

SBRCCF NEWS

Volume 1, December 2004

*May the
peace of
God rule in
your hearts as
you celebrate
the season
with joy and
anticipation
of the New
Year!*

Board Members

*Richard Horner-Interim
President*

*Albert Samuels-Interim
Vice President*

*Whitney Heastie-
Interim Treasurer*

Andree' Reynaud

George Myer

Agnes Gobert Harrel

Yvonne Byrd

Krista Howard

Wonderful things are happening with the South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation (SBRCCF). We have been busy launching our initiative to get our programs up and going. Our mission to break destructive cycles through educating children, enriching families and empowering communities using Christian principles is burning in our hearts.

Our decision to target the Old South Baton Rouge (OSBR) community was based on five years of supplying school supplies to Buchanan Elementary through the church. Extending the mission of SBRCCF to OSBR seemed a natural result.

We continually learn more about the work going on in OSBR and the organizations involved. We were surprised to find out that LSU through their Community University Partnership (CUP), HOPE VI, and Plan Baton Rouge are all working in the OSBR community. Plans are well on the way for that community but there is still a need for a high quality Child Care/ Preschool Center and a Family Resource Center. God is amazing as He allows His Spirit to work in our hearts guiding and directing our efforts. PLEASE keep praying that we have wisdom in all our decisions.

Thanks South Baton Rouge!

The Elders gave us their blessings and agreed to support us with prayer, encouragement and in-kind services. We feel like this mission effort has become the church's effort too. Many hands are involved in our outreach.

Hands helped with the Back to School Giveaway, and are helping with the cookbook, photography, website, video presentations technology and much more. Our first individual donations outside of our board have come from you! Your interest gives us encouragement when you ask how things are going. **God has blessed us with your love and support. Thank you.**

Activities in 2004

- ✓ Competed to be apart of LANO's
- ✓ Rural Capacity Academy (RCA)
- ✓ Competed for RCA sub-award
- ✓ SBRCCF incorporated with the state
- ✓ applied for 501c3 exemption
- ✓ made some critical investments in board development/training
- ✓ transitioned from board to staff positions
- ✓ began developing a strategic plan
- ✓ gathered information for website design
- ✓ worked on community relationships and partnering
- ✓ recruited community board members
- ✓ competed for federal dollars through the Compassion Capital Fund
- ✓ competed for website dollars through RCA
- ✓ began major fundraising activities, participated in LANO classes
- ✓ pursued training by SSA Consultants
- ✓ made contacts with local officials and Plan Baton Rouge
- ✓ In addition, SBRCCF is building a solid relationship with Buchanan and Polk Elementary through participation in programs offered to parents and children.
- ✓ Organized committees

Praise God for this awesome dream.
Keep us in your prayers.

Peace and joy,
Carolyn Myer, Executive Director

What's Cooking ?

The following are cookbook committee members:

Cindy Allen
Lorraine Beaman
Elizabeth Braud
Sandy Collins
Jill Duve
Pearl Foreman
Glenna Gammon
Christy Harper
Effie Moore
Joyce Murphy
Greg & Sally Palmer
Mary Raines
Karen Shockley
Glenda Tate
Lora Taylor
Debbie Tudor
Wanda Whittington
and Agnes Gobert Harrel

Others at work are:

Sam Morris is working on the photography for cover and inside pages.

JoAnn Whitley is a typist. Many have kitchen tested some of the over 500 recipes which were submitted. I would estimate about 20% of the recipes have been kitchen tested.

It has really been a pleasure to have so many involved in tasting the recipes and giving their input. We feel the more, the merrier; and we are open to "cook-off" and kitchen testing ideas.

We expect the book to be completed some time in 2005...we have lots of recipes left to cook and taste, and we won't know the production date until we have completed the process. We want it to be the best cookbook we can make. Thanks to all contributors, cooks, and tasters.

Love,
Christy

From the Interim Board President



The Board of the Foundation is very happy to welcome you to the inaugural of our Newsletter. You are the reason this newsletter was started, so that you may be invited into our on-going development. We, therefore, feel privileged that you are taking the time to read about the Foundation.

The members of the Board have committed themselves to the Foundation because we believe fully in its mission. Real change for individuals and for communities will occur as they decide to take their affairs into their own hands by adopting the firm foundation offered in Christian principles. As they do this, they will grab hold of opportunities to take part in programs to break destructive cycles. We welcome the privilege to be in a position to support the people of the Old South area in their efforts to advance themselves and their community.

To carry out our mission, the Board has taken a number of steps and is making plans for many more. With the leadership of Carolyn Myer and Missy Peck, the Foundation has developed programs desired by the people of Old South area. Grants have been awarded to organize the programs and to launch its initial sessions. Meanwhile, the structure of the Foundation has been advanced by a variety of effort, from drawing up by-laws to establishing a financial accounting system. Much remains to be done on all fronts, but the Board, its Executive Director and staff are convinced that with the encouragement and prayers of individuals such as yourselves, and with God's guiding hand, the mission of the Foundation will bear fruit in the lives of many people.

Richard Horner

Building Blocks for Healthy Families Update

The fall has been busy with activities outlined in the Compassion Capital proposal, a \$50,000 grant SBRCCF was awarded in August. On November 6, we hosted a Team Parenting Relationship Skills Seminar, taught by Nigel Vann, an international expert on fatherhood development. Twenty-eight people attended, including representatives from local churches, universities, state agencies, community /faith based organizations and a chaplain from Ft. Polk. The day long workshop was designed to "train the trainers" to go out and teach single parents quality co-parenting skills. The evaluations were outstanding.

Polk Elementary hosted a Grandparent's Day Luncheon and invited us to speak November 18. A presentation on the value of grandchildren raised by grandparents was made to over 50 people. The school also invited George Myer to speak at "Donuts for Dads" December 17, encouraging fathers to be actively involved in their children's education.

This was the first time for that program and 20 dads showed up. We are praising God for the doors he is opening for us in Old South Baton Rouge (OSBR).

SBRCCF has joined a "Building Strong Families" coalition that meets monthly at Family Road of Baton Rouge. We will begin teaching the parenting, marriage education

and relationship classes funded by the Compassion Capital grant in January of 2005. Family Road will host our first class on basic communication called "PEERS: A Family Experience." We will provide childcare, meals and prizes for class attendance to participants. The classes will be free of charge – all of these things are paid for through the grant we received.

A schedule of classes to be taught has been given to the YMCA, YWCA, Early Headstart, Headstart, Buchanan/Polk Elementary and local churches. They will include the PEERS (Practical Exercises Enriching Relationship Skills) class, Exploring Relationships and Marriage with Mothers, Team Parenting, and Exploring Relationships and Marriage with Couples. We will also make available other classes or support groups on fatherhood development, parenting, grand-parenting, managing money, nutrition and Christian marriage enrichment if a need is indicated.

If you would like to be a mentor or volunteer to help with the Team Parenting classes or Fatherhood and Marriage classes, please contact Missy Peck, 266-2301. Please keep us and the families we will be working with in your prayers!

Missy Peck

The Mission of the South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation is to break destructive cycles through education children, enriching families and empowering communities using Christian principles.

Special thanks to the 2004 SBRCCF contributors! and to the "Back to School Giveaway" Contributors and the many volunteers who helped make it a success.

We are designing a website. Look for us in February/2005.

Visit us at www.sbrccf.org

Season's greetings!

Committees

Board Governance

*Richard Horner-Chairman
Andree Reynaud*

Strategic Planning

*Richard Horner, Carolyn Myer
Agnes Gobert Harrell, Melissa Peck*

Finance

*Whitney Heastie-Chairman
Carolyn Myer
Melissa Peck*

Policies and Procedures

*Krista Howard-Chairman
Agnes Gobert Harrell
Albert Samuels*

Carolyn Myer

Melissa Peck

Fundraising

*George Myer-Chairman
Yvonne Byrd
Melissa Peck
Carolyn Myer*

Wish List

- 1. Prayer from everyone (concerning classes, board, staff, funds, location, and patience)*
- 2. location-site for the Childcare/Preschool And Family Resource Center*
- 3. Committee Members*
- 4. Mentors for couples, mothers and fathers*
- 5. Volunteers*
- 6. Pray that Baton Rouge Area Foundaiton accepts our proposal*

Thank you for choosing to support the South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation. We are providing this form to make supporting us as easy as possible. Please fill out the form below and check or fill in the desired amount you wish to contribute.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

State

Zip code

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I would like to give a donation of:

Check # _____

\$15

\$75

\$25

\$100

\$50

\$____.00

Make payable to the SBR Christian Children's Foundation, 8725 Jefferson Hwy, B. R., LA 70809