



St. John United Way

2023-2024

## St. John United Way Agencies & Programs

### **Backpack Extravaganza**

The Backpack Extravaganza is a fun, family friendly, and entertaining communitywide event, held in July each year. 1000 free backpacks, school supplies and hygiene kits are given to St. John the Baptist Parish (East and West Banks) student each year.

### **Boy Scouts of America**

**504-889-0388**

Thanks to the support of St. John United Way, Boy Scouts have expanded their in-school Cub Scout STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math emphasis) to Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School, where they are serving over 60 boys and girls. They are also growing the existing program at 5th Ward Elementary in Reserve to include girls into our Cub Scout STEM program there.

The Scouting program is provided to boys ages 6 to 18 in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Young men and women ages 14 to 20 are offered Exploring and Venturing Scouting programs. All school age youth can participate in classroom centered Learning for Life programs. Core values of citizenship, character development and personal fitness are emphasized.

### **Cancer Association of GNO**

**1-800-624-2039**

Many times, patients find themselves unable to afford necessities and are making tough decisions between needed treatment and household expenses, but because of St. John United Way's funding, patients can stay in their homes and complete needed treatment. By assisting St. John residents with prescriptions, co-pays, and supplies, CAGNO assures that patients are adhering to treatment protocols. Gas cards allow a cancer patient to travel back and forth to their treatment and doctor appointments.

### **Child Advocacy Services**

**985-536-8384**

CASA volunteers give of their time and talents to speak up for children navigating a complex court and child welfare system. Research has shown that children with CASA volunteers receive more services and are less likely to return to the foster care system after their case closes. By having a CASA volunteer on a case, the child has a voice to speak for them in the court. Several children were reunified with their families or obtained a forever home through adoption.

In St. John Parish, CAS CAC partners with the Sheriff's Office who provides forensic interviews for children who have disclosed abuse while the CAC offers all ancillary services including advocacy, clinical services, and prevention education. Clinical services include individual, family, and group counseling on a referral basis to victims, non-offending family members, and outside community members.

### **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

St. John United Way partners with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and our generous donors to provide free books, each month, to their home, that are age appropriate for all St. John Parish kids from age birth to five.

### **Girl Scouts Louisiana East**

**504-733-8220**

Girl Scouts helps prepare girls for future roles as professional women and active citizens. Today, the Girl Scouts is the foremost organization for leadership development of girls ages 5 to 18 in St. John the Baptist Parish. The program model, known as the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, is designed for girls to take the lead and make decisions, steer their own course, and exercise leadership in a variety of arenas (including STEM).

### **GNO Therapeutic Riding**

**504-466-9960**

Therapeutic horseback Riding, also known as Equine Assisted Therapy or Equine Facilitated Therapy, is the use of the horse and equine-oriented activities to achieve a variety of therapeutic goals, including cognitive, physical, emotional, social, educational, and behavioral goals. The 3-dimensional movement of the horse most closely resembles the human walking gait, and individuals who don't walk or don't walk well get normalized input and retrains the brain.

### **Louisiana Splash and Water Safety**

**225-328-6084**

Louisiana Splash and Water Safety provides water safety classes, swim lessons, and water aerobics and water activities for all ages and abilities. They target special needs, adults, kids, first responders and water safety consulting.

### **Metropolitan Centers for Community Advocacy**

**504-837-5400**

Metro provides wrap-around services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Metro uses the trauma-informed care framework which ensures that all survivors receive understanding/response to the symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress, coping/protective strategies, and the behavioral and mental effects of trauma. Survivors receive services that are non-blaming and are led to make choices to determine the best course of action for their future lives.

Metro has three safe housing units available to Metro's clients only. Assisting survivors in becoming self-sufficient requires a multi-faceted approach through the progression from shelter to independent living, requires that survivors reach a level of stabilization (in Metro's emergency shelter) after the trauma they have experienced, are able to locate jobs and can find affordable, safe housing. The three safe housing units provide the survivors with the time they need to reach independence.

### **New Wine Development Corporation/Kids on the Move STEM**

**985-653-0008**

New Wine Development Corporation's Emergency and Transitional Housing program has impacted the St. John the Baptist Parish community by providing safe housing for individuals that found themselves in dire need, as they were without adequate housing. This program has also provided a means by which clients have been able to secure gainful employment within the community and contribute to the viability of the Parish at large.

New Wine Development Corporation's Before & Aftercare STEM program is designed to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to students attending St. John the Baptist Parish schools, specifically, those 5 to 13 years of age.

### **Red Cross**

**985-785-0647**

Red Cross workers are on-call day and night, 365 days a year, ready to rush to the aid of neighbors in St. John the Baptist Parish affected by disaster. The Red Cross provides individual assistance in the aftermath of a home fire or other disaster. We also focus on preparedness such as community home fire detector canvassing and The Pillowcase Project, an educational program for children in grades 3 - 5, which teaches students about personal and family preparedness, local hazards, and basic coping skills.

### **River Parish Community Theatre**

**985-785-0971**

Cultivates an appreciation of the performing arts, educates through experience, and fosters a reciprocal commitment to the community to ensure longevity of arts in the area.

### **Second Harvest of GNO**

**504-734-1322**

No one deserves to be hungry or wonder if they will eat something today. The clients who receive meals through Second Harvest's programs often have little or no resources to feed themselves and their loved ones outside of the support provided by Second Harvest and our partners.

### **Special Olympics Louisiana**

**985-345-6644**

Special Olympics Louisiana (SOLA) - Bayouland St. John - Sports & Competition is committed to providing year-round Sports & Competition opportunities for those with and without intellectual disabilities through Local, Area & State sporting events.

### **St. John Ministry of Care**

**985-652-2729**

The Ministry of Care Assistance program provides temporary crisis assistance to families living in St. John Parish in the areas of Utility Assistance, Food Assistance, Medicine Assistance, Rental Assistance & Referrals to other agencies.

### **St. John Theatre**

**985-635-6630**

Funds support the St. John Theatre Workshops to expose low- income kids to the performing arts. Through this exposure they become more confident and expressive. These are qualities that will enhance their personal and academic pursuits, causing each child to become a well-rounded member of the community.

### **VIA Link 211**

**(Dial 211)**

This program provides health and human services related information and referrals, crisis intervention and suicide prevention counseling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including help in times of disasters and emergencies. Callers are referred to appropriate community resources to meet their needs.

### **St. John the Baptist 4-H**

**225-578-4161**

4-H offers opportunities for youth to grow and learn more about themselves and the world around them. 4-H offers youth the opportunity to attend camps and conferences within the parish, as well as across the state and country. Youth can receive awards, honors, and scholarships for their hard work during their 4-H career.