



SBRCCF NEWS sbrccf.org

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

WE'VE SIGNED ON THE DOTTED LINE...

...It's a done deal. South Baton Rouge Children's Foundation has a home! After a lot of prayer, work and research, we have leased the old Carver Library. The 6,000 square foot building will house the preschool and childcare center, as well as the family resource and literacy center.

However, with the acquisition of a building, our work has just begun. Many changes are required to transform the building to suit our needs. Already the old library has been cleaned, the paint has been touched up, new carpet has been laid in the ground floor, walls have been refinished in two rooms, and the bathroom floors have been replaced. Though a lot has been accomplished already, there are still many hurdles to be cleared in order to have the center open to the Old South Baton Rouge community by the beginning of 2006. After talking with a local draftsman, we know that we might have to replace all of the glass in the downstairs windows and doors with tempered glass, in order to make the building safe for our purposes. We will also need to hire an architect to draw up structural plans, or else find existing ones and meet all the Fire Marshall's codes. The next step is to find vendors and contractors to work with us to accomplish our goal of opening the doors by January of 2006. Some positive things have happened in that we have several proposals from local architects, the building has been measured and we have a rough drawing, and we have a resource through Susan Hymel to the LSU School of Architecture.

Please pray that God will provide the funds needed and professionals who share our vision for the families and children of South Baton Rouge.



Mission Statement

SBRCCF'S mission is to break destructive cycles through educating children, enriching families and empowering communities using Christian Principles

A message from Carolyn: Shelters come in many different shapes and sizes. A home can become a shelter, buildings can become shelters, churches, activity centers, and major event centers. I have been inside of three shelters and my home is where I have the most experience and insight on shelters. Smaller shelters have greater opportunities to accommodate the individual and make them feel comfortable. Our home is a shelter to a 77 year old woman from Orleans Parish. We have had others in but no one escaping because of danger to their lives. This woman helped 3 elderly and ill residents escape during Hurricane Katrina. A former missionary she shares her stories of life on the field often as she waits to see what will happen to her life now.

Another shelter I have had experience with is sponsored by the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ. This shelter is providing a home to 50 individuals at 151 West Parker Blvd. at the Christian Student Center. The shelter provides a nurturing environment for these families as they help to meet the many needs. The staff and volunteers have bonded with the families and gently encouraged them (continued)



MELISSA PECK— Project Director, Family Resource Center

How did you become involved with the foundation? Who influenced your decision?

My first introduction to the future foundation was in December 2001 during our second interview for the ministry at South. After an amazing dinner cooked by George and Mickey, Carolyn took me to the Montessori school where she was teaching and told me about her dream for Old South Baton Rouge. Carolyn's girls had attended a Montessori preschool, and she wanted all families, regardless of their ability to pay, to have access to the same high quality early learning experience. God had placed within me a similar desire for families of all income levels to have equal access to quality counseling services and marriage/relationship/parenting classes. So I told Carolyn then, that if God brought us to Baton Rouge, I would love to be a part of her dream.

What did you bring to the foundation and what did you gain from the experience?

The Lord prepared me for work with SBRCCF long before we moved to Baton Rouge. In Missouri I was a mental health professional for Head Start preschools, and loved working with children and their families. I had experience in helping start a non-profit mental health advocacy organization in Joplin, MO and my favorite career expertise was President Bush's Healthy Marriage Initiative. Being in ministry for almost 20 years prepared me to work for free!

Words will not be adequate to express the depth of individual spiritual growth I experienced during my time with Carolyn and the Board of Directors during the "birth" of South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation. The mission of SBRCCF is "to break destructive cycles through educating children, enriching families and empowering communities using Christian principles", and I know that taking a stand for that invades Satan's kingdom and makes him mad enough to attack whoever or whatever would dare to confront his ways. Ephesians 6:10-13 sums up what we as a group and as individuals have had to claim the past 3 years. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

I might be able to speak for everyone involved to say that when we were tired from the battle and felt the task was too great, only the grace of God and much prayer kept us all going. But when we finally began making presentations and teach classes, and were able to meet families and children who were seeking answers for their lives and were so grateful for SBRCCF, our strength was renewed! We taught 3 classes from January to April, with a total of just over 60 participants, and all but one of the evaluations said they would recommend the classes to a friend, and requested more classes be taught. Working with SBRCCF has been one of the most powerful, positive experiences of my life, and I will miss all my fellow soldiers.

Do you see any involvement with the Foundation in the future?

My most important role will be as a prayer warrior for SBRCCF, the board of directors and staff because I believe in the mission and know that God is at the center of all the activities. If SBRCCF receives funding from the Office of Child Support Enforcement for the federal grant that was written earlier this year, Carolyn and I would be training the teachers at Dixon Correctional Institute in the state marriage education curriculum "Exploring Relationships and Marriage with Fragile Families". If needed, I will be available to consult with the Family Resource Center Director that will be hired in the future. There are three full time positions I have applied for in Little Rock, so my time will be limited for travel, etc. - but requests for teaching weekend training classes to SBRCCF staff and/or volunteers on the topics of healthy marriage or parenting would be welcomed.

Where do you see the foundation going?

Up, up, up! Carolyn as Executive Director is one of the most dedicated, intelligent, Christ like, professional, energetic women I have ever met; I love her and it has been an honor to work with her. God planted the dream in Carolyn's heart, and it has been amazing to see how many Christians who have been asked to help have said, "I've been praying about doing something like this for years." Each member of the Board - Richard, Whitney, Albert, Andreae, Agnes, Yvonne and George have been invaluable in their own unique ways, adding their wisdom and experience to the organization and helping it grow. South's elders have been so gracious in supporting SBRCCF with prayer and space in the building for an office. President Bush's Healthy Marriage Initiative has provided faith based organizations a chance to prove that they are well equipped to deliver what families really need for true change, and SBRCCF has been blessed to be one of the first 100 Compassion Capital Fund recipients in the nation to test his theory. More federal money will be available in the next 3 years to strengthen families, which will strengthen our nation, and SBRCCF is prepared to lead the way in Baton Rouge. Thank you to everyone at South who has partnered with us in prayer, on committees and with your donations!

(continued) to make the necessary steps to rebuild their lives. The Church sponsored shelter has had tremendous impact on these families and even planned a wedding for a couple.

Volunteering at the River Center introduced me to a massive shelter The security is amazing. The atmosphere is a constant reminder of the disaster that these people escaped from. Similar to the airport you walk through metal detectors or wands are used to scan your body for foreign objects that can be used as weapons. The National Guard are stationed in great numbers at all the entrances and are armed and ready to respond when needed.

It was anything but cozy. People are everywhere, wall to wall people. The reality of what many families are facing made me both sad and depressed. What will happen with these families? Some people sit on their cots looking dazed, others are walking around searching for information, some are sweeping their area taking care of things just as they would at home, others are sitting outside seemingly escaping the mass inside and many are working hard to restore some type of normalcy to their lives. A mass of people in need, where will they go, what will happen to them? I have no doubt that with the mission of the SBRCCF we are needed now more than ever.



**Richard Horner-
President of the
Board of Directors**

Born in Wichita Kansas
University
Services

Graduated Abilene Christian
Program manager . Office of Community
Baton Rouge , Louisiana

In the summer of 2003, Carolyn Myer and Missy Peck told me about their plans for an outreach to provide child care services and family services in a Baton Rouge community. The concern and effort of Carolyn and Missy was impressive and their plans match ideas that I also had thought about and wanted to implement.

I believe the major asset I bring the position is my deep conviction the goals the Foundation are worthy of working for. I also have many years of experience in social service work as a result of working in child protection and in a variety of positions including, counseling, planning, accreditation, and community collaboration.

I am convinced that working directly with families in a community setting with a motivation coming from God and with Christian values and principles will result in a great deal of good.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine according to his great power..."

JASON RAINIER

Volunteers are the life blood of any non-profit organization. The newest volunteer is Jason Rainier. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA; he is an active member of the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ. Jason recently graduated from LSU with a degree in Business Administration: Management. He is an Administrative Consultant for Carolyn. "There are a lot of things that have to get done in order to meet the HR standards before opening the school. I have been doing office administration work, e.g. writing job descriptions, editing the employee handbook, designing performance appraisals, etc." he said when asked how he is volunteering. "I love doing this stuff," he explains, "The opportunity is so awesome for me. I am gaining experience in my field while helping the Foundation out at the same time. This program is really impacting lives," and Jason is glad to be a part of that.





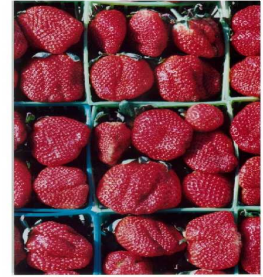
Golf Tournament

Benefit

The events of the last few weeks are profoundly stirring and challenging and there have been many distressing losses which will greatly affect both our personal life and our community for years to come. While sorting out all the consequences will not be easy, it is clear that adjustments are necessary and in fact are demanded. While the mission of the South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation remains breaking destructive cycles, the focus of our work will now include helping families deal with the aftermath of Katrina.

Therefore, because of the recent horrific developments the Foundation will postpone the golf tournament—as with everyone else, our attention is focused on how best to aid our own families and our new neighbors.—Richard Horner

Serve with Love



A Collection of Recipes from South Louisiana

Just in time for Christmas giving!

Only \$19.95

They make great gifts

All proceeds will directly benefit SBRCCF!

WWW.SBRCCF.ORG

You Can Make a Difference!

Every gift has an impact on the programs at the South Baton Rouge Christian Children's Foundation! Below you will find just a few examples of your donations in action!

- \$10,000 will provide ground cover, playground equipment and fencing for the new preschool facility.
- \$2,500 will provide a complete computer station, desk and wiring for our computer lab.
- \$1,000 will provide child size desks and chairs for one classroom.
- \$500 will provide cubbies and bookshelves for one classroom.
- \$250 will provide books for one classroom's library.
- \$100 will provide training for six volunteer hours.
- \$50 will provide school supplies.
- \$25 will provide office supplies.



8725 Jefferson Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70819
225-201-9933