



St. John United Way

2022-2023

St. John United Way Agencies & Programs

Back to School Backpack Giveaway

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

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

Many times, patients find themselves unable to afford basic necessities and are making tough decisions between needed treatment and household expenses, but because of St. John United Way's funding, patients are able to 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 allows a cancer patient travel back and forth to their treatment and doctor appointments.

Child Advocacy Services

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

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

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

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

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 provides the survivors with the time they need to reach independence.

Modesty

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving ladies in South Louisiana with a mission to Restore Lives, Meet Needs, and Bring Change. "Redefine" supports their mentorship and leadership programs as well as enrichment classes. The mentorship program caters to the development of junior high and high school aged young ladies.

New Wine Development Corporation/STEM

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.

NFL Character Playbook

The National Football League (NFL) and St. John United Way are partnering by making Character Playbook, a digital resource educating students about healthy relationships, available to all St. John Public schools free of charge. Designed for students in grades seven through nine, Character Playbook, developed and administered by digital education leader EVERFI, reports that over the past three years, nearly 500,000 middle school students, nationwide, have accessed the curriculum for personal development. The course has also raised students' expectations about healthy relationship dynamics. Upon completion of the course, most students say they feel prepared to play a positive role in their communities whether by stepping in to help someone who is being treated with disrespect or by taking an active role in conflict resolution. Additionally, schools that teach character education report higher academic performance, improved attendance, reduced violence, have fewer disciplinary issues, a reduction in substance abuse and less vandalism.

Red Cross

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.

Second Harvest of GNO

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. With 7,790 individuals, including 2,350 children, struggling with hunger in St. John Parish each year, Second Harvest and our 5 St. John Parish Food Distribution Program partners are helping ensure the hungry members of our community have access to the nutrition they need when they would otherwise go without. During a quarter' reporting period, Second Harvest distributes 107,959 lbs of food - the equivalent of 89,966 meals - to 1,294 food insecure individuals, children, and seniors through our Food Distribution Program.

Special Olympics Louisiana

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 Counseling Solutions

Counseling Solutions provides affordable mental health counseling to individuals seeking therapy but may not be able to afford it. The program utilizes master's level, licensed professional counselors as well as provisionally licensed professional counselors to provide these much-needed services in St. John Parish. Counseling Solutions provides treatment services aimed at assisting community members in dealing with a variety of mental health, emotional, and relational difficulties.

St. John Ministry of Care

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

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.

STEM - St. John Parish

The greatest strength of the STEM ST. JOHN program is that it is developed to be culturally, and environmentally relevant by using project-based STEM activities, and hands-on designed learning to Expose, Inspire, and Engage students in grades K-12. By engaging college students, specializing in STEM-Based studies, as well as corporate volunteers as instructors and mentors, K-12 students are afforded the opportunity to see themselves as STEM-Based career participants.

The Arc of St. Charles

The Custodial/Respite Care program provides support to individuals in St. John who need additional support to maintain residency in their own home or family home in their community. The services consist of personal care, bathing, dressing, grooming, meal preparation, laundry, general housekeeping and cleaning, transporting to medical appointments, local retail stores, grocery shopping, socialization activities, prescription pick-ups, paying bills, and medication reminders if needed.

VIA Link 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.

Volunteers of America

This program provides labor and materials to build wheelchair ramps and home accessibility repairs for low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of St. John Parish. Residents are referred to the program through the Council on Aging and Ms. Lemons with St. John Parish Health and Human Services Department.