



HOPE
ministries

10th anniversary report

who we are

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our mission

*PREVENT HOMELESSNESS.
PROMOTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND DIGNITY.*



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN AND THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

Improvise, adapt and overcome! A favorite line from Clint Eastwood's movie, *Heartbreak Ridge*, is all too fitting to describe the past 10 years at HOPE. Originating from the merger of two nonprofits in 2003, HOPE began making its mark on our community through two primary programs: The Client Choice Food Pantry operating in the 70805 zip code, and Friends of Families, which was founded by Roger Guissinger in the 1980's. As with many other agencies in our community, HOPE's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, resulted in many changes to how we operate as well as to the services we provide. We hope that this report will outline how we have grown to fulfill our mission to:

Prevent homelessness. Promote self-sufficiency and dignity.

As we celebrate 10 years of service to the Greater Baton Rouge community, we would like to recognize our many stakeholders, without whom we could not continue to do the work we do. The commitment and diligence our Board of Directors devotes to keeping us mission-focused is unsurpassed. The accomplishments included in this report are due to each of the dedicated supporters who have invested in HOPE by giving their time, talents and hearts in serving our community through HOPE's programs.

Our clients enrich our campus as they come daily to share the stories of their struggles and triumphs. Their experiences encourage us to persevere and reassure us that what we do does make a difference!

Finally, but not least, are the members of HOPE's team who have dedicated their lives to service and work to make our community stronger. This is a group of incredibly committed individuals who love what they do and who are always flexible with "other duties as assigned". It is our honor and privilege to lead this team HOPE.

In the past year, HOPE has faced a variety of challenges including new leadership, site construction, fire and water damage, and vandalism, but even these setbacks could not compete with the myriad blessings we've experienced. Our response to adversity always makes us stronger and we have certainly become a stronger beacon of HOPE for the Greater Baton Rouge community.

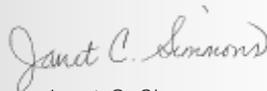
We invite you to read the following pages of this report to learn more about how our mission forms the cornerstone of the work you so kindly make possible....a life with dignity.

Thank you, as always, for...giving HOPE.

With warmest gratitude,



John F. Smith
Board Chair



Janet C. Simmons
President and CEO

meeting needs

CLIENT CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

HOPE's Client Choice Food Pantry serves clients from the 70805 zip code. The pantry's grocery store setup promotes dignity by encouraging clients to select food that best suits the nutritional and health needs of their families. HOPE partners with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, many local churches and organizations to serve our community through this program.



A food pantry client and volunteer shop together in the Client Choice Food Pantry.

During the last 10 years...

- HOPE distributed over 2 Million pounds of food to families living in the 70805 zip code increasing discretionary income by over \$4.8 Million and helping low-income families stabilize housing and finances
- Over 11,500 Households received supplemental food

Preventing Homelessness

HOLIDAYS FOR HOPE

During the last 10 years...

- 2,000 families received ingredients to prepare a complete traditional meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas
- Over 1,200 families participated in The Christmas Place, HOPE's holiday toy distribution program and over 5,000 children received gifts for Christmas
- Thanks to ExxonMobil and the many volunteers and churches who have helped give our clients a very happy holiday season every year!!

Promoting Dignity



Clients received turkey vouchers provided by ExxonMobil for holiday meals.

moving forward

GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST-GETTIN'-BY WORLD[®]



Getting Ahead graduates with Mr. Dick Stonich, facilitator.

Participants in this 40-hour workshop series work to identify the root causes of poverty, increase financial literacy, recognize and build on existing resources, and design an action plan for becoming self-sufficient. Classes meet twice a week for eight weeks.

Since beginning in 2007...

- HOPE has conducted nineteen *Getting Ahead* series, graduating a total of 153 people
- *Getting Ahead* graduates continue in the Family Mentoring Program, and complete an action plan to get out of poverty

Promoting Self-Sufficiency

MENTORING PROGRAM

HOPE's Mentoring Program provides a structured environment to assist participants moving towards self-sufficiency. Each participant works one-on-one with a Family Services Specialist. Following an individualized plan, they work together to identify issues or behaviors which lead to crisis and contribute to instability. Volunteer mentors also work with them as advocates and to encourage their success. HOPE partners with various community organizations in the Greater Baton Rouge area to recruit participants for the program. HOPE is a partner of choice for the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination (BRAVE) project, helping to reduce violent crime in our community by working directly with offenders and their families to provide participants with the tools they need to achieve and maintain housing, financial and family stability.



During the last 10 years...

- The Mentoring Program served 435 families representing 1,523 individuals
- Of those currently enrolled in the program...
 - 63% of the families have sufficient income to pay their own rent
 - 52% have job stability of 12 months or more

Promoting Self-Sufficiency

social enterprise

Definition: A for profit or nonprofit business working toward the common good of the community while supporting a double or triple bottom line: financial, social and/or environmental.

HOPE Ministries helps at-risk families reach self-sufficiency and we believe our agency should be self-sustaining as well. To that end, we have implemented several social enterprises which generate income that flows back into our programs.

UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF POVERTY®

In 2009 HOPE developed *Understanding the Dynamics of Poverty*®, a six-hour poverty awareness workshop for professionals or anyone who works with people living in poverty.

As of 2013....

- HOPE has trained over 1,000 people from 160 companies and organizations.



Workshop attendees play the popular bean game.

Promoting Self-Sufficiency and Dignity

LOUISIANA GIVES.COM



Louisiana Gives® (formerly Louisiana Community Marketplace) was founded in September 2010 and officially launched in August 2011. Sponsored in part by ExxonMobil Baton Rouge and partially funded by The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, Louisiana Gives® generates unconventional revenue for Louisiana nonprofit organizations, schools and churches. Every purchase made through the website directly benefits over 178 participating nonprofit organizations. Over 240 participating online stores pay commissions on purchases made through Louisiana Gives.

Promoting Self-Sufficiency in the nonprofit industry.

social enterprise

HOPE WORKS®

HOPE Works® is a program designed to work with existing and potential employees to help improve workplace attitudes, behaviors, soft skills and social skills. Career Counselors work one-on-one with participants to help identify barriers to work such as transportation, family or childcare issues, substance abuse or mental health issues or any barriers that impact retention and productivity. Modeled after two evidence-based programs, Cincinnati Works® and Cascade Engineering's Welfare to Career program, HOPE Works recently partnered with the North Baton Rouge Industrial Training Initiative (NBRITI). Joining ExxonMobil, BRCC, CATC and other industry leaders, this initiative trains participants to become pipe-fitters, welders and electricians. HOPE's team has been an integral part of this initiative, providing one-on-one career counseling and soft, social and behavior skills to help participants gain sustainable employment.

Similar to *Understanding the Dynamics of Poverty®*, *Understanding your Workforce®* is a professional development workshop designed to bridge the gap between management and employees. The skills acquired in this program help management recognize the challenges their employees face on a daily basis and heighten their sensitivity to cultural differences. The program also better enables them to interpret behavior that might otherwise be construed as disrespectful, antagonistic or irresponsible. By using the skills acquired in the workshop, management can work toward an amicable solution that helps decrease employee turnover, keeping people employed and lowering costs for the company.

DREAM: Dare to Reach—Employees achieving more® is a workshop designed to help people improve financial literacy and address the issues that cause crisis. Participants work together with other members of the class, to develop the soft skills, behavioral skills, social skills and financial management skills needed to successfully perform their assigned job duties and to improve their quality of life both on and off the job. Upon completion, participants are able to identify the resources they need to help reach goals of effective work behavior, conflict resolution and financial management.

HOPE Works is the bridge that completes the circle of management and employees working together for a sustainable working community.

Preventing Homelessness. Promoting Self- Sufficiency and Dignity.

the power of hope



HOPE's inaugural fundraising event, held in 2008 featured authors Ron Hall and Denver Moore. They shared their powerful true story from their bestselling book "Same Kind of Different as Me" about a dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery, an upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel, and a gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. The event helped raise awareness in the community about HOPE's mission and programs.

In 2010, Liz Murray shared her fascinating story about growing up with two drug-addicted parents who she began supporting at age 10. Homeless at age 15, the death of her mother was the wake-up call that made her break free of her circumstances and pursue a different path for her life. While living on the streets of New York, she completed and graduated from high school in just two years. Overcoming horrible odds, she won a full scholarship and was accepted to Harvard University where she received her B.S. in Psychology in June 2009. Murray is now an author and motivational speaker.



Father Greg Boyle, also known as "Father G" to his "homies" spoke at *The Power of HOPE* in 2012. "Father G", an ordained Jesuit priest, serves as founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries working with high-risk, formerly gang-involved men and women in Los

Angeles. Homeboy Industries offers a continuum of services and programs and operates seven social enterprises that serve as job-training sites. "Father G" believes that "nothing stops a bullet like a job". *Promoting Self-Sufficiency and Dignity*

volunteers

The success of HOPE's programs is due in large part to volunteers who give their time and talents to help advance HOPE's mission.

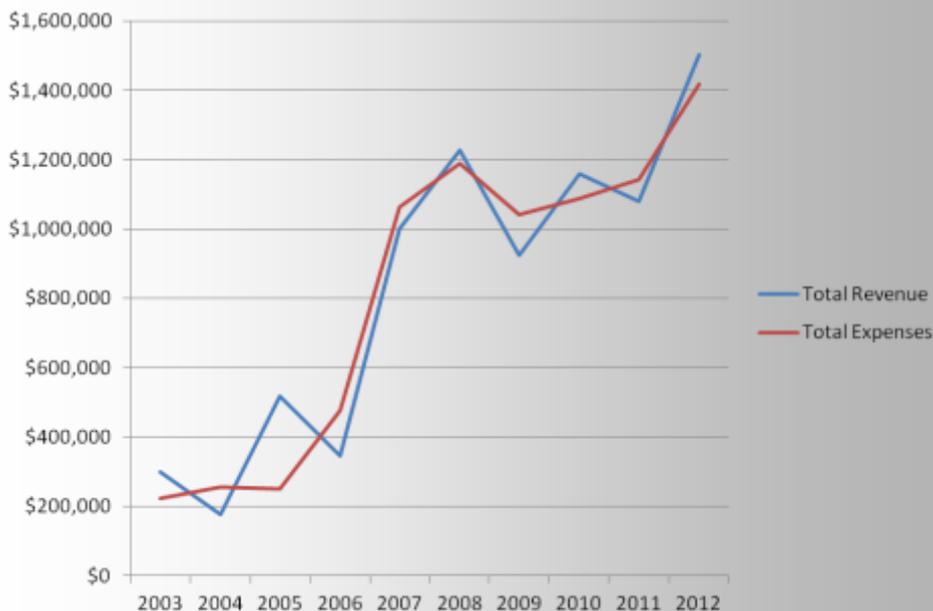
During the last 10 years...

- 350 to 400 volunteers each year gave over 4,500 hours of their time for a total of over 45,000 hours
- This volunteer time is worth roughly *1 million dollars*
- 137 *different* churches, groups, and organizations participated by conducting food drives, and volunteering in HOPE's programs and operations

Prevent Homelessness. Promote Self-Sufficiency and Dignity.



financial summary



For the past ten years, HOPE has worked diligently to ensure that the agency's financial resources enable us to meet the needs of the community we serve. Since 2003, we have kept pace with community need by adding programs like HOPE Works[®] and *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*[®] that continue to lead our clients toward increased self-sufficiency. In order to support those programs, HOPE has added entrepreneurial financial solutions — *Understanding the Dynamics of Poverty*[®] and Louisiana Gives[®] — as a means to increase our organizational self-sufficiency and sustainability. HOPE's fundraising and public awareness efforts have been very successful, with individual donations increasing from \$2,750 in 2003 to \$132,500 in 2012.

In addition, we have consistently sought out innovative solutions and funding sources to address immediate, unbudgeted needs like Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Gustav in 2008, and the fire in October of 2012, all of which put a tremendous and unexpected financial burden on our organization and our clients. HOPE is committed to continuing to serve the Greater Baton Rouge community with fiscal responsibility, trust and integrity.

thank you

We cannot begin to express our gratitude to the many organizations and individuals who have supported HOPE during the past 10 years. Each and every stakeholder, supporter, partner, donor and volunteer has been an integral part of the positive changes HOPE continues to make in our community.

We could not continue to fulfill HOPE's mission without the gifts that each of you offers through your ongoing dedication and commitment.

GRATITUDE
can transform common days into thanksgivings,
turn routine jobs into joy,
and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

-William Arthur Ward

*Special thanks to our 10th Anniversary Event Sponsors
and Planning Committee*

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Browning



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