



2020 Women's Giving Circle Top 10 Nonprofit Questionnaire

Autism Society Bayou

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

Autism Society Bayou was founded in 2000 by a schoolteacher and a group of parents. Autism Society Bayou is an affiliate of Autism Society, which is the oldest and largest grassroots organization within the autism community. Autism Society Bayou is a support organization that provides places to meet, get information and share experiences with real people affected by autism. Autism Society Bayou provides support to the following parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary and Terrebonne.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The mission of Autism Society Bayou is to promote and advocate for the general welfare of person with autism, to support the families of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and to raise awareness of all aspects of autism, which affect the families.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

If Autism Society Bayou were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, the funds would be used to provide educational sessions for parents, caregivers and first responders in our community. The greatest need is to educate individuals about autism.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Autism Society Bayou fundraises all year. Our biggest fundraisers are our Annual Autism Awareness 5k/Family Fun Day and our Annual Trivia Night, both held in Morgan City. We also have bowling tournaments in April and June. Our fundraising efforts allow us to have free events for our families, like our Annual Summer Art Camp and our Annual Christmas Party. Autism Society Bayou also offers teacher mini-grants for teachers that work with individuals with autism and scholarships to individuals with autism wishing to further their education.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

Our future goals for growth are creating new fundraising ideas, capture new potential donors, and recruit volunteers who are willing to share their time and knowledge of autism. The primary goal is to raise awareness of the work of Autism Society Bayou.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Our annual 5k/Family Fun Day generally brings in approximately 250 people. Of those people, there are approximately 20 families in attendance that have someone on the spectrum. Each year this event brings more families together.

Our art camp and Christmas parties bring an additional 8 to 10 families.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

Testimonial Statement from Loretta Dupre: There is literally not one negative thing to say about this wonderful organization and those who work so hard and give so much of themselves to it. The events held throughout the year are so appreciated, and make families feel as if they have a safe haven where their kids are free to be themselves. Art camp, bowling, Christmas party, family day... they are so wonderful.

Bayou Land Families Helping Families

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

The idea of Families Helping Families resource centers was developed through meetings of parents of children with disabilities and professionals. It was determined that parents wanted and needed a place to go for support and help. They wanted someone there to talk to that understood their feelings and what they were going through as the parent of a child with special needs.

Regions were determined using Department of Health and Hospitals guidelines. There are ten regions in the state and nine Families Helping Families resource centers. Region III includes the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, and Terrebonne. In March of 1993 a group of parents and professionals met to discuss the development and incorporation of a regional Families Helping Families in this area. Through these meetings a Board of Directors was elected and Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF) was incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 private non-profit corporation.

At the beginning, two part-time staff shared half of an office at the Lafourche Parish School Board Pupil Appraisal Building. Currently, BLFHF is purchasing a building which serves as the resource center and has five full-time and two part-time staff members who serve individuals with disabilities and their families. State agencies contracting with BLFHF include: Louisiana State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities; South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority; Children's Special Health Services; Office of Public Health; and Louisiana State Department of Education. Families to Families Health Information Center is a national grant that we also received which allows us to serve families across the state of Louisiana. In addition to paid staff, BLFHF has volunteers that assist in the office which allows us to expand the service we provide to even more families.

The core services that the resource center continues to provide are Peer Support,

Information and Referral, and Education and Training.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

Our mission is to provide information and referral, education and training and peer-to-peer support to individuals with disabilities or special needs and their families.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

If BLFHF were to be granted a gift from Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, in order to further our mission to serve individuals with disabilities and their families, we would print readily-accessible materials that would assist those family members by providing easy-to-understand information about the systems that are in place to make their lives easier. We would hire a part-time employee who would then be able to meet with these mothers and their children with disabilities to discuss the options available to them and this part-time employee, along with our current staff, would be able to help the mother of a child with a newly-diagnosed disability to navigate the systems that are in place to assist them regardless of the age the child at the time he/she was diagnosed with a disability. Our largest need is to increase our capacity to serve families impacted by a disability as they come to the realization that they can't do it alone but that there are agencies and people whose sole function is to assist them. BLFHF is one such service agency.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Our fundraising goal is a simple one. We want to achieve at least \$1 more than we achieved during the previous year. We conduct a variety of fundraisers annually. Some of these fundraisers in the past have included "Seven Nights without Dishes" (in which people purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win restaurant gift cards sufficient to have up to 7 meals). We have sponsored t-shirt sales that further our mission (one t-shirt reads, "See the able, not the label" while another reads, "Normal is a dryer setting". We have had a community member sponsor an "Autism Day of Play" where she organized a Saturday event geared toward providing fun activities for children with autism and their families and she donated all proceeds to BLFHF. More recent ventures include "Brown Bag Lunch Day" in which companies distribute to their employees a brown paper bag which may be used for the employee to bring their lunch to work that day and, in the white envelope provided, that employee would place a donation in an amount equal to or greater than the cost of the meal they would have otherwise purchased.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

In order to assure stability of location so that our parents from throughout the region will be able to find us, our goal is to pay off the mortgage held on the building in which we are currently located. During the years, our office has moved many times and each move makes it a little more difficult for those who need us to find us. We've been in this location

for about 9 years and we are just now beginning to feel that people can find us. Paying off the mortgage will ensure that we don't have to move to any other location in the future.

Once we have our building paid for, we plan on getting a new sign which will make us more visible to those who travel the highway on which we are located.

In order to broaden the scope of services we are able to provide, we also want to hire one or two additional employees to help with education of individuals with disabilities and their families so that we can provide more comprehensive services to more families in need.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Our contracts with different funding sources require different things. For example, we are required to conduct 20 trainings per year with at least 300 total participants. And we are required to provide service to at least 2,850 individuals annually.

During our 2019 contract period, we conducted 27 trainings with a total of 361 participants, exceeding our required service by 7 trainings and 61 participants. Additionally, during that same period of time, we provided support to 3,385 individuals, exceeding that requirement by 530.

More funds and more staff will only amplify the level of service we will be able to provide to the ever-increasing number of families who need our help.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

12-6-2019 (Excerpt from a letter sent by a mother who had received our services for the past several months.)

BLFHF staff members were highly recommended to me by Mr. Shawn Fleming, the Deputy Director of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, as being well-versed in special education law. After meeting with one of their staff members, I was extremely impressed as to how well they knew special education law and their willingness to assist in advocating for my son. They were very considerate and empathic while listening to my concerns. After hearing my son's story, a staff member accompanied me to a meeting with the Special Education Director of my parish to help me address my concerns regarding a proposed plan for my son at his school. He was incredibly helpful in assisting me in this matter. Furthermore, they taught me how to advocate for my son should the proposed plan from my son's school ever become a reality. They also shared their wisdom and taught me how to advocate for myself or on the behalf of our child. Since that time, I have consulted them regarding issues with my son's IEP. Being conscientious, they even met with me prior to my son's IEP meeting to ensure that I would be prepared for the meeting that he also attended per my request. At the IEP meeting, they served a great dual role in helping the school understand my concerns when I felt that I was not being understood and vice versa. They spoke with honesty and transparency with the comments that he made during the IEP meeting. As I've continued to ask their advice, they have consistently responded with genuine concern and positivity. Their door always seems to be open for

guidance and support.”

Children's Advocacy Center of Lafourche

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

In 2005, the Children’s Advocacy Center of Lafourche (CAC) was established. The District Attorney at that time, Camille A. Morvant II, saw the need to help the children of our parish who were the victims of both physical and/or sexual abuse. Prior to the establishment of the CAC, these children were interviewed five plus times before ever seeing a courtroom. The CAC eliminates almost all but one interview therein reducing the trauma suffered by our young victims.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The CAC is a child-friendly environment wherein young victims or witnesses of physical and/or sexual abuse speak with a trained forensic interviewer. The interviewer works with all other agencies involved in the investigation to ensure that the victim is only interviewed one time. Thereafter, all agencies involved in the investigation meet monthly at a multi-disciplinary team meeting to ensure that the victim is receiving all available services.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women’s Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization’s greatest need?

The CAC has outgrown its present location, so we are in the process of purchasing a new building. The reason for the need to grow is that we would like to provide counseling to our victims as well as our families. Currently, the CAC only provides a forensic interview. Our goal is to ensure that everyone walks away stronger to face the challenges that are to come. Monies received would be used to help provide said services.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

The CAC has remained open due to the generous contributions from individuals and companies. Each year a local biking organization has a fundraiser and donates approximately \$5,000 to the CAC. The past few years, the Fraternal Order of Police has held a crawfish boil-off and has donated part of the proceeds to the CAC as well. It costs approximately \$30,000 each year to maintain the CAC. With the goal to begin to provide counseling services to our victims, we expect the cost to increase.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

The organization has always strived to reduce trauma to our children. What we have learned over the years is that most of these children and their families do not get the

counseling that they need to help them deal with the healing process. We would like to provide counseling to each and every victim and their families. To do so, we need to have a bigger center, fix it to fit our needs, and then contract with a counselor. All of these things will increase our annual budget.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

In the infancy of the CAC, an estimated 150 children were interviewed each year. Over time, that number has significantly increased. In 2018 and 2019, nearly 250 children came through the CAC. This increase in interviews is important. The organization has made it a point to be present in our schools and civic organizations by conducting presentations on internet safety, bullying and personal empowerment. We are reaching not only the families that need the CAC's services but so many more in our community.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the CAC's purpose, we are unable to provide an answer to this very important question.

CASA of Lafourche, Inc.

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

CASA of Lafourche, Inc. is one of nearly 1000 CASA programs nationwide. The National Program began in 1978 as a pilot program by Superior Judge David Soukup in Seattle, Washington. CASA of Lafourche was managed by CASA of Acadiana from 1999-2007 and then by CASA of Terrebonne, Inc. from 2007-2009. On October 1, 2009, CASA of Lafourche, Inc. separated from CASA of Terrebonne, Inc. and gained its legal independence. CASA originated with 2 staff members, 4 advocates and the program served 19 children. Since our independence, we have grown to 6 staff members, a transitioning Nicholls State University Intern, and a program VISTA. We have advocated for over 513 children and have trained 281 volunteers. CASA has assisted over 300 local children in finding a permanent, safe home.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocate of Lafourche, Inc is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts and to speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children of Lafourche Parish. We promote and support trained community volunteers to represent our children and help secure for each child a nurturing, safe, and permanent home.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

CASA of Lafourche would use the allocated funds to bring awareness to the community regarding child abuse and neglect in order to recruit additional child advocates. Currently in Lafourche Parish, 44 children do not have an assigned volunteer advocating for their

best interest and wellbeing due to lack of trained individuals. Funding provided would allow CASA to promote the need for more volunteers in order to provide necessary services to the most vulnerable children within the community. CASA would also use allocated funds to enhance the equipment used during presentations by purchasing an updated and compatible laptop and projector for use during community speaking engagements. Awareness efforts would be focused on printed materials and social media advertisements to reach targeted audiences capable of adequately serving local families.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

CASA of Lafourche host three fundraising events each year in order to secure funds that are used for operational expenses and to ensure future sustainability. CASA receives annual funding allocations through the CASA Assistance Program; however, the allocation does not cover all program expenses and monies are not guaranteed each year. CASA of Lafourche seeks to raise thirty thousand annually in unrestricted funds. Due to fluctuating state budgets, it is imperative that CASA of Lafourche becomes sustainable should the state allocation dissolve. CASA of Lafourche services the entire parish; thus, fundraising events are held in both the northern and southern portions of the parish. The events secure financial assistance and also assist in bring awareness to the community regarding the need for local child advocacy.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

CASA of Lafourche aims to provide all child abuse victims in the foster care system with a volunteer advocate. The recruiting and training of twenty additional adults would provide each family with a qualified individual capable to advocating in and out of the court room for the best interest of each child. CASA of Lafourche hopes to recruit and train five individuals each quarter. The ultimate goal of CASA would be to continuously serve all families within the foster care system. In order to obtain this goal, CASA has to conduct monthly outreach efforts to inform the community of the issues surrounding child abuse and then provide information on ways to help the families. Increasing awareness and providing advocacy services to all families would accomplish CASA's direct service goals. Program growth and sustainability is a high priority to CASA as the need to service local families persist. Building and sustaining relationships within the community will aid in achieving overall program growth.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

CASA of Lafourche provides advocacy services to approximately 140 children each year. CASA's advocacy focuses on ensuring that each child is in a safe home, that all services both educational and medical are being provided, that siblings are either placed together or receive ample visitations, and that permanence is achieved for each child in a timely manner. Often times children are moved around and do not receive the services necessary to help them through the most difficult time in their lives. CASA, being the one consistent in their lives, is able to understand their individual needs and advocate for changes. All information is presented before the presiding judge and recommendations that are in the best interest of the children are made in regard to child placements, child services, visitations, education, medical, mental health concerns, and also treatment and

requirements of each biological parent and foster caregiver. Providing children with permanency, safety and proper services promotes the healthy growth of productive community members. It is crucial that vulnerable youth are equipped to develop into successful adults and that struggling adults are rehabilitated into productive members of society.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

CASA of Lafourche provided advocacy services to a mother of four. She attributes her maintenance of sobriety and reunification with her children to CASA. CASA was able to provide the accountability and support needed for the family to become reunited and maintain a healthy relationship. The mother was able to overcome her heroin addiction and began attending treatment, participating in family counseling, attending school meetings for her children, and reached out to CASA during her rough times to seek advice and accept assistance. The mother contacted CASA after Christmas to state "I love y'all, y'all have helped me so much, and I just want to let you know how much I appreciate you. This has been the best holiday I have had in a long time." She later stated, "Thank you so much for everything you have done for my family." – BL. CASA was able to be the one consistent in the life of this family to understand their personal and unique struggles and offer the support needed to rebuild their family. Four siblings are no longer separated and are able to grow up together with a productive and healthy mother. The sibling group is extremely grateful that they are together again as they spent 18 months separated into different homes with limited interaction.

CASA of Terrebonne, Inc.

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

CASA of Terrebonne, Inc. was incorporated on July 10, 2000 by Danna Schwab and Carolyn A. McNabb.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program was created to assist children who are subject to court proceedings due to abuse, neglect and/or abandonment. CASAs are trained volunteers who are appointed by a judge to provide one-on-one advocacy for a child who is under the jurisdiction of the court. The CASA is responsible for conducting an independent investigation, helping the court understand the needs of the child, ensuring that court-ordered services are being provided and making child-focused recommendations to the court based on the best interest of the child.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Terrebonne is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts to speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children of Terrebonne Parish. We promote and support trained community volunteers to represent and help secure for each child a nurturing, safe and permanent home.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in

2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

CASA's greatest need at this time is volunteers. We currently have 141 children on our wait list for a CASA advocate. If we were to receive funds from the Women's Giving Circle we would use them in two ways:

1. The majority of the funds would be spent to recruit, train and retain volunteers. We would do this by increasing both our advertising and our attendance at outreach events in the community. Our recruiting efforts are aimed at increased exposure in local print publications and also at local community events. The costs involved with these are ad costs, booth fees at events, outreach brochures and other giveaways that promote CASA. The training involves the cost of background checks, course fees, food, training materials, badges and certificates for all new trainees. Retention costs include offering continuing education to volunteers, monthly newsletters and annual awards.
2. We would also use some of the funds for our newly formed "Traveling Tutor" program. This program matches trained volunteers with children in foster care who are lagging behind their peers and need that extra push to bring them to grade level. Nearly 70% of school aged children in foster care have Individualized Education Plans (IEP's), only 50% will graduate from high school and less than 3% will graduate from college. Specialized tutoring for at-risk students can help them improve academically while preventing them from dropping out of school.

The average cost to serve 1 child in the Thibodaux Region in 2018 was \$2,053.92. (Terrebonne Parish is included in this region).

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Our fundraising goal each year is \$100,000. We raise this money through local grants, individual and corporate donations, patron letters and through our newest fundraiser, *A Night for Children's Sake*, which will be held on March 6, 2020.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

CASA's ultimate goal is to have a volunteer advocate for every child in foster care in Terrebonne Parish. There are currently 226 children in foster care in Terrebonne Parish. We currently have 53 volunteers serving 85 of these children. In order to serve them all, we need at least 60 new volunteers. Our goal at this time is to train at least 30 new volunteers each year. Taking into account attrition, our plan is to reach this goal in 5 years.

We would also like to grow our Traveling Tutor program so that we will be able to offer tutoring services to all children in foster care, not just those currently being served by a CASA advocate. This is also a five year plan.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

In 2019 CASA served 139 children from 86 families. When a CASA is on a case, their ultimate goal is to be the voice for the child and find that child a safe, permanent and

stable home. They accomplish this by meeting with family members, teachers, doctors and counselors to determine what services need to be put in place to help these children and their families reunite. Reunification is CASA's number one goal, but unfortunately that is not always possible. Therefore, the CASA is there to make recommendations, based on their investigation, as to the best placement for a child who has been taken from their home and put into the foster care system. A CASA is the one constant in these children's lives and the lives of their families.

Society as a whole is impacted by our advocacy. Helping ensure that a child in foster care receives the consistent presence and resources needed to thrive will increase the chance that the child will become a productive member of society as an adult.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

This is the quote from a post on Facebook by Erica Kleinhans, one of the foster children who was served by our CASA advocate, Yvonne White, who has been a volunteer advocate since 2011:

"What a great night this was... I love this woman so much she had helped me through so much being in foster care, she has done everything in her power to help me and I appreciate it fully. I wana give a big thanks to her and her family for all their help and helping me make it this far ... Mrs. Yvonne tonight you received CASA of the year award and you deserve it fully <3 I love you :) thank you for everything ~~~".

Catholic Community Center (CCC) **A Ministry of Catholic Charities**

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

Catholic Community Center (CCC) was founded in May 1983 by a group of volunteers from three Catholic parishes—Sacred Heart of Cut Off, St. Joseph of Galliano, and our Lady of Prompt Succor of Golden Meadow with support from Catholic Charities. We currently service individuals and families in South Lafourche from Valentine south to Grand Isle.

CCC opened in a small rent building on Hwy 1 in May 1983; but by November 1983, CCC needed to expand and moved to a building owned by Mary and Al Danos family. In 1996, The Danos family donated the building and property to the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. The present building was initially dedicated in November, 1983. In early 2016, Bishop Fabre re-dedicated the new expansion for the larger clothing store. The Danos Family and the Harold and Gloria Callais Family were recognized for their many contributions to the center over the many years.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The Mission of CCC is: *People helping People*

CCC is a Catholic Charities food bank and clothing store, focusing on providing food and clothing to those in great need. Limited prescription, utility and back-to-work programs are also provided under CCHT guidelines. CCC currently has 23 volunteers and one part-time manager.

We are grateful to the South Lafourche community for the many clothing and household item donations to the Center. Through multiple sorting and hanging processes, the volunteers are able to stage clothing and household items for resale, with most items selling at \$0.50. The funds generated in the thrift store are used to purchase food and provide local utilities and prescription assistance.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

Requested Funds: to purchase and install an automatic, gas generator plus additional costs to install a gas line for the generator. The generator will protect the food in the freezers, refrigerators and cold storage area during times of outages and storms. The cost of the project will be approximately \$10,000-\$11,000.

Second Harvest Food Pantry has requirements and specifications to ensure the protection and storage of all food in the food pantry network.

Under new leadership at CCC, we have an opportunity to become a **Second Harvest Food Pantry** which will allow us to procure extra food and produce through the Second Harvest Food Network. This will allow us to provide food more frequently with our goal to service our clients in a consistent manor of every 4 to 6 weeks. The cost savings for the purchase of food will allow us to expand our personal care items, utilities assistance, and "backpack" initiatives for the homeless and needy families.

CCC food bank **currently** depends on grants, donations and the sale of clothing and household items offered in the thrift store to fund the purchases of food and personal care items. In mid-2019, we generated additional funding to provide food to families more frequently. We moved from food distributions every 3 months to every 2 months while seniors could receive food every 6 weeks. With this new schedule, the provision of food still supplements family needs, and may not meet the total food requirements for a family.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Catholic Charities does not hold fundraising initiatives. We actively seek grants and donations, especially through the IGiveCatholic online giving annually.

CCC is primarily supported by the new and used clothing and household items donated to our thrift store from the South Lafourche Community. Additional food drives are held at

the local churches and businesses periodically through the year. Four catholic churches usually provide \$100 monthly as donations as well. Some local businesses provide additional food, turkeys, and cash donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

Catholic Charities of H/T is evaluating their current programs to identify those local area demographic needs that will provide services and “HOPE” to those in need. We are looking at expanding services to address the local needs.

We are seeing more homelessness due to home repossessions, release from jail with no home or clothing, job losses, limited incomes or disability payments, and cutbacks in the Food Stamps programs. We are seeing more and more broken homes with single moms, multiple children and no child support from the fathers. We see the weight of “hopelessness” in their faces where the situations and status of living are diminishing their “hope”.

The South Lafourche area continues to lose jobs and population due to the oil industry. We are seeing more people losing their jobs locally, yet they are unable to find new employment. We have had an increase in requests for utilities assistance and food and Christmas gifts for children whose families do not have the funds to make the time of year special for the children.

Additional requests include gas cards for chemo patients, rent assistance, car seats, and baby strollers and nursery accessories.

We are looking to implement the “homeless backpack”, school backpack program similar to the one offered by the Thibodaux food bank, and potential for individual and family counseling services.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Over the past 5 years, CCC has helped an average of 568 families per year consisting of 1,525 individuals. In 2019, CCC helped 551 families and 1,370 individuals. This is an average of 46 to 50 families per month. Once we move to the food distribution of every 4 to 6 weeks, we are anticipating a bump in average families and individuals per month.

Utilities assistance has increased in the area. The Community Action Center has limited funds and many of the local churches are not providing this level of service as they did in the past. We are seeing many past due bills with notices of disconnection. In 2019, we paid \$4,910 for utilities, \$247 for prescriptions, \$980 for food vouchers. Total additional monetary assistance outside the food distribution equaled approximately \$6,137 in 2019.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

One family of 6 (4 children) were challenged with a large past due electricity bill which occurred due to unexpected expenses for the family. They had gotten a notice to disconnect. They were turned down for assistance because the father did not have a hard

copy of his social security card. CCC paid their past due and current charges knowing that the family could pay their bill going forward, but they could not pay the entire past due and current charges. Father works but mother takes care of kids ranging from 10 months to 6yo.

Another family with 7 children, disabled father due to a car accident and mother home schools the 7 kids. Disability income less than \$800 per month plus food stamps. They own their trailer in a trailer park but got behind on payments. The trailer park charges \$300 per month for the trailer to sit on the land and the family pays all utilities. The family got behind on 3 months of the payment for the trailer park and they are a few months behind on utilities. Eviction notice within 5 days from the trailer park owner and they were going to lose their trailer to the landlord. Mother looking for job and moved children to school system to free her find a job. *Hopelessness and tears in the face of the mother with the worry for their MOM in the faces of the two children.*

Children's Advocacy Center of Lafourche (CAC)

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

In 2005, the Children's Advocacy Center of Lafourche (CAC) was established. The District Attorney at that time, Camille A. Morvant II, saw the need to help the children of our parish who were the victims of both physical and/or sexual abuse. Prior to the establishment of the CAC, these children were interviewed five plus times before ever seeing a courtroom. The CAC eliminates almost all but one interview therein reducing the trauma suffered by our young victims.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The CAC is a child-friendly environment wherein young victims or witnesses of physical and/or sexual abuse speak with a trained forensic interviewer. The interviewer works with all other agencies involved in the investigation to ensure that the victim is only interviewed one time. Thereafter, all agencies involved in the investigation meet monthly at a multi-disciplinary team meeting to ensure that the victim is receiving all available services.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

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It costs approximately \$30,000 each year to maintain the CAC. With the goal to begin to provide counseling services to our victims, we expect the cost to increase.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

The organization has always strived to reduce trauma to our children. What we have learned over the years is that most of these children and their families do not get the counseling that they need to help them deal with the healing process. We would like to provide counseling to each and every victim and their families. To do so, we need to have a bigger center, fix it to fit our needs, and then contract with a counselor. All of these things will increase our annual budget.

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In the infancy of the CAC, an estimated 150 children were interviewed each year. Over time, that number has significantly increased. In 2018 and 2019, nearly 250 children came through the CAC. This increase in interviews is important. The organization has made it a point to be present in our schools and civic organizations by conducting presentations on internet safety, bullying and personal empowerment. We are reaching not only the families that need the CAC's services but so many more in our community.

Hope Restored Pregnancy Resource Center (Houma)

How many years has your organization been in existence?

Hope Restored for Life is a life affirming 501(c)3 non-profit Christian organization established over ten years ago to bring a message of truth, hope and restoration to women, men and families in our community facing life's challenges in the areas of unplanned pregnancies, relationships, marriage, fertility and sexual wholeness. We offer each client an opportunity to become healthy and whole physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and intellectually in a safe non-judgmental confidential environment using effective, educational and practical tools.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

Our primary mission is to offer life-affirming choices, education and compassionate counsel to those facing pregnancy-related decisions. Services include pregnancy testing, mentoring, adoption advocacy, post-abortion healing counseling, and other classes.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

If Hope Restored Pregnancy Resource Center received the funds from Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle we would update our current "Earn While You Learn" program here at Hope Restored which is an education-based system of earning the things that our clients need for their baby while teaching the mother important life skills. The Earn While You Learn (EWYL) Program is designed to help clients gain parenting skills, knowledge, and confidence while earning "baby bucks" to go towards baby and maternity items in our boutique. Currently this program is outdated at our center and not available to new and improved technology that would help mothers interactively get the education that they need and help the abortion minded make life choices for them and their babies. This program is free of charge at Hope Restored and helps mothers of all ages. Thank you for your consideration.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Hope Restored is actively involved in fundraisers that help support the center and staff meet their annual needs and promotes vision into future goals. This year Hope Restored hopes to meet its annual fundraising goal of \$100,000 for the center. Primarily, Hope Restored relies on its annual "Greater Love Banquet," Baby Bottle Campaign, local grants, and personal donors to help support the mission of Hope Restored and promote life right here in the tri-parish area.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

Hope Restored within the past year has added a full-time director and part time staff to help meet the goals and vision of helping women make life affirming decisions. The future goals of the center is to double the intake of women within the year of 2020, add free STD testing, as well as in the next couple of years move into its own medical complex that will offer help to women throughout their pregnancy and beyond.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Hope Restored is here and growing to let women know that though they might have so many questions or think they are in crisis that they can't work themselves out of, Hope is here.

We have seen over 100 clients this last year, and so many have come back for 2nd and 3rd consultations which not only affect them but their families and the community at large. We have visited mothers and their babies in the hospital, thrown Christmas parties, went to homes, all while bringing a Hope that they can do this, and we are here to help.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

Since the day I walked into Hope Restored I felt welcomed and gained some reassurance that I might actually make it a single mom. When I originally called to make an appointment, I wanted to ask help about giving my baby up for adoption. I was homeless, just left out of rehab, not knowing if I was able to stay clean, and no father for my child.

Hope Restored did just that. They restored hope into my life and into my child's future. They gave me my baby's first outfit and just looking at it made me excited again about keeping him. In the process of visiting the pregnancy center weekly, they helped me look for the proper resources such as housing, to keep my little one. When I gave birth, I was visited in the hospital and they even checked in on us regularly even when I can't go in. I appreciate everything they do for us and other pregnant women in the community.

Individual and Family Assistance

A Ministry of Catholic Charities

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

The Office of Individual and Family Assistance has been working to provide a hand-up and not a hand-out to people who have experienced some form of emergency. Assistance is offered through various forms including utility assistance, rental assistance, and hygiene supplies for the homeless, assistance with car repairs for those with transportation issues, budget counseling and supplies for people who are just starting jobs.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

Providing compassionate service and empowering people in need through faithfulness to the Gospel

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2020, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

The Office of Individual and Family Assistance's greatest need is additional money in the budget to help with rental expenses when an individual/family is experiencing a financial crisis. Requests for rent come in one of two ways:

1. Family has a rental home/apartment but can't pay or got behind on their rent due to unforeseen circumstances: because the rent in this area is so high, our offer of \$200 or \$300 dollars is not always enough to help them.
2. Families/Individuals ask for motel vouchers: Our homeless population needs to be put up in a motel during freezing or other stormy weather. Some of our homeless individuals have also found employment and need assistance with motel stays until their first paycheck so they can maintain their employment. There is just not enough money to pay for several weeks in a motel and we would like to be there for these individuals.

The homeless in our community have very few options in regards to emergency shelters, and many of the programs in the area charge a nightly or weekly rate for sheltering.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

Catholic Charities does not hold fundraisers. We do actively seek grants and donations which are needed to support any new initiative. The Individual and Family Assistance program is partially funded through the Christmas Charities Collection in all Catholic churches. The IFA program is also eligible for funding through the Catholic Charities

Endowment when funds are available. We also receive special, designated individual donations for various IFA programs. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 annually.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

As we continue to assess the needs in our area, we are hoping to develop programs in response to those needs. One area that we are currently looking at is sheltering opportunities for women. Our area currently only provides shelters for men or women who have experienced domestic violence. We have very limited space for women with children and no formal sheltering for women alone.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Last fiscal year, the Office of Individual and Family Assistance assisted 231 families with rent assistance, utility assistance, funeral costs, bus passes, motel stays during freezes, Subway gift cards for the hungry and homeless, fees for State ID cards and birth certificates, medication costs, and employment related items (uniforms, licenses, tools, etc.).

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

“I would like to thank you for the help with my rent. My kidney infection has gotten worse and the infection got in my blood stream causing me to run a very high fever. If they wouldn’t have an organization like ya’ll they would have many people homeless. God blessed us with people like ya’ll and ya’ll are recognized often enough for ya’ll work. But I’m glad to have people like ya’ll to help me out. It’s organizations like ya’ll that helps people like me not to give up on life and to really believe in miracles. I can’t say it enough and show my appreciation enough. But I was blessed to have the help and I am very grateful.” Margaret

Options for Independence - Hooper Dorm

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

Options for Independence is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit social service agency with the mission of “assisting people to live and work in the community of their choice”. Our goal of “*building better communities, one family at a time*” has guided us throughout our twenty seven year history. Formed in 1992 through a grant by the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, Options for Independence’s initial efforts began with case management for persons with developmental disabilities. Over the years, we have added services to include support for persons with developmental disabilities, persons with serious mental illness, persons who are homeless, persons who struggle with chronic underemployment, persons affected by natural disasters and those persons with

substance abuse needs. Our staff delivers services to individuals and families from birth to 21 years of age that live within Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, St. John, St. James and St. Charles parishes.

Hooper Dorm, our non-medical group home for teenage girls, began its mission in September of 2015 and has housed 88 female residents since its opening. Options for Independence partnered with Macdonells Children's Services to reopen the home after it had been closed in 2012 due to licensing restrictions.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

Organization Mission Statement

It is the mission of Options for Independence as a private non-profit organization to serve people who are facing barriers to living and working successfully in the community of their choice. Options for Independence brings together the resources of the individuals, their families and community organizations to provide services to improve their quality of life. All programs and services are designed to assist individuals and their families to develop their own life goals and acquire the skills and resources necessary to achieve and maintain those goals.

Program Philosophy

It is the program philosophy of Options for Independence - Hooper Dorm to provide residential care in a group setting to females between the ages of 10 - 21. The program is set up to foster a resident's independence, self-esteem, uniqueness and mutual respect in a supportive environment. All residents should feel safe, supported, valued and connected.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

If we were to receive a funding gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, we would use it for educational, summer, recreational and prosocial activity fees for residents. This would include off campus trips for residents, senior activity fees, college preparatory needs and other general transitional living expenses of our residents.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

While Options for Independence does not have a formal fundraising program, we accept donations from individuals and organizations as resident needs arise.

For example, in 2019, we reached out to individuals and groups, such as Junior Auxiliary, to help us in providing for the homecoming dance expenses of our residents. This included fundraising for dresses, flowers, hair, makeup, tickets, photographs and meals.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

Options for Independence hopes to expand our Functional Family Therapy teams to serve more families in need, expand our affordable housing for families and continue our current residential services through Hooper Dorm. We hope to expand our dorm services by adequately supporting the residents who are transitioning into adulthood through the extended foster care program.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Through our clinical teams for Functional Family Therapy, Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare, Multisystemic Therapy, Counseling Services and Behavioral Health Medication Management, the organization serves approximately 350 families per year.

Hooper Dorm serves approximately 25-30 girls per year depending on availability, discharges and/or reunification with family. The dorm can serve up to 12 residents at a time.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

A former resident of Hooper Dorm states that Hooper Dorm, “make girls feel like they are home.”

St. Lucy’s Day Care
A Ministry of Catholic Charities

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

Begun by the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 1963 as an outreach program and incorporated under the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in 1977, Catholic Charities has grown from an adoptions and emergency assistance program to an agency that puts children and families first through 13 different programs with a \$2,000,000 annual budget. The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide compassionate service and empower people through faithfulness to the Gospel.

St. Lucy CDC began in 1947 first as an elementary and high school and since 1968 as a child development center annually providing a high quality, affordable pre-K readiness curriculum to 42 children, primarily though not exclusively African-American children, between the ages of 1 year old – 5 years old. Catholic Charities took over the program in 1982 to prevent it from closing. Over 80% of the children at St. Lucy CDC come from low-income, working families.

St. Lucy is a 3 Star, state licensed child care center ranked as Proficient. There are 4 classrooms: Lil’ Tykes, Toddlers, Pre-K I and Pre-K II. Each class has a daily curriculum. There are no televisions. Each classroom has several activity centers. Teachers are observed by outside state experts 2x annually and they are scored on emotional and

behavioral support, classroom organization and instructional support (each with 11 indices for scoring). All four St. Lucy teachers are certified as Child Development Associates and meet state licensing requirements for Lead Teachers.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The mission of St. Lucy Child Development Center is to provide a developmentally appropriate, affordable, early childhood educational experience. St. Lucy promotes self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline in a Type III licensed program.

St. Lucy Child Development Center seeks to measure our program by the manner in which we protect the lives, dignity and rights of all God’s children. Our main goals are:

1. To foster and build in each child a healthy self-image
2. To develop coordination and other motor skills
3. To encourage creativity and self-expression
4. To help children listen, learn and follow directions
5. To provide good nutrition through a balanced breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women’s Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization’s greatest need?

If we receive this gift, we would use the funds, in conjunction with other funds, toward shades for our playground area so that the children and staff can be more comfortable particularly during the warmer months. The cost of these shades range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 not including installation. We would also use these funds to update our physical education equipment so that the children have developmentally appropriate toys to play with to help them develop their gross and fine motor skills.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

St. Lucy does not have fundraisers. We charge tuition that is kept low through United Way for South Louisiana scholarships and other grants and donations – which amounts to about \$56,000 annually. St. Lucy CDC is also eligible for funding through the Catholic Charities Endowment when funds are available. St. Lucy has opened another classroom in the past year, which has required the purchase of the materials and supplies needed to make that class functional.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

St. Lucy is working toward a 4-Star rating of Excellent. At the beginning of this school year, St. Lucy was able to open another classroom in order to serve children that were on the waiting list. While we are no longer able to expand the number of classrooms we serve, we continue to strive to serve the community by improving the quality of the programming that we offer.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

Each year St. Lucy serves about 73 children with a daily capacity now of about 52 children. St. Lucy is known as the cradle of African American education and leadership in Terrebonne Parish. In 2019, St. Lucy was recognized by Terrebonne Parish council (John Navy and Arlanda Williams) for providing excellent leadership and community service for the younger generation. Parents of graduates are surveyed annually and always report that their children are succeeding in elementary school based on their foundation at St. Lucy CDC.

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

At St. Lucy, just by the nature of what we do, we know that our actions impact the lives of not only the child in our care, but the entire family. This was much more evident when one of our parents experienced a major health crisis. This year, we learned that it is in those moments that the care we give each day can help the family ten-fold. In 2017, we supported a St. Lucy family after the mother; "Ms. Toya" was diagnosed with breast cancer. This experience was especially heart-breaking because Ms. Toya lost your mother to breast cancer 16 months earlier. As Ms. Toya struggled through her illness, she felt that she was re-living everything she went through with her mom. Ms. Toya's son, Ryan, started attending St. Lucy CDC in August of 2016. The St. Lucy staff knew of Ms. Toya and Ryan's situation and we would offer Ms. Toya support by encouraging her in her fight and assuring her that Ryan was in good hands. But little did we know how much our care for Ryan gave Ms. Toya the strength and peace of mind that she needed. Ms. Toya shared with us that she is truly thankful for everything St. Lucy did not only for her child but for herself as well. Ms. Toya shared her list of things she felt grateful to St. Lucy for: -Potty-training Ryan in one month -The teachers took time with Ryan - Ryan learned to share and interact with the other kids, which was very important because he was the only child at home, with older siblings ages 16 and 18 -The good communication by the teachers and director -Wonderful activities that were held throughout the school year to include the families - Overall support that truly helped while going through chemo - Ms. Danielle worked with me with my payments to pay once a month , at the end of the month because I was out of work due to my illness. This really helped me. I don't know what I would have done if Ryan was not allowed to attend St. Lucy. Ms. Toya finished her treatments at the end of June and in September she received a call informing her that she was cancer free.

The Haven

How many years has your organization been in existence? Please provide a brief history.

The Haven was founded in 1993 to provide a safe refuge for abused women and children. We started with a crisis line and volunteers who worked diligently to establish a shelter and other support services to address the needs of abused individuals. In 1995, a shelter was secured, and The Haven began providing safe, emergency housing to victims. Over the years, the staff began to grow, and a rape crisis center was added in 1998 and a violence prevention program in 2009. While the agency was originally founded to serve Terrebonne parish, in 2010 The Haven began providing services to residents of Lafourche parish. We now have programs, services, and offices in both Terrebonne and Lafourche.

What is the mission of your nonprofit?

The mission of The Haven is to empower survivors of family violence and sexual assault to live safe, independent and violence free lives. The Haven is dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence to ensure that all individuals live free from the threat of violence.

If you were to receive a gift from the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle in 2019, how would you use the funds? What is your organization's greatest need?

The Haven's greatest need centers on providing for the needs of families who reside in our shelter and supportive housing programs. 85% of all families who enter shelter enter with only the clothes on their backs this includes no undergarments. Gift funds from the Mother Teresa Giving Circle will go to support the provision of safe shelter and housing. Expenses that grant money does not cover will be provided for through the Mother Teresa Women's Giving gift. Gift funds will be applied toward the following: (1) transportation cost which will ensure that families have safe transport to court appointments, doctor appointments, and for seeking safety; (2) emergency placements in safe secure locations; (3) cleaning, laundry, and hygiene supplies ; (4) utility or housing deposits when needed to move families from shelter to their own permanent safe home; (5) groceries and other items (school supplies and prescription medications) needed for families residing in shelter; and (6) counseling services for women and children who reside in our programs.

Briefly explain your fundraising objectives. How do you raise funds and what is your annual fundraising goal each year?

The Haven receives 10 grants including federal state, and local sources. Grants don't cover the entire cost to operate all programs/services and most require a 20% local match. Community funds (\$150,000 annually) are raised through an annual fundraiser and the generous donations of organizations, businesses and private donations.

Briefly explain your organizations future goals for growth.

The Haven has two main goals for organizational growth:

1. Transportation. Acquiring agency vehicles and establishing safe transport for victims from Lafourche and Terrebonne to enter shelter or receive agency services are paramount to overcoming barriers experienced by families seeking safety. Continue to develop safe, alternative housing options for survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence. In 2019, The Haven received an Office of Violence against Women transitional housing grant and in 2020; The Haven received a HUD transitional housing grant. Both projects provide 1-year rental assistance to families needing safe housing to continue to reside in Lafourche. We will continue to seek revenue sources that allow us to open up housing options giving families the ability to establish long term economic self-sufficiency and violence free lives.

Estimated how many families/individuals does your organization impact each year?

For most of us, home is a place of love, warmth and comfort. It is somewhere that you know you will be surrounded by care and support, and a nice little break from the busyness of the real world. But for hundreds of local residents, home is anything but a sanctuary. In fact, 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime and 15.5 million children are living in violent homes. In fiscal year 2019, The Haven provided the following services:

- 126 families sheltered
- 866 domestic violence crisis calls answered
- 381 sexual assault victims served
- 109 sexual assault crisis calls answered
- 5,970 Terrebonne and Lafourche parish students received 256 violence prevention lessons

Provide one testimonial statement from someone who was touched by your organization.

Below is a statement written by Margaret, who at the time of writing the statement lived in The Haven's shelter, coincidentally called Margaret's Home:

Margaret's Home, The Haven's shelter, is, to me, like being on "home base." It provides me with a sense of safety that I have never experienced before. Not to mention, the good healthy meals, warm showers and baths, personal hygiene items and clothing which assists every survivor in rebuilding their lives. I was not one to receive praise, love and acceptance throughout my life, but the unconditional support and empowerment I received from advocates, counselors, and administration was just icing on the cake!