Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt Special Tuesday. It is our goal to continue to seek and retain funding to continue to offer this valued program in our community.

"School Tools"

Our School Tools Program has celebrated 25 years of continued success in providing school supplies to children in need. Through collaboration with the Ascension Parish School Board, and with the help of many motivated volunteers, we were again able to identify and aid children entering Kindergarten-8th Grade. With the help of Ascension Parish teachers, counselors and administration, the program has evolved into a highly efficient, "well-oiled machine". Each year in July we set aside a weekend to collect school supplies from residents and local businesses. The supplies are counted, sorted, and packed, labeled and ready for "pick-up" by representatives from each school. The incredible amount of teamwork required for this task does not go unnoticed. Each year we are amazed at the number of volunteers that come and do whatever it takes to ensure that the last truck or SUV drives away with exactly what is needed for each Ascension Parish child to begin their school year.

- In 25 years, we have collected \$774,038 in school supplies
- Those collections took 3,845 volunteers who logged 9,975 total volunteer hours to this program

Partners for the program included: AARP Chapter 1449, All About Insurance, APSO, Ascension Parish School Board, Atmos, BASF, BR Area Foundation, Bret Hughes Insurance, Constable James LeBlanc, Didier Architecture, EATEL, Entergy, OLOL Ascension Hospital, Shell, St. Amant Fire Dept.



Since 1997, Volunteer Ascension has provided \$1,400,000.00 of school supplies and uniforms to Ascension Parish students who were in need

School Uniforms

For the 21st year, Volunteer Ascension provided Ascension Parish students in need with school uniforms. By working directly with the guidance counselors, we can address the specific uniform needs at each school. In most cases, uniform requests are filled within the same day! We are dedicated to making sure that every child has the supplies they need to be successful at school.

Disaster Relief

In addition to our programs and events, we also partner with the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and we play an integral part in the parish's Emergency Operations Plan.

- Activated during disaster and occupies a seat in Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP)
- Reporting Member of the Ascension Parish Unified Command Group (UCG) during disaster / emergency
- Coordinate incoming volunteer groups and resources
- Provide financial and material donations management
- Provide commodity distribution and coordinating faith-based resources and volunteers
- Responsible for staffing the Volunteer Reception Center at Lamar Dixon during post-disaster activation
- Co-Founders of the Ascension Strong Long-Term Recovery Group (established after 2016 Flood to connect residents with disaster resources)
- Coordinate parish-wide disaster supply drives at Lamar Dixon



Our Impact

Volunteer Ascension continues to play a critical role in recruiting and managing volunteers to help facilitate programs that greatly benefit Ascension Parish residents who are in need. As you will see below, the organization has had an incredible impact.

1997-2022

- **School Supplies**-- Value of Supplies Collected: **More than \$774,000**
Children Helped: **OVER 61,000**
Volunteers: **3,845** Volunteer hours: **9,975**
 - **School Uniforms** – Value of Uniforms Collected: **\$723,530**
Pieces Collected: **82,046**
Children Helped: **Over 19,000**
Volunteers: **859** Volunteer Hours: **4,964**
 - **ConnecTeens** -- Local Youth Involved: **567** / Volunteer Hours: **11,056**
 - **Make a Difference Day** -- Volunteers: **5,337** / Volunteer Hours: **46,001**
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Making it happen

Without the support of our Funders, Corporate Sponsors and Community Partners, we truly could not do what we do. We salute their dedication and their generosity in helping us realize our vision of helping those in need. (* denotes Original Founders)

Patrons:

- Air Products
- Ascension Parish Schools
- Parish of Ascension
- Atmos Energy Corporation
- BASF Corporation
- Capital Area United Way
- C. F. Industries
- Layne's Jewelers
- Motiva Enterprises*
- OxyChem
- OLOL Ascension Hospital
- OLOL Ascension Physicians
- Hancock Whitney Bank
- Rev* (formerly EATEL)
- Shell Geismar



In-Kind Contribution and Service Partners

Ascension Parish School Board, Gonzales Primary School, Central Middle School, Layne's Jewelry & Design, Sacs Western Store, Store Safe, St. Vincent de Paul's Uniforms for Kids, Volunteer Ascension Board of Directors, Wal-Mart Gonzales

Follow Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/VolunteerAscension

Visit us at: www.volunteerascension.org Contact our Office: 225-644-7655