



**VOLUNTEER**  
LOUISIANA

*Strengthening Communities,*  
**EXPANDING IMPACT**  
*2023 Annual Report*



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
BILLY NUNGESESSER

[www.volunteerlouisiana.gov](http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov)



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*impact noun [U] (EFFECT) :*

*the strong effect or influence that something has on a situation or person.*

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Message*

In reflecting on the past year, I am grateful for the continued growth of national and community service in Louisiana. After the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisianans are once again serving as AmeriCorps members, volunteering with local nonprofits, and strengthening communities throughout our state.

At Volunteer Louisiana, we are working with intention to open national service and volunteer opportunities to everyone in Louisiana. We have invested in recruitment strategies, elevated volunteers, and reduced barriers to service for both individuals and organizations. We have enhanced emergency preparedness capabilities in rural parishes, extended support to disability and Spanish-speaking communities, and offered administrative and leadership assistance to statewide organizations engaged in disaster response and recovery. We also hosted a National Service Training conference for the state service commission network in New Orleans. I am incredibly proud of all we accomplished in 2023 and look forward to continuing that progress in the year ahead!

Thank you for contributing to our endeavors and sharing in our vision for the future.



Judd Jeansonne, Executive Director





# VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA

## *At-a-Glance*

Volunteer Louisiana (VLA), the state service commission in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, was established in 1993 under the National and Community Service Trust Act.

Volunteer Louisiana’s mission is to strengthen Louisiana’s communities through volunteerism and national service by focusing on three main strategies identified in the 2022-2025 State Service Plan:



### Goal One:

Promote national service in Louisiana and develop a portfolio of innovative, high quality AmeriCorps State programs.



### Goal Two:

Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of volunteers in times of disaster.

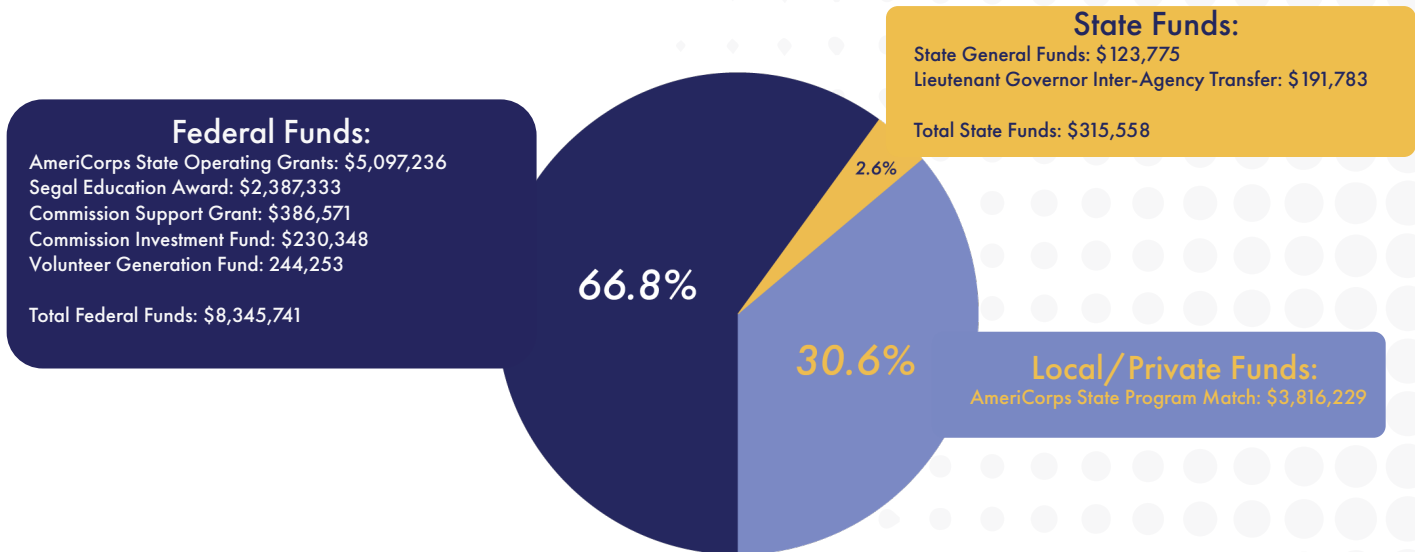


### Goal Three:

Build a culture of service and volunteerism in Louisiana.

Volunteer Louisiana is supported by grants from the federal agency, AmeriCorps, as well as state funding and in-kind contributions.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING



## OTHER NATIONAL SERVICE IN LOUISIANA

Federal Funds:	Local and Private Funds:
AmeriCorps National Grants/NCCC: \$532,373	AmeriCorps National, VISTA, Senior Corps Program Match: \$5,396,347
AmeriCorps VISTA \$1,712,966	
AmeriCorps Seniors: \$4,922,085	
Segal Education Awards: \$3,674,632	
	State Funds: \$0

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S *Message*

The Volunteer Louisiana Commission continues to be a strong asset in our state. Every day I hear about the impact that volunteers and AmeriCorps members have in communities across Louisiana. We've faced many challenges these last few years, but AmeriCorps members and volunteers build resiliency and keep us Louisiana Strong. I am proud of the great work and dedication of the Volunteer Louisiana staff, AmeriCorps members, and our thousands of volunteers.

~ Billy Nungesser

## COMMISSION CHAIR'S *Message*

Louisiana has many challenges, but its greatest assets are the people who selflessly dig in to make things better for their friends and neighbors. The breathtaking scope of their service gives me faith that we will succeed and thrive. On behalf of all of the commissioners of Volunteer Louisiana, thank you to everyone whose service is represented in this report, and to anyone who extends their hand in times of need.

~ Kellie Duhon



# LEADERSHIP IMPACT IN 2023

Service strengthens communities and brings together Americans to unite in common cause despite differences in identity, socio-economic status, faith, and political affiliation. Volunteer Louisiana is proud of the bipartisan support for national service and volunteerism at every level of government, and Louisiana is at the forefront of providing critical leadership to the national service field.



**Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser** has been a champion of national service and volunteerism at home and through the National Lieutenant Governors Association. He served as the keynote speaker for the National Service Training Conference in New Orleans, and was a featured speaker for the AmeriCorps 30th Anniversary kickoff celebration.

**Senator Bill Cassidy** serves as the Republican co-chair for the Senate National Service Caucus and has been a leading voice for protecting investments in national service in Louisiana and throughout the country.

**Representative Garret Graves** now serves as the Republican co-chair for the House National Service Caucus and is a strong advocate for expanding the AmeriCorps footprint in Louisiana and beyond. The VLA Team had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Graves on a visit to Capitol Hill.



**Executive Director Judd Jeanson** began his second term as Board Chair for America's Service Commissions (ASC), the national organization that leads and elevates the state service commission network. The Volunteer Louisiana staff attended the 25th Anniversary Awards Gala for ASC in Washington D.C.



# NATIONAL SERVICE in Louisiana

AmeriCorps plays a vital role in promoting civic engagement, community development, and addressing social issues across the United States. The program has a long history of making a positive impact on both communities and the individuals who serve.

Volunteer Louisiana manages the 16 AmeriCorps State programs known as AmeriCorps Louisiana. AmeriCorps National, NCCC, VISTA, and Seniors are managed by the AmeriCorps agency.



In 2023, there were 3,563 AmeriCorps members served 399 service locations across Louisiana.

## AMERICORPS PROGRAMS:



## AMERICORPS SENIORS PROGRAMS:





**3,563**  
Members & Volunteers



**399**  
Service Locations



**\$31,549,516**  
Total Investments



**AmeriCorps**  
Louisiana



**Volunteer Louisiana State Service and Strategic Plan Goal One:**  
Promote national service in Louisiana and develop a portfolio of innovative, high quality AmeriCorps State programs.

For the 2022-2023 program year, Volunteer Louisiana managed 16 AmeriCorps State programs across 44 parishes.

**AMERICORPS LOUISIANA ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



**10,349**  
K-12 students served



**1,943**  
active duty military, veterans, and their families served



**3,250**  
volunteers recruited and managed



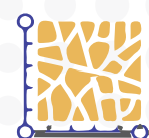
**25,956.25**  
hours served by recruited or managed volunteers



**4**  
individuals provided job training or placement



**80**  
individuals served affected by disasters



**90**  
acres of land improved in Louisiana



# AmeriCorps member

# IMPACT

Shining a Spotlight on Service:

From current champions to proud alumni making a lasting difference, our AmeriCorps members help to strengthen communities and expand impact.

*Kaiti Boiling*

Current Member: First Term

Program: Rebuilding Together New Orleans

**Why do you serve?** Being an AmeriCorps member has provided me with an amazing opportunity to contribute to my community, all while taking a temporary pause from my career in EMS.



*Darian Butler*

Alumni Member: Up2Us Sports

**How did serving as an AmeriCorps member impact your journey?** My time as an AmeriCorps member played a crucial role in enhancing my communication skills and organizational abilities. It instilled in me the significance of planning and preparation. Serving multiple years enabled me to cultivate meaningful connections with children through our shared love for sports. As a result, I've developed a strong rapport with them in the classroom, creating an environment where learning becomes not just a task, but a shared and enjoyable experience.





## Loreal Ivory

Alumni Member: City Year New Orleans

How did serving as an AmeriCorps member impact your journey? My AmeriCorps service shaped my path by revealing the demand for exceptional educators and offering me the chance to teach in my hometown. Recognizing the importance of emotional learning in addition to academic growth, I am proud to be a newly-published author of the children's book "Who Let The Nerves Out?" aimed at helping students understand and cope with feelings of nervousness, anxiety, or worry.

## Templeton W.

Current Member: First Term

Program: Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana

Why do you serve? I joined AmeriCorps to provide guidance to the kids in my community. Having lost my mom 3 years ago, I understand the challenges they may face when it comes to having positive role models. I aim to share my experiences to help them learn from mistakes, make better choices, and avoid living with regrets. We all go through tough times, but the key is to make wise decisions while we're here.



# AMERICORPS

## *Louisiana Programs*



**American Youthworks - Louisiana Conservation Corps:** AmeriCorps members provide disaster relief, coastal restoration, and conservation of public land services across Louisiana.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana:** AmeriCorps members provide programming and activities to improve academic engagement and social-emotional skills while addressing childhood obesity in youth through education-based, health-related activities and mentoring during the school year and summer months in four parishes: Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF ACADIANA



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF NORTH LOUISIANA

**Boys & Girls Clubs of North Louisiana:** AmeriCorps members improve educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary and middle schools. Members assist in preparation for success in post-secondary education institutions for economically disadvantaged students in the north central Louisiana area.

**City Year Baton Rouge:** AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one support to students in 10 Baton Rouge public schools. Members help students improve their attendance, lead schoolwide events, provide after school programming, and lead individual and small group tutoring sessions for students in Math and English Language Arts.



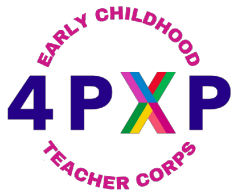
**NEW ORLEANS**

**City Year New Orleans:** AmeriCorps members provide in-class and after-school support to academically challenged students in New Orleans, giving them the extra resources they need to get back on track in school.

**Food Bank of Central Louisiana:** AmeriCorps members support the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program, providing food assistance and referral services to people in need in rural and underserved communities across central Louisiana.







**For Providers by Providers:** The Early Childhood Teacher Corps (ECTC), mobilizes individuals to revitalize early childhood environments for Louisiana’s youth aged 0-5. ECTC enhances program quality, focusing on improving school readiness and addressing the need for well-prepared early childhood teachers. Members implement activities to boost readiness and provide valuable classroom support.

**Louisiana Vet Corps:** AmeriCorps members serve as peer mentors to veterans and military families in colleges and universities across Louisiana. Members connect veterans to the Louisiana Department of Veteran’s Affairs veterans’ assistance programs, training faculty, and LDVA staff and community members.



New Orleans

**Rebuilding Together New Orleans:** AmeriCorps members engage in home repair projects in the New Orleans area, transitioning homeowners to safer and healthier housing conditions, and processing new client applications.

**Serve Louisiana:** AmeriCorps members provide capacity building services in southeast Louisiana to increase the effectiveness of their partner organizations that serve local children, families, and communities in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.



**ShreveCorps:** AmeriCorps members cultivate community gardens at schools and community centers in food desert neighborhoods in Shreveport. Members also participate in Naomi’s Urban Farm, a hunger and poverty alleviation program.

**Synergy, Education & Environment (SEE) West Monroe:** AmeriCorps members provide after-school homework assistance and enrichment activities to students in grades 1-3 during the school year and implement a summer youth program at the West Monroe Community Center.



**Teach For America:** AmeriCorps members are full-time teachers who promote academic growth for students, engage as volunteer leaders within their schools and communities, and engage parents and community members as volunteers.

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette AmeriCorps:** AmeriCorps members engage in environmental stewardship through native plant restoration, invasive species removal, and other green infrastructure projects that promote environmental sustainability.



## Lawrence Harrison

Alumni Member: ShreveCorps

**How did serving as an AmeriCorps member impact your journey?** My involvement with ShreveCorps has truly been transformative. Through active participation in my community, meaningful engagement with others, and hands-on project involvement, I have gained valuable experiences that will stay with me. ShreveCorps has equipped me with the skills to actively contribute to my community, pursue my career goals, and establish meaningful connections with both people and the planet.



## Robby Bethel

Current Member: Second, one-year term

Program: LaVetCorps

**Why do you serve?** My dedication to serving as an AmeriCorps member stems from my lifelong commitment to serving my country, a commitment forged during my time as a United States Army veteran. Since the age of 17, I have viewed my life as a journey of service, recognizing that its significance lies not in what I can achieve for myself, but in the positive impact I can make in the lives of those who require support.

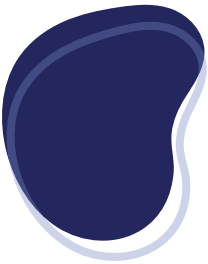


## Regan Bortz

Alumni Member: Teach for America

**How did serving as an AmeriCorps member impact your journey?** The P-TECH program targets underserved and underprivileged students and presents opportunities to kids who might not otherwise have them. Most of my students are first-generation college students and are experiencing the corporate setting for the first time. From my experience as an AmeriCorps member, I can appreciate how life-changing this program can be for students, their families, and future generations. I am often leaning on my experiences and teachings from my time as a AmeriCorps member to ensure I am providing the support my students need.



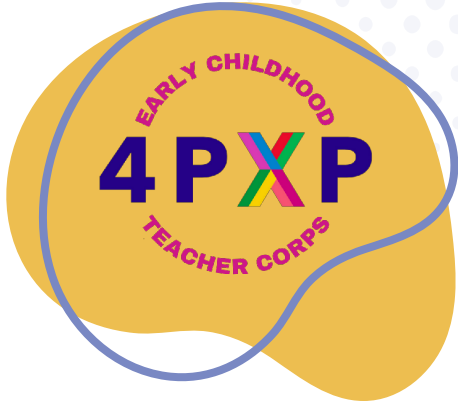


# IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

## FOR PROVIDERS BY PROVIDERS



In 2023, Volunteer Louisiana celebrated a new partnership with For Providers By Providers (4PXP), a collective, independent policy voice for directors and staff of Early Care and Education (ECE) centers serving Louisiana’s low-income children of color. During the 2022-2023 program year, 4PXP participated in a Volunteer Louisiana planning grant to create The Early Childhood Teacher Corps, a program designed to address the critical workforce shortage in early childhood education while providing opportunities for parents, recent graduates, career changers, and others to enter the early education profession through an accelerated program.



As 4PXP begins its inaugural year in October 2023, Early Childhood Teacher Corps members will work as teacher’s assistants in one of six high-quality state-licensed early learning centers in New Orleans, where they will provide targeted support for children under age five focused on developing their literacy, language, and math skills so they are ready for kindergarten.

The program prepares AmeriCorps members for careers in early learning with the ongoing training, coaching, and support needed for personal and professional growth and success post-service. In this first year, the Early Childhood Teacher Corps members seek to serve at least 500 children in high-quality Early Learning Centers.

The Early Childhood Teacher Corps reflects a new AmeriCorps state and national priority announced in August 2023 regarding programs focused on implementing or expanding access to high-quality early learning and those that prepare AmeriCorps members to enter early learning careers.





# DISASTER Services



## Goal Two:

Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of volunteers in times of disaster

Volunteer Louisiana is charged in Louisiana's Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Function (ESF-7) with the coordination of spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers. Volunteer Louisiana is the recipient of a competitive Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant from the AmeriCorps agency. This grant award is applied to increase volunteer capacity for Louisiana's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts with an emphasis on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings.

Volunteer Louisiana's 2022-2023 Disaster Services initiatives focused on the following strategic goals:

- 1) train local volunteers to build community emergency response capacity.
- 2) support new and emerging initiatives targeting youth volunteers and youth preparedness.
- 3) provide resources and support to build the capacity of statewide organizations charged with emergency volunteer management.

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

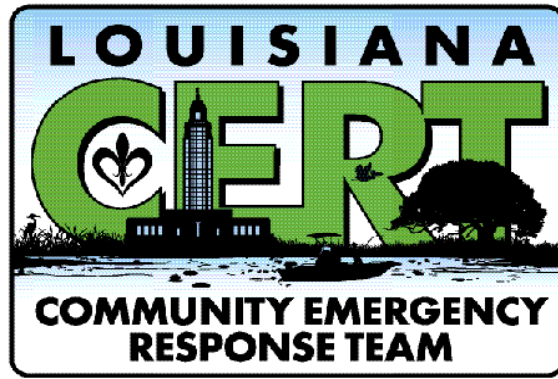


VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

1,286

TOTAL HOURS OF TRAINING

7,081

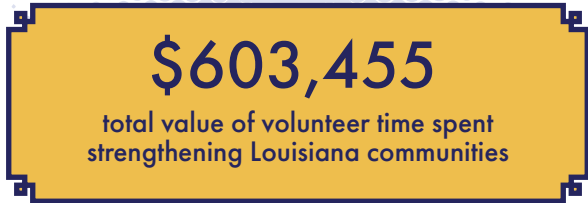


Volunteer Louisiana serves as Louisiana’s CERT Program Coordinator, which is designated by FEMA Region 6 in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). The Louisiana CERT Program is designed to train and organize community volunteer members to 1) be a response asset during times of emergency or disaster; and 2) to be an extension of first responder services until professional responders arrive. Louisiana’s CERT Program includes parish and city CERT and TEEN CERT Teams, as well as University Campus CERT teams.

During the past 5 years, Louisiana CERT Teams have been trained and activated to support professional first responders in their communities to perform:

- Evacuation notifications and assistance
- Operation of community shelters
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support
- Point of Distribution (POD) sites for distribution of sandbags, water, food, donations, etc.
- Community damage assessments
- Notification and evacuation assistance
- Traffic Control
- Wellness Checks

### 2018-2023 5-YEAR PROGRAM IMPACT





# Partnerships & SPECIAL TRAININGS

## Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)

Volunteer Louisiana teamed up with VCOM to train medical students for post-graduate placements in rural medical hospitals across Louisiana. Post-Hurricane Ida, they recognized the need for better disaster response skills. In April 2023, VLA and VCOM launched Louisiana's biggest CERT training. The annual initiative aims to create a pipeline of medical professionals ready to lead in rural communities. Funding supports faculty, staff, and student training, along with customized CERT bags. During disasters, faculty will place medical students in community shelters and the state's special needs facility.

158 medical students successfully completed CERT training, with 89% affirming improved preparedness to serve in rural communities based on VCOM's post-training assessment.



## The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security in New Orleans (NOLA Ready)

Volunteer Louisiana joined forces with emergency managers and local groups to introduce CERT in Village de L'est, a Spanish-speaking community in New Orleans East. Addressing concerns raised by El Pueblo NOLA, the project focuses on high-risk community members facing evacuation fears and language barriers during weather events. VLA will allocate VGF FY23 funding for training, translation services, and resource development for Spanish-speaking disaster volunteers.

- Total Attendees: 37
- 92% of attendees indicated Spanish as their preferred language, and 52% self-reported as Limited English Proficient.
- A noteworthy highlight was the attendance of the Consulate General of Honduras.



## Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Volunteer Louisiana is enhancing capacity in the DDBHH (Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing) community, one of the largest in the United States due to Usher Syndrome. The syndrome is prevalent in Louisiana's Acadian and French ancestry. VLA collaborated with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to establish a statewide DDBHH CERT team. This team, comprised of trained volunteers, collaborates with emergency response professionals to address community needs, share weather warnings and emergency information in ASL, and disseminate accurate information across a private social media network of 600 DDBHH Louisiana residents. VGF FY23 funding will contribute to new training resources for this program to ensure disaster preparedness information is accessible for DDBHH Louisianans.

### DDBHH Training Locations:

- Lafayette
- Lake Charles
- New Orleans
- Shreveport





# Trainers strengthening COMMUNITIES

Elevating Community Impact:

Meet the trainers who play a vital role in empowering others to serve.



*James Colquitt*

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

"As an educator at a medical school, I believe it's my duty to help prepare others by training CERT team members. Additionally, as a fellow community member, it is my responsibility to be prepared myself to respond when my neighbors need support. Getting CERT training allows me to fulfill both roles - educating others and being ready to serve my community in times of disaster. That is why I am actively involved in the CERT program."

*Zack Mitchell*

Iberia Parish  
CERT Team Leader

"Living in an area prone to various natural and man-made disasters such as storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, rail disasters, and chemical events, I recognized the importance of community involvement. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) came to my attention following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It remains the most impactful way for me to serve the community, assist individuals, and contribute to the overall well-being of a large number of people. This is the driving force behind my involvement in CERT."



*Kelly Davis*

Office of State Fire Marshal &  
CERT Trainer

"I actively participate in CERT to address community needs during emergencies and events. There are ongoing opportunities for us to make a positive impact, and I strongly advocate seizing these chances to assist others. My effectiveness as an educator stems from my diverse experiences in various emergency roles, emphasizing the importance of every individual. I aspire to empower others by sharing my insights and knowledge, providing them with the tools to contribute meaningfully to their community."







# Volunteerism



Goal Three:

Build a culture of service and volunteerism in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Volunteer Service Award, bearing the signature of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, acknowledges individuals who exhibit excellence in volunteerism. Eligibility for this award is open to anyone serving in Louisiana. Numerous organizations leverage this recognition to honor exceptional volunteers during celebrations, nonprofit events, or school ceremonies. Organizations or individuals seeking awards may also inquire about lapel pins for volunteers who contribute 150+ hours of service in a calendar year.

688

individuals  
awarded in  
2023



Caleb Rendla  
The Good Food Project



Christine Vaughn  
A Bella LaFemme Society



Shelby Bennett  
HOPE Ministries



# 2023 WINNERS

## Champions of Service

Annually, Volunteer Louisiana recognizes people, groups, or businesses that have made outstanding contributions to their community. One Champion of Service is selected from seven geographic regions throughout the state, along with an AmeriCorps champion and a group champion.

*Hope Bazer*

has been a dedicated volunteer at The Arc Caddo-Bossier's GREAT

Program in **Keithville** for 18 years. The GREAT program offers equine-assisted services to children and adults with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding, equine-assisted learning, and summer camp programs. Hope helps with all aspects of the program, including horse care, leading or side walking during lessons, special projects, workshops, daily operations, and summer camp. Hope is the definition of a team player who is mission-driven, compassionate, and shows integrity and accountability. She is known for being both a source of knowledge and a comforting presence for student participants, volunteers, and program staff.



NORTHWEST CHAMPION

*Christopher LeGuin*

serves as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1809 Commander in **Monroe**. He dedicates his nights and weekends to growing the organization, maintaining its facilities, and hosting veteran events for the community. Chris is known for rallying his officer board to raise funds for the VFW Post's Relief Fund to provide for the needs of local veterans.

Whether it is helping veterans impacted by a natural disaster, organizing a toy drive for families in need, or coordinating volunteers to visit the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home each week, Chris is always ready to lend a hand and proud to have the opportunity to serve others.



NORTHEAST CHAMPION



COUNCILWOMAN

## *Willie Mae Kennedy's*

leadership and others-first mentality are ever-present across the city of **Leesville**. She is known for offering her time, effort, wisdom, and resources to her hometown and surrounding communities. Her volunteer service spans numerous organizations and efforts too numerous to name. Examples include marshaling school supplies for students in Vernon Parish, supporting Jubilee Park and city beautification efforts, keeping alumni connected to historic Vernon High School, visiting seniors in assisted living or patients at Byrd Regional Hospital, and supporting community members in need. In joyful times, routine times, times of commemoration, times of grief, and times of peril, her compassion and love for her community are constantly present through her service to others.

CENTRAL CHAMPION

## *Dr. Lisa Namikas* serves through Catholic Charities of the Diocese

of **Baton Rouge**, where she is known for her fierce and lifelong commitment to helping people fleeing persecution and torture across the globe. Since 2017, Lisa has assisted with the safe arrival of hundreds of refugee families. After the United States pulled out of Afghanistan, Catholic Charities staff were spread across the state supporting hurricane recovery efforts. Lisa stepped in with fresh energy and an uplifting spirit to facilitate the safe arrival of 47 Afghan refugees. She raised funds to house them in furnished apartments and coordinated a team of volunteers to welcome them at the airport. She continues to support the refugee community in getting established in Louisiana.

GREATER CAPITAL AREA  
CHAMPIONGREATER NEW ORLEANS  
CHAMPION

## *Chef Amy Sins*

became determined to pay it forward after losing everything when the levees failed following Hurricane Katrina in **New Orleans**. Recognizing the need for better coordination during the first 14 days after a disaster, she formed the nonprofit organization, "Fill the Needs". The organization provides aid to those affected by natural or man-made disasters. Amy brings a unique approach to humanitarianism using her Southern charm and expertise in food and hospitality. Amy's pay it forward mentality makes Fill the Needs a force for good here in Louisiana and across the globe. Her work as a leader in disaster relief has helped thousands of people and delivered millions in aid to victims of tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and war.





# 2023 WINNERS

## Champions of Service

*Audry Spencer* is a retired educator serving with Empowering the Community for Excellence in **Crowley**. After spending 38 years in the Acadia Parish School System, Audry had a vision of supporting students at risk of not moving on to the next grade. Using her retirement fund, she opened an educational center in her grandmother's two-bedroom home and served 20 students in its first year. Over time, Audry's dedication to volunteerism and commitment to helping children in her community led to the expansion of the center's location and programming. Today, the organization operates a free four-day-a-week after-school program that partners paid certified teachers with at-risk students in small-class settings.



SOUTHWEST CHAMPION

VOLUNTEERISM



SOUTHEAST CHAMPION

*Rose Westphal* has served her community over the last 15 years through the Good Samaritan Ministry in **Slidell**. The all-volunteer organization runs 11 programs assisting with everything from providing basic needs such as diapers, formula, and emergency food to interviewing clients for financial aid to keep utilities connected, evictions prevented, and much more. Rose comes in daily to provide structure, key personnel support, and in-depth knowledge to community clients and a network of over 125 volunteers. Wherever a need exists, Rose is there to provide innovative solutions, compassionate care, and personal connection. Through her dedication to helping others, Rose not only helps vulnerable individuals and families in her community, she inspires and teaches others how to get involved.

*Dimitri Celis*

is a Serve Louisiana AmeriCorps member at Recirculating Farms, a nonprofit collaborative of farmers, educators, and activists committed to building an equitable food system in **New Orleans**. He believes urban agriculture, in all its different forms, is a great way to reconnect people with the environment, healthy food, and their community. Thanks to his thoughtfulness and ability to think outside the box, Recirculating Farms spearheaded an active food collection and redistribution program. The organization now collects unsold or irregular fresh food from markets, farmers, and restaurants and distributes them to community refrigerators or makes it into products that go out to the community members with low healthy food access.



AMERICORPS CHAMPION



VOLUNTEER GROUP CHAMPION

*Rebuilding Terrebonne & Grand Isle Volunteer Team*

Throughout 2022, volunteers working with Bayou Community Foundation’s housing recovery programs in **Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish, and Grand Isle** contributed over 50,000 hours of service to providing repairs and new construction of homes for south Louisiana families who lost everything during Hurricane Ida. Over 350 families are now back in their homes thanks to the tireless efforts and dedication of these volunteers, many of whom were personally affected by the storm themselves. The groups will celebrate several home dedications this spring with plans to support even more families in the future. Together, these volunteers are providing the hearts and hands helping Louisiana revive our bayou communities.



# VOUNTEER LOUISIANA

# Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Judd Jeansonne*

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



*Darren Smith, Jr.*

FISCAL OFFICER



*Breanna Jenkins*

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE



*Jacob Brumfield*

AMERICORPS PROGRAM OFFICER



*Kristi Richardson*

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES



*Lori Pilley*

DISASTER SERVICES SPECIALIST



*Heather Mazeitis-Fontenot*

DISASTER SERVICES SPECIALIST



*Amanda Smith*

9/11

# Day of Service

DAY OF SERVICE

9/11 Day of Service has become a positive way for Americans to “Never Forget” those killed and injured on 9/11/2001, as well as the many who courageously rose in service in response to the attacks.

Volunteer Louisiana staff, in partnership with the Gonzales Chapter of AARP, spent the 9/11 Day of Service at the Ascension Parish Council on Aging to bring awareness to emergency preparedness. Our staff played a unique game of BINGO which featured important items you should have in your natural disaster kit.





# VOUNTEER LOUISIANA

## Commissioners

Kellie Duhon, *Chair*  
Crowley  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana

Sarah Mouton Floyd, *Vice Chair*  
Monroe  
St. Jude Research Hospital-ALSAC

Dr. Suzanne Harris, *Secretary*  
Gonzales  
Louisiana Association of Educators

Matthew LaBorde, *Treasurer*  
Alexandria  
Capitol Funding Solutions

Stefanny Alecon  
New Orleans  
Youth Run NOLA

Karen Burks  
St. Francisville  
Burks Management Firm

Matthew Fairbrother  
Baton Rouge  
Huron Consulting Group

Carissa Graves  
Baton Rouge  
Baton Rouge Area Foundation

Lee Arthur Jeter  
Shreveport  
Fuller Center for Housing of NWLA

Paul Pratt  
Shreveport  
Paul Pratt Allstate Agency

Africa Price  
Shreveport  
Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport

Patricia Prudhomme  
Lake Charles  
CHRISTUS Ochsner SWLA Foundation

Gerren Sias  
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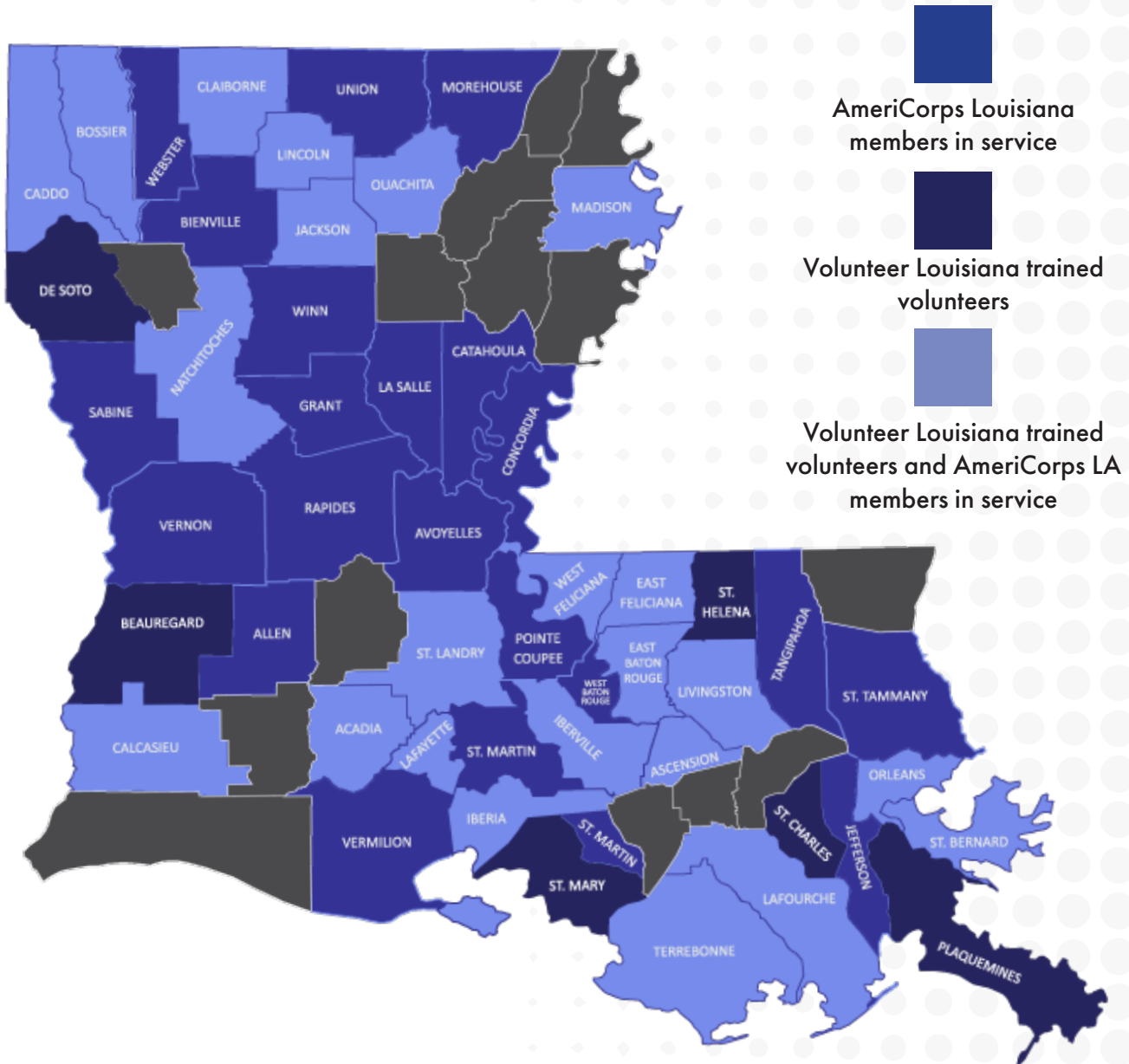
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# Strengthening Communities, EXPANDING IMPACT





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*“Strengthening Louisiana communities through  
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