

Uniforms for Kids

Annual Report 2007-08 School Year

Building a Better Community for the Most Vulnerable Children in

Ascension
Iberville
St. James

Assumption
Livingston
Tangipahoa

East Baton Rouge
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge

East Feliciana
St. Helena
West Feliciana



2007-08—Year Ten A Decade of Growth



For the third year in a row, we've distributed more than 30,000 uniforms to over 15,000 children in our 12 parishes. You may recall that the first year we distributed more than 30,000 uniforms was 2005—THE YEAR OF KATRINA. We expected that year to be an aberration. But here we are two years after Katrina, having had another stellar year. In three years, we distributed about 97,500 uniforms to 45,000 children. To do that we raised \$838,300 and collected 14,500 used uniforms.

Just think! Every year, we are touching the lives of more than 15,000 children in a positive way that affects them every day of their school lives.

The growth of Uniforms for Kids has meant that we now work year-round. Most of our uniforms are distributed in June and July. East Baton Rouge, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, and West Baton Rouge parishes now distribute year-round. These parishes do not distribute all uniforms they have access to during the summer. Rather, they hold some uniforms for the “neediest of the needy” children who were not served during the summer. Additionally, these parishes are able to provide uniforms throughout the year to children in emergency situations. Typically, the children served



during this final phase include fire victims, needy children moving here from other areas, and children removed from the home and placed in foster care or shelters.



The Mission

One of our short-term goals is to expand our year-round emergency coverage to all parishes in the program. Over the long term we want to be in a position to provide uniforms to

any needy child in our area. In our 12-parish area, over 70,000 school children live in poverty. We are striving to serve more children every year. To this end, we've set another ambitious goal for the 2008-09 school year—to distribute 32,500 uniforms to 16,250 children. To do this we need donations of \$250,000 and 7,500 used uniforms. Our community partners and other members of the Uniforms for Kids Development Committee have challenged themselves to make our goals a reality.

Great Community Partners!

Our community partners -- WAFB, KEAN'S THE CLEANER, J.P. MORGAN-CHASE -- are local businesses. They are represented in the Uniforms for Kids Development Committee by very busy executives, who must find the time in their already overloaded schedules to participate in Uniforms for Kids. Their level of dedication and commitment is extraordinary and combine to give Uniforms for Kids its greatest strength—the synergism the members of this Committee bring to the program. They are:

- Mary Durusau, Vice President of Community Relations, J.P. Morgan-Chase
- Charles Moniotte, Owner, Desselle-Maggard Corporation
- Michael Olinde, CEO, Olinde Financial Group
- Rock Rockenbaugh, Owner, Kean's the Cleaner
- Ellen Salmon, Local Sales Manager, WAFB, Channel 9
- Brad Supple, Director of Sales and Marketing, Eatel Corporation
- Gerry Malone, Administrator, Uniforms for Kids
- Michael Acaldo, CEO, St. Vincent de Paul
- Nikki Eidson, Administrative Executive, St. Vincent de Paul

Each year these individuals demonstrate their tremendous commitment and support to Uniforms for Kids by doing more and more. We cannot thank them enough.

Fund Raising Events

Sixth Annual Chefs for Kids Wine Tasting Evening at Ashley Manor in Baton Rouge

Again this year, Chefs for Kids was sponsored by Desselle-Maggard Corporation. That sponsorship again resulted in a profitable Chefs for Kids event. Ashley Manor host Paul Katz again arranged for the fine wines we enjoyed. And, of course, as in previous years, we nibbled on delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by Paul and his staff. Superintendent Charlotte Placide of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, spoke eloquently about the positive impact Uniforms for Kids has on needy children.

This year we are going to launch a new effort entitled, **"That's What Friends are For"** in Baton Rouge which will be held June 24, 2008 at White Oak Plantation. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information, call 383-7837, ext. 214.

Golf Tournament



The Brian Harris 11th Charity Golf Tournament benefited uniforms for Kids and Myriam's House. Last year these two St.

Vincent de Paul programs combined their individual golf tournaments to strengthen the impact of the tournament. A rainy day did not disturb the fun-filled day of golf at the "Sweet Spot of the South"—the Island in Plaquemine. The day included dinner, beverages and great prizes. The success of the tournament was in large part due to the leadership of Rick Bayhi, Tournament Committee Chair. Rick was assisted by Michael Olinde, Rock Rockenbaugh, Rob Anderson, Jeri Bandaries, Sister Mary Ann Farris, Leonard Gremillion, Jack Persac, Charles Moniotte, Mike Reames, Brad Supple, Tom Tate, Sister Carolyn Brady, and Curtis Lanoux

Watch for information on this year's tournament to be held on October 27, 2008 at The Island Golf Course in Plaquemine, La.

Donation Match Initiative

Our community partner, J.P. Morgan-Chase, held its second very successful campaign that matched Uniform for Kids donations made at any of its banks. The campaign was advertised on WAFB-TV Channel 9. We know the public was watching -- and responding -- because of the generous contributions they made to double the impact of those donations.

Watch for details of this year's initiative and "grow" your donation by making it at J.P. Morgan-Chase.

Second Annual Children's Fashion Show— Styles for Smiles

A fashion show at a horse farm? Why not, especially when it's at Live Oak Arabians? And what could be more fun than a children's fashion show, especially when it's orchestrated by Debi Grymes of Little House & Company, catered by Fleming's Restaurant, Carrabba's, Bonefish Grill, John Folse & Company, Koto of Japan, Monjunis, P.F. Chang's, Q'doba and supported by all of the Towne Center businesses? Other sponsors included: Notoco Industries, Coca-Cola, Cox Communications, Desselle-Maggard Corporation, FEENEY LEDOUX, Forum, Gerry Lane Enterprise, Republic Beverage, Rickey Heromans, Sysco, and The Face Place.

As we learned last year, Debi Grymes can make things happen. Children of all ages wowed the audience as they modeled their clothes. Strutting across the runway were children and adult fashions provided by Little House & Company, Rocks & Knots and Nanette Kadair, Ltd.

We thank Debi for her interest and her willingness to create this program to benefit Uniforms for Kids.

And thanks to Phil & Laura Witter of Live Oak Arabians for allowing us to use their wonderful facility.

Watch for the third annual Styles for Smiles Fashion Show.

Sixth Annual TV Raffle

For the sixth year, we raffled a TV set in Pointe Coupee Parish. This raffle was made possible through the generosity of the Olinde family and Olinde's Furniture Store in New Roads. Another TV will be raffled this year in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Our Recycling Program

Since Year One of Uniforms for Kids, we've distributed recycled uniforms, along with new uniforms, to meet the goals we have set. During the past ten years, Kean's the Cleaner has been responsible for collecting thousands of used uniforms in East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston Parishes. All parishes that participate in Uniforms for Kids collect gently used uniforms. Many individuals throughout the 12-parish area help process the recycled uniforms—sorting out those that are usable, sizing them, and packing them for the distribution points. Schools in all 12 parishes use these uniforms throughout the year for their clothes closets. Used uniforms are available to the 12 parishes throughout the year, upon request, as long as supplies are available.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, we are blessed to have had the assistance of the congregation of Highland Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church and University Presbyterian Church. Volunteers in these churches size and organize the uniforms once they've been sorted by St. Vincent de Paul processing center staff. We appreciate the assistance of the church volunteers and of our staff who must work just a little harder between May and September to sort all the uniforms we receive.

Our Priceless Volunteers

Over the years, hundreds of volunteers have worked with us to implement Uniforms for Kids. They engage in all activities typically involved in a small business—buying, receiving, warehousing, packaging, shipping, and inventorying merchandise (in our case, uniforms); administrative duties; answering the phone; keeping records; data entry; secretarial support; greeting customers; helping customers find the sizes they need; keeping the uniform shelves stocked and neat; handling exchanges for East Baton Rouge Parish parents and for local sponsors in the other 11 parishes.

Our strong volunteer corps is the keystone of Uniforms for Kids. As is true in all community service organizations that rely on substantial volunteer help, many of our volunteers come and go. We appreciate any help we can get.

We've been blessed to have a small group for many years that serve as our management team—Juanda and August (Butch) Levert, Barbara and John Culmone, Kay Lucio, Susan Witherspoon, and Gloria Johnson. These folks have been here every day, every year, all summer and beyond, to do whatever is necessary to serve our customers.

Several people are here full-time year after year: They include Thelma Bennett, Lydia Chenevert, and Delores Robinson. Many others contribute substantial time every year. They include Rose Gardner, Mary Lou Stockdale, Marsha Dumas, and Karen Graves. We thank all volunteers who came many days and spent many hours, some for the first time and others who come each year. Special thanks again this year go to Crystal Chatelain who coordinated our volunteers and spent many hours herself helping out. Crystal has now retired, but we'll always remember her calming, cheerful demeanor and the important role she played for two years. To volunteer this year call 225-383-7837, ext. 207.

Our Local Sponsors and Their Volunteers

Uniforms for Kids could not succeed in the 12 parishes without local support—a three pronged support base—local sponsors, local volunteers, and local donors. The local support is spearheaded by sponsors in each parish (see the listing below). The local sponsors set goals for their parishes and raise the money to meet their goals. That money comes from the local communities who donate both time and money to ensure the success of Uniforms for Kids. It takes a large group of volunteers to implement the program in their parishes. There are usually several trips between Baton Rouge and the local distribution sites to pick up, exchange,

and return uniforms; a “uniform store” must be set up; applicants must be qualified and assisted in finding the uniform sizes they need; and various records must be kept.

Meet the Local Parish Sponsors

- **Ascension**—Volunteer Ascension and Salvation Army Gonzales
- **Assumption**—Yvette LeBlanc and Angela Johnson
- **East Feliciana**—Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jackson, and Our Lady of the Assumption, Clinton
- **Iberville**—St. John the Evangelist, St. Vincent de Paul Conference
- **Livingston**—Immaculate Conception St. Vincent de Paul Conference and First United Methodist Church of Denham Springs
- **Pointe Coupee**—H.O.P.E. Ministry
- **St. Helena**—St. Vincent de Paul, Baton Rouge
- **St. James**—St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Conference
- **Tangipahoa**—Holy Ghost St. Vincent de Paul Conference and St. Helena St. Vincent de Paul Conference
- **West Baton Rouge**—Julie & Earl Millard
- **West Feliciana**—Our Lady of Mount Carmel Women's Auxiliary

Honoring Uniforms for Kids Volunteers

Implementing Uniforms for Kids requires thousands of volunteer hours throughout the year. We're holding a jambalaya dinner on May 15th at 6:00 p.m. to kick off this year's program. Let's make this a kick-off to top all kick-offs. All Uniforms for Kids volunteers are invited. If you know someone who might be interested in participating in this worthwhile program, bring them along. RSVP to Nikki Eidson, 383-7837, ext. 214.

Goals for 2008-09

Our goal for the coming school year is to distribute 32,500 new and used uniforms to 16,250 children in Head Start and Pre-K through 8th grade in our 12 parish area. To reach this goal will require \$250,000 and 7,500 used uniforms in good condition. We also need volunteers in July, August and September. Call: 383-7837, ext. 207, or e-mail us at uniformsforkids@svdpbr.com.



*Society of St. Vincent de Paul
P. O. Box 127
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127*

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Baton Rouge, LA
Permit No. 1272

Address Service Requested

Remember that only \$10 buys a uniform. Buy two uniforms for one child by sending \$20 to St. Vincent de Paul Uniforms for Kids at P. O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Your donation is tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!!!!

