

Annual Report



St. James Council On Aging & St. James Parish Government

Department of Human Resources *"One Department, Many Services"*

"To empower individuals and families to self-sufficiency by providing resources and services to improve their quality of life."





A Message from the Director & Assistant Director

“St. James Parish Government, Department of Human Resources/St. James Council on Aging has served as the social services agency for the parish since 1974. The agency has grown into a strong social services organization. In 2001, the agency embraced its current mission statement, “to empower individuals and families to self-sufficiency by providing resources and services to improve their quality of life.” This is being achieved by the implementation of recent programs such as YouthBuild, Career Ready, Get Ready, and Diabetes Management to name a few. Implementation of these programs and other projects, including Youth Commission, are evident in the increased number individuals who have become self-sufficient.

The 2015 annual report proudly summarizes employment and supports, economic enhancements, emergency assistance, independent living, community revitalization family supports, and volunteer hours provided to ensure a life of self-sufficiency.

I am fortunate to be a part of such an organization. Our success is attributed to the support of Mr. Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President, St. James Parish Council, our advisory boards and various stakeholders. We hope that you gain a greater understanding of our work and recent accomplishments with this report.”



Mrs. Bedar Warren, Director



*Mrs. Ingrid B. LeBlanc,
Assistant Director*

“I count it an honor and privilege to serve in an organization that is committed to addressing the needs of our residents. If I had to summarize FY2015 in a single phrase, it would be “Proven Accountability”. We are very proud of the accomplishments made in meeting statewide goals and initiatives, demonstrating quality social services practices. We are making significant gains in improving how we serve our residents through case management and data driven principles. I look forward to our continued work ahead to strengthen our parish and residents who depend on us in times of need.”

More than a service provider...

“Community Action Agencies (CAA) are private nonprofit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty in geographically designated areas. The CAA network was established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed by President Lyndon Johnson and declared an “unconditional War on Poverty.” Status as a Community Action Agency is the result of an explicit designation by local or state government. A Community Action Agency has a tripartite board structure that is designated to promote the participation of the entire community in the reduction or elimination of poverty. Community Action Agencies seek to involve the community, including elected public officials, private sector representatives, and especially low-income residents in assessing local needs and attacking the causes and conditions of poverty.”



2015 Agency Highlights:

- *The agency hosted its first Stellar Teammate Acknowledgement Recognition (STAR) Awards program to recognize current partners & donors*
- *Recipient of Capital Area United Way, WAFB-TV & Capital One Power of 9 Honors*
- *Awarded an Entergy grant to implement the “Get Ready” Hurricane Preparedness program*
- *Hosted department wide team building activities*
- *Unveiled blueprints for the new Romeville Senior & Community Center*
- *Hosted various social/civic events and trips for seniors*
- *Expanded Transit department and services while securing two additional program vehicles*
- *Received a Scholarship award from Transit CTAA Expo*

2015 Service Outcomes are categorized in 6 major goals

Service Category	Service Description	Number Served	Service Description	Number Served
1. Employment & Supports	Unemployed & Obtained a job	21	Completed GED/HiSET and received certification	11
	Obtained skills for employment	19	Completed post secondary and obtained a certificate or diploma	3
	Employed and maintained a job for at least 90 days	18	Obtained non-emergency LIHEAP or LIHEAP Crisis services	232
2. Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization	Tax Preparations	347	Number demonstrating ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days	4
	Enrollment in Lifeline	4	Rent	12
3. Emergency Assistance	Food	2	Mortgage	12
	Fuel/Utility	69	Car Repair	2
	Temporary Shelter	2	Medical Care	3
	Disaster Relief	3		
4. Independent Living	Homemaker Services	24		
5. Community Improvement & Revitalization	Safe and affordable housing preserved or improved through weatherization or rehabilitation	10	Accessible or Increased Educational Opportunities	8
6. Family Supports	Obtained care for child or other dependent	25	Obtained access to reliable transportation or driver's license	23

DHR assisted approximately 2,064 individuals to prevent or eliminate poverty.



Funding Streams & Donors

Department	Programs	2015 Award	2014 Award
Special Programs	Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Non-Crisis/Crisis/2014 LIHEAP Carryover	\$102,450	\$123,817
	Emergency Food & Shelter (EF&S)	\$26,500	\$17,890
	Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$59,200	\$58,681
	Entergy	\$3,500	\$1,600
Housing	Home Rehabilitation Grant (HRP) (Continuation)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Housing Counseling	\$7,500	\$10,000
YouthBuild	YouthBuild (Continuation)	\$900,000	\$900,000
	AmeriCorps	\$33,000	\$25,000
Elderly	Title V	\$173,800	\$175,157
	GOEA	\$264,700	\$239,383
	People Health	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transit	Section 5311 Transit	\$678,700	\$526,000
	Job Access Reverse Commute	\$40,200	\$51,798
	New Freedom	\$150,000	\$148,762
	Transit Scholarship (DOTD)	\$1,100	\$3,085
COA	Capital Area United Way	\$21,200	\$21,200
Donations	Decentralized Arts Grant	\$1,100	\$600.00
	Susan G. Komen	\$2,147	\$0.00
	Motiva	\$7,000	\$6,000
	Mosaic	---	\$10,000
	Toy & Coat Drive	\$3,625	\$7,732 Correction
Approximate Totals:		\$3,476,722	\$3,327,705

Funding Percentages



"On the Road to Self-Sufficiency"

Under the direction of St. James Parish COA, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Emergency Food & Shelter (EF&S), and Area Aging on Agency (AAA) advisory boards, the agency implements several federal and state programs to meet the needs of elderly, disabled, and low income residents. Volunteers donate numerous hours, working closely with DHR staff to ensure programs are implemented in the most efficient way, according to regulations; and that those who are truly in need receive service. DHR is not a service provider alone, but through case management, gives residents what they need to become and remain economically secure. Outcomes from 2015 within the Special Programs department includes approximately 30 YouthBuild participants received financial literacy counseling, 400 families received commodities, while over 1,680 families received energy assistance. DHR's annual Toy & Coat Drive was a complete success serving nearly 100 children and families.

347 tax returns were completed through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Commendably, the agency was a 2015 Recipient of Capital Area United Way, WAFB-TV & Capital One Power of 9 Honors and was featured in a segment on the local news.



2015 Toy & Coat Drive



VITA Super Tax Day



CSBG Board Volunteers/LIHEAP Call in Day



Special Programs



"Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program's free tax service provides low-income residents with the opportunity to maximize their refund by avoiding excessive preparation fees; therefore, allowing individuals more income to budget monthly household expenses and work towards self-sufficiency. Individuals also

literacy, budgeting, and debt management training to help promote financial stability. We truly enjoy providing this service to our residents as it increases the community's overall economic power."

-Milton Cayette, St. James Council on Aging Chairperson and St. James Council on Aging Board.

“We keep the parish rolling!”

2015 Transit Scholarship Award from CTAA Expo

In 2015, the St. James Parish Transit department successfully completed approximately 53,000 passenger trips through its New Freedom, Job Access and Reverse Commute, and Rural Transportation program. Residents used transit services to access employment, educational and medical facilities, as well as recreational and social events. Ridership for employment and education increased.

DHR assisted nearly thirty residents to further their education by transporting them to River Parishes Community College, the St. James Parish YouthBuild program, and other neighboring schools.

Additionally, the department has experienced growth as it has hired three new drivers and received two new buses. Planning for two new pilot routes to begin in 2016 have also begun.

Accident and incident occurrences were reduced by 50% while over 50 potential safety hazards within the transit department were documented have been corrected. Safety awareness among the transit department staff, drivers, mechanics, and passengers have increased.



Transit

"Beyond Measures"



For six years, St. James Parish YouthBuild AmeriCorps has assisted disadvantaged youth age 16 to 24 years of age to recognize and achieve their fullest potential. This year, one of our most outstanding students enrolled in the program and quickly earned his HiSET certification (formerly GED). His aspirations did not stop there as the participant began preparing to take the ACT. Joyfully, the participant was accepted to college and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Engineering at Southern University. The participant later returned to the program to urge other youth to take advantage of the program and to do their best to achieve their goals. The program continues to recruit new members in the community.

Other program successes include:

- ◆ 11 Participants earned HiSET Certificates
- ◆ 11 Participants obtained employment
- ◆ 4 Participants engaged in post secondary studies
- ◆ 11 Participants received educational awards
- ◆ Over 8, 000 AmeriCorps service hours completed



St. James COA-“Pathways to a brighter future”

Residents who are beyond the age of 24 who do not qualify for the YouthBuild program are assisted through the Career Ready program.

Participants obtain employment skills, receive assistance with attaining work credentials such as Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), driver's license, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Meaningful partnerships with the St. James Parish Business and Career Solutions Center (WIOA), community colleges, and other local businesses help provide job placement.

The program assisted 12 participants to earn their HiSET, work certifications, and job skills; whereas they became gainfully employed.



Career Ready



“Celebrating Seniors....



Senior trip to Niagara Falls, Canada



Senior Carnival Social



Harvest Fest



Black History Program

The parish supplements meals through a grant from the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs to provide over 22,000 congregate meals and over 36,000 homebound meals yearly. In addition, Wellness classes are offered including aerobic classes at two locations.

St. James Parish Government is also the Sub-Grantee for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Senior Employment Program) which enrolls 17 seniors into a training program. Four seniors are currently enrolled in the Med-Alert Program where their monthly premium is covered through the grant.

A Diabetes Self-Management Workshop is held yearly with up to 15 participants. Over 200 service hours are provided each month to help seniors sustain their independence through the Home Maker Program.



Senior Olympics



Elderly



Pokeno



Diabetes Management Workshop

through health, wellness, and education.”

Through a grant funded by Entergy of New Orleans, COA implemented the “Get Ready” Hurricane Preparedness program to urge senior residents and their families to prepare for emergencies, inclement weather, and other natural disasters.

Nearly 130 senior residents attended the sessions and received educational information to support them in creating an emergency preparedness kit and planning ahead. All participants also received a weather flashlight radio to include in their preparedness kit.



Entergy “Get Ready” Program



Susan G. Komen

“Pink Crusades”



St. James COA was awarded a campaign grant from Bayou Affiliate of The Susan G. Komen. Breast health education was provided to approximately 300 seniors and local residents.



Teche Community Action Clinic Mobile Health Service

A new partnership with Teche Community Action Clinic was established to ensure senior residents have greater access to health care.



“A chapter closes...”

St. James Parish Head Start Healthy Relationships/Healthy Marriages Seminar

It has been a wonderful journey and pleasure to implement the Head Start program for over 40 years. In 2015, the Department of Human Resources implemented the program for its final year.

Staff members were acknowledged for their years of dedicated service and passion to build the community one child at a time.

The wellbeing of children and families of St. James Parish is still of utmost importance. DHR looks forward to continuing its mission “to empower children and families to self sufficiency” in new ways.

As our Head Start chapter closes, DHR has renewed its commitment to advocate for and provide services that foster healthy family and community relationships.



...as new ventures begin.”

The Department of Human Resources holds the contributions of our Veterans and elderly residents very dear to our hearts. It is a great pleasure to assist those who have served our country and community so well. In 2015, the agency completed 5 home construction projects and weatherized an additional 9 Veteran homes via AmeriCorps funding. Assistance was provided through the “We Care” and “Day of Caring” programs.



DHR participated in the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority's Art of Respect 2015 event. Activities were held at ARC agencies in St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Assumption, Terrebonne, and Lafourche Parishes, advocating for individuals with special needs.

Smoke Alarm Project





“Light the torch and lead the way”

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2015 St. James Parish Youth Commission worked diligently throughout the year, actively participating in over 12 events. Some of the events attended includes the Legislative Day at the Capitol where members were able to visit with legislators and tour the Senate and House of Representative Chambers, The Backpack Giveaway at Antioch Church, and Louisiana Girls Leadership Camp at Nicholls State. Additionally, members volunteered approximately 365 hours of service, setting an excellent example of leadership and service for young and old residents alike.



**Youth
Commission**



Partners & Donors

A very special thanks to our STARS!

Stellar Teammate Acknowledgement Recognition Program

Aden Mart, Inc
Americas Styrenics, LLC
AOA Services, Inc.
Arrmaz Custom Chemicals
Associated Terminals
Blues Sons Grocery
Boudreaux's Barber Shop
Bourgeois Cleaning Service, LLC
Brenda's Day Care Center
Capital Area United Way
Cazenave Motor Co. Inc.
CBG Marine Mile 164
Commercial Barge Line Company
Darryl Folse
DBA Schexnayders' Supermarket
DBA Stumps Shell & Food Mart
DBA Waga Pack II
Detillier Financial Advisors
Diesel Driving Academy
Dollar General
Edna Mae Williams
Entergy
Families Helping Families
First American Bank
Gerard & Mary Ellen Properties, LLC
Hill City Oil Company
Jan Englade & Associates
Jessie S. Ambrose
Jubilee Food Store
Jubilee Food Store
Kum Tae Kim/Creative Fashion and Salaine's
Laura Plantation Co.
Louisiana Sugar Refinery, LLC
Louisiana Workforce Commission
LSU/SU AgCenter Research & Extension
M. Rodrigue & Son, Inc.
MB Realty & Appraisals
Michael Favaloro, DDS
Motiva Enterprises
Nicholls State University
Noranda Allumina, LLC
Nucor Steel Louisiana
Peoples Health
Premier Choice Realty



R&D Collision Center
R&S Supermarket
Regions Bank
Richard Oil and Fuel
River Parishes Community College
Robert and Riley Boudreaux Building Company
Rose's Catering Reception
Salon Royale Services, Inc.
South Central Louisiana Human Service Authority
South Louisiana Technical College
St. James ARC
St. James Nursery
St. James Parish Health Unit
St. James Parish Hospital
St. James Parish Housing Authority
St. James Parish School Board
St. James Parish Sheriff's Department
St. James Parish Transit
St. James Parish YouthBuild
St. James Stevedoring Partners, LLC
The Mosaic Company
The ZOE Company
Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President
Total Choice Federal Credit Union
Tulane University
Turner Industries
Vacherie Loans, Inc.
Veron's Supermarket LLC
ZeN-Noh Grain Corporation



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Batiste, Donald
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Cayette, Milton (Chairperson)
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Folse, Vivian
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Joseph, Lena
Keller, Gufielle
Kirklin, Cathy
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Lewis, Sandra
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Mitchell, Brenda (Secretary)
Mitchell, Emil
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Walker, Mary (Justice of Peace)
Walker, Keri
Woods, Barbara
Young, Rose

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Jones-Roy, Romona (Secretary)
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Narcisse, Sue Won
Reulet, Audrey
Roberts, Gloria
Scott, Gloria
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Faucheaux, Jenna
Forsythe, Zoe
Gibson, Daija -At Large
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Rocquin, Victoria (Secretary)
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Mitchell, Emil
Raphael, Robin
Rapp, Nathaniel
Clark, Rubenstein (Chairperson)
Schexnayder, Darlene
Warren, Bedar
In Memory of Lena Joseph