NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
LIFTED BY LOVE

FEATURING:
“PASSION BEHIND LEADERSHIP”
BY EMPOWERED

WHAT’S GOING ON
WITH OUR MEMBERS
The TGMC Wellness for Life team will work with you to keep your greatest asset, your employees, healthy and happy! Our Corporate Wellness Program will help control rising healthcare costs by improving your employees overall health, which leads to a more productive workforce and a boost in morale. Having a wellness program in place has also been proven to reduce absenteeism, injury and illness. Onsite wellness screenings could be covered by your health insurance at 100% with NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE!

Think differently about employee health and happiness.

Call 985.850.6208 or visit TGMC.com
FEBRUARY:

2/2  CHAMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
    Chamber Office/Virtual | Noon

2/9  CHAMBER SMALL BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING
    Chamber Office/Virtual | 9:00 a.m.

2/11 VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN
    Small Business Tax Preparation Workshop featuring LaPorte CPA’s & Business Advisors
    11:20 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2/15 TWO-WAY FASHION ANNIVERSARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
    7704 West Main Street, Houma | 10:00 a.m.

2/16 HAPPY MARDI GRAS!
    Chamber Office Closed

2/23 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING
    Chamber Office/Virtual | 8:00 a.m.

2/23 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
    Featuring Billy Nungessor, Louisiana Lieutenant Governor
    The Marriott of Houma, 142 Library Drive | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information about any Chamber event
    call (985) 876-5600 or email info@houmachamber.com.
    Please visit www.houmachamber.com to register and to keep updated on any changes.
    Please note all event details are subject to change depending on current COVID restrictions
    and the Chamber always abides by restriction guidelines.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Happy February! In this issue, read about passion in your business from Tonya Harris,
motivational speaker and owner of EmpowHERed, learn about Lifted By Love in the New Member Spotlight, keep up with our members in the member news section, and see what’s coming up with the Chamber!

Due to popular demand, The Chamber Cornhole Challenge will be a semi-annual fundraising event! Team and sponsorship opportunities are now available! Visit www.houmachamber.com or call (985) 876-5600 to register.
Meet a CASA: Kim Eubanks

Kimberly “Kim” Eubanks is a CASA volunteer who swore in on May 17, 2019. Since that time, she has advocated on two separate cases for two different children. Kim is an absolute joy to be around! She is always looking for new educational opportunities to further her role as a CASA volunteer. She has attended conferences in the past and raves about all the “golden” information that she is able to obtain. When it comes to her case work, she is thorough and precise, and she is willing to go above and beyond for her CASA children.

Kim was born in Johnson City, Tennessee but grew up in Myfield, Kentucky. She has been in Houma for about 38 years. Kim is married to Sloan Eubanks. She has two adult children: Aaren who is 33 and Ian who is 31. She is also the owner of a beloved basset hound and 3 cats. Kim is a self-proclaimed animal lover who volunteers for the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter on Sundays to clean and play with the cats at Petsmart. In her spare time, she is an avid reader, loves music and loves traveling. Kim also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. When Kim is not busy volunteering or enjoying her past times, she also works fulltime as a clinical laboratory scientist at Ochsner St. Mary in Morgan City. Even during this past year of uncertainty and being on the frontlines, she continued to make CASA a top priority. For that we honor and thank her!

Kim says that she became a CASA because she wanted to be proactive in helping the children of our community. She has known about CASA for many years and she felt that it was time for her to be “boots on the ground”. She states: “I never imagined how CASA would improve my own life. I treasure the education I have received, the camaraderie of all the outright heroes that play a part and I have come to the humbling understanding that one person can indeed make a difference in a child’s life.”

Just like Kim, you can be the voice of a child in foster care. For more details, contact CASA of Terrebonne at 985-876-0250 or visit our website at www.casaofterrebonne.org. Start dates for 2021 Training: 4/13/2021, 7/13/2021, and 10/5/2021.

Fletcher Signs Agreement with Assumption Parish School Board

The Assumption Parish School Board and Fletcher Technical Community College recently signed an agreement that gives students attending high school in Assumption Parish the opportunity to access Fletcher’s educational and training programs. This means a student can potentially graduate from high school having earned an Associate’s Degree, Technical Diploma, or industry-based certification from Fletcher.

“We are thrilled to partner with Assumption Parish schools in providing opportunities for students to complete a certificate, technical diploma, or associate degree while in high school,” commented Fletcher Chancellor, Dr. Kristine Strickland. “We would like to thank Superintendent Barthelemy for recognizing the value of a Fletcher education to the students in Assumption Parish and look forward to recognizing our first graduate.”

Kimberly Eubanks

Superintendent of Assumption Parish Schools John Barthelemy, and Fletcher Technical Community College Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland after signing the agreement during the regular meeting of the school board on January 6, 2021.
"If you can’t figure out your purpose, figure out your passion.
For your passion will lead you right into your purpose. – Bishop TD Jakes."

Follow Your Heart

Great leadership is driven by PASSION! And my passion to lead others is driven by excitement, commitment, obsession and strong convictions to nurture and connect with women in leadership. It is the sole purpose of the creation of Empow-HERed’s aim is to build a network of women leaders who desire to empower, engage and strengthen their leadership abilities and influence in the workplace and community.

Passion is following your heart and following your heart gives you a sense of purpose to fulfill your desires to achieve and pursue goals far greater than you can ever imagine. Passion is organic and makes work not feel like work. It is derived from a very special place in your heart and is driven by the overwhelming desire to achieve your goals. Passion is innate; just as your heartbeat and it fuels confidence and leads to success. If you follow your heart, passion exudes.

As a registered nurse of 29 years, I’ve always had a passion to adhere to the needs of others. I’m a natural born leader with an inherent affinity to connect with others. Throughout my 15 plus years of corporate, community and organizational leadership experience, I’ve learned that my profound fervor for leadership, professional and personal development inherently drives my energy, inspiration and love to learn, grow and develop. My passion is Leadership Development, it leads my pathway and excites my journey. Leadership is not my job, it’s my passion!

Follow your heart; as your heart houses your passion!

Tonya S Harris, RN BSN
CEO/Founder of EmpowHERed
http://empowerhered.org/
#BeEmpowerHERed #FollowYourHeart #Passion
Happy Valentine’s Day!
For this month, we’re excited to introduce a non-profit New Member that has an amazing mission. Let’s get to know Co-Founders Amanda Oden and Carl Cavalier and the heart behind the organization.

Lifted By Love is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides non-stigmatizing support to teen mothers in Louisiana who are in foster care, homeless, and/or considered at-risk youth ages 13-21. It is their goal to prevent recurrent teen pregnancies to teen mothers in our community and ultimately stop neglect and/or abuse to babies born to teen moms. They were founded in August 2016 in response to the need and lack of resources for teen mothers and their babies. They are located at 7705 Park Ave Houma and currently have 2 full-time employees, 2 interns, and an abundance of volunteers. Since the organization was founded, they have been able to host baby showers for numerous teen mothers that are in the foster care system providing essentials such as strollers, car seats, diapers, wipes, clothes. Additionally, during COVID-19, they have scaled their services to the entire community and hosted a COVID-19 Initiative in March, where they have distributed over 10,000 baby items that include diapers, wipes, formula, and baby water. Also, they have distributed 2,000 lunches to members in the community. Due to the hardship on families that were forced to return their children to traditional school in August, they hosted a Back-to-School Birthday Bash to celebrate their fourth year in business. At the celebration, they distributed 140 school backpacks filled with school supplies, underwear, t-shirts, and socks for grades pre-k-12th grade. To make this organization even more amazing, they have secured a state license to operate a residential facility which will house teen mothers and their children who meet the criteria!

Amanda was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She studied Sociology at Xavier University in New Orleans which led her to the field of social services. She has been in the field since 2013 and wanted to further explore new ways to service the community. She went on to receive a master’s degree in Social Work in 2016 from Southern University at New Orleans. After graduating, she and Carl
saw a need for Lifted By Love. She’s the Executive Director for the organization and she says that being able to touch many lives in a unique yet intimate way is the most rewarding part of her career. The most challenging part of their mission is not being able to help everyone at the capacity they need.

Carl was born and raised in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. He studied Criminal Justice at Jackson State University which led him to his current career path with the Louisiana State Police. He later co-founded Lifted By Love and acts as President of the organization who wears many hats. He says the most rewarding parts of his position is having that amazing feeling of helping others, and like his co-founder, the most challenging part of the organization is not having enough to give sometimes.

Their clients love that their services are uniquely tailored to meet specific needs. They want their clients to know that they strive to meet them wherever they are in life and provide based on their needs, not based on one way, because they recognize each situation is intimately unique.

Their vision for Lifted By Love is to spread truth about the struggles that teen mothers face and how it in turn affects the care of their children that causes repeat cycles of neglect. They wish to prevent that by providing resources like parenting education, transitional housing, and non-stigmatizing support. They invested in the Chamber because they want to connect with a variety of community businesses and bring awareness to our community about the needs of our next generation. They wish for their investment in the Chamber to allow opportunities for help by spreading awareness and create community partnerships that will give teen mothers the opportunity to thrive in our community. They plan to maximize their investment as much as possible to not only carry out their mission, but the vision of the Chamber to help strengthen our community. “We believe there is a strength in numbers.” Thank you, Lifted By Love, for what you do! Want to find out more or how you can help their mission? Visit Liftedbylove.org or call (985) 262-5172 to help their cause today!
Bishop Fabre Announces Pastoral Appointments

After consultation with the priests’ personnel board of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Bishop Shelton J. Fabre is pleased to announce the following appointments as effective January 15, 2021:

REV. DANIEL DULPLANTIS, who has served as Associate Pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas since July 2019, has been appointed as Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Francis de Sales in Houma.

REV. BRETT LAPEYROUSE, who has served as Associate Pastor of Saint Genevieve Catholic Church in Thibodaux since July 2019, has been appointed as Associate Pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Thibodaux and assist with their weekend Masses.

In addition, VERY REV. MARK TOUPS is serving as Pastor of Our Lady of the Isle Church in Grand Isle so that Rev. Toups might have more time dedicated to the renewal of the priesthood. Bishop Fabre is pleased to announce today that he has approved Rev. Toups for six months of sabbatical and further study during the year of 2021 so that Rev. Toups may be free for writing with regards to the ongoing formation for priests. He will remain Vicar General and Pastor of Our Lady of the Isle in Grand Isle. Due to the uncertainties of COVID restrictions, Rev. Toups’ six months of sabbatical and further study will be during the year of 2021, but exact dates will be determined later.

REV. JOSEPH TREGRE, who has served as Pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Houma since July 2019, has been appointed as Associate Pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Morgan City.

REV. BILLY VELASCO, who has served as Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Francis de Sales in Houma since July 2019, has been appointed as Associate Pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Morgan City.

In ADDITION, on the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Bishop Fabre promulgated Plans of Hope, a strategic plan designed for the renewal of parish life. An intricate piece of the strategic plan calls for the ongoing renewal of the priesthood.

Thus, Bishop Fabre is pleased to announce today his desire for intentional support to priests.

To that end, Bishop Fabre has appointed REV. PATRICK RIVIERE as Director of the Office of the Priesthood. Rev. Riviere has been serving as Liaison and Priest Specialist for the Office of Parish Support and Associate Pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church. Rev. Riviere will now serve the Office of Parish Support, as well as Director of the Office of the Priesthood, on a full-time basis. He will live at St. Thomas Aquinas in Thibodaux and assist with their weekend Masses.

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CIS Completes First Procedure in New Ambulatory Surgery Center

Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) completed the first outpatient procedure today in its new Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) located at 191 Innovation Ct, Ste B in Gray, La. The peripheral angiogram was performed by world-renowned interventional cardiologist, Dr. Craig Walker.

A first-of-its-kind in the region, the CIS Ambulatory Surgery Center was built with patients and their families in mind and offers the community innovative outpatient procedures in a convenient and comfortable setting. This same-day surgical care, including diagnostic and treatment procedures, is a lower-cost alternative to a hospital-based stay.

The facility includes two catheterization laboratories equipped for interventional procedures to treat coronary disease, as well as peripheral artery disease and venous disease in the legs. It also includes a cardiovascular clinic for patient follow-up appointments.

“It has been my life’s mission to return home to South Louisiana to establish a world-class cardiovascular program for our area,” said Dr. Craig Walker, native of Bourg and founder of Cardiovascular Institute of the South in 1983. “Over decades, our focus has not wavered, and CIS is now recognized as a leader in cardiovascular care throughout the world.”

“This state-of-the-art Ambulatory Surgery Center and Office-Based Lab is another giant step in achieving my life-long dream. It is equipped with the best available imaging and treatment tools, and the staff is hand-picked. This center was created to achieve our goals of improving patient access, comfort, and convenience as well as decreasing cost and risk of infection.”

Within the opening week, CIS physicians and staff will complete about 10 cardiovascular procedures at the ASC, and that number is expected to grow exponentially in next few months. A formal ribbon-cutting event will take place in the near future. To learn more about the ASC or find a CIS cardiologist or location near you, visit www.cardio.com.
Danos Family Foundation Supports Renovation of Talbot Hall, Theater Signage

The Danos Family Foundation will help Nicholls State University renovate Talbot Hall and provide signage for the Mary and Al Danos Theater.

As part of the $233,000 gift, the nonprofit—composed of siblings Rene, Alyce, Andre, and Marcel Danos—will make the final payment on a 2016 $1 million commitment to support the theater named for their parents and the academic programs that benefit from it.

“With this donation, we have completed our dad’s last official task and dream for the Mary and Al Danos Theater,” Rene said. “This is a very proud moment for our family and the foundation. Daddy was always looking toward our dad’s last official task and dream for the academic programs that benefit from it.

It has been wonderful to see a project that meant so much to Mr. Al and Ms. Mary come to fruition,” said Monique Crochet, executive director of external affairs. “Their children have taken on their legacy and with their support, we can ensure that the Mary and Al Danos Theater is crisp, clean and state-of-the-art for years to come.” To donate or for more information visit http://nichollsfoundation.org/.

Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center Addresses Food Insecurity With Holiday Food Boxes Donated Through Employee Giving Program

Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center distributed 55 holiday food boxes to those in need on Dec. 18 with the help of donations from the organization’s employee giving program, Partners of Hope.

The holiday food boxes included food items such as turkey, canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables. Patients who needed food assistance were identified and provided food through donations from Partners of Hope.

“Thanks to the generosity of team members through gifts to Partners of Hope, we banded together across all Mary Bird Perkins’ locations this holiday season to address food insecurity and provide patients with a special holiday meal,” said Danielle Mack, vice president and chief development officer, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. “To see our team go above and beyond every day to fulfill our mission to improve survivorship and lessen the burden of cancer in so many ways is both humbling and inspiring.”

Throughout the year, donations from the Partners of Hope program are utilized to help fund key patient support programs, including transportation, food security, patient navigation, nutritional counseling and other services.

Mary and Al Danos Theater is crisp, clean and state-of-the-art for years to come.” To donate or for more information visit http://nichollsfoundation.org/.

Girls on the Run Bayou Region Needs Volunteer Coaches to Lead Girls

Girls on the Run Bayou Region Coach Registration is now open! Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires girls in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy and confident. The ten-week program incorporates running to teach critical life skills, encourage personal development and foster team building and community service. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons.

The Bayou Region Council is excited to announce that the program is back this spring with a community site at Bayou Country Sports Park in Houma. Coaches will lead girls at various dates and times in this great new location, with the season beginning on February 22. After being unable to host in-person teams for the last ten months, our program is in need of dedicated volunteers to bring this transformative program back to young girls in the community.

Emma Thibodeaux, a student at Mulberry Elementary says, “One of the things I like most about Girls on the Run is that it builds self-respect by teaching us to believe in ourselves and stand up for ourselves. We support and encourage each other to be the best version of ourselves that we can be.”

Volunteer coaches facilitate lessons to small teams of girls who typically meet after-school twice a week for 75-90 minutes. The program culminates with all teams participating in a celebratory 5K event. Individuals must be at least eighteen years old to serve as an assistant coach or at least twenty-one years old to serve as a head coach. Volunteer coaches do not need to be runners but must complete a background check and participate in on-line and in-person training.

Girls on the Run Bayou Region’s spring Coach Registration is now open. For more information or to sign up to coach, visit www.gotrbayouregion.org/Coach.
Renters May be Eligible for FEMA Disaster Assistance

If you are a renter in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard or Terrebonne parish and sustained damage or losses from Hurricane Zeta, you may be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

These six parishes were named in a disaster declaration signed by President Trump Jan. 12. If the house or apartment you are renting is your primary residence and is in one of these parishes, you should register with FEMA to apply for grants to help with disaster-related expenses, such as:

- Renting a different dwelling when the formerly occupied one is unsafe to live in due to the hurricane;
- Hurricane-related medical and dental expenses;
- Increased cost of child-care expenses;
- Moving and storage fees;
- Replacement of repair of necessary personal property lost or damaged in the hurricane, such as appliances and furniture, textbooks and computers used by students, and work equipment or tools used by independent contractors;
- Repair or replacement of hurricane-damaged vehicles;
- Hurricane-related funeral and burial expenses, and
- Other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

Rental grants may be used for security deposits, rent and the cost of essential utilities—such as gas or water. The grants may not be used to pay for separate cable or Internet service.

The grants are not loans and don’t have to be repaid. They are not taxable income and won’t affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or other public assistance programs.

If you have renter’s insurance, you should call your insurance agent to start the claims process before you contact FEMA.

There are three ways to apply for federal disaster assistance:

- Visit DisasterAssistance.gov;
- Use the FEMA mobile app, or
- Call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY) 800-462-7585 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available.

Registration deadline is March 15, 2021.

Renters who face eviction or have been evicted from their storm-damaged apartment complex—whether their unit had damage or not—may be eligible for disaster assistance. Renters who have already registered for federal assistance and were evicted after they registered due to damage to other parts of their complex should call the FEMA Helpline.

Renters may also qualify for long-term, low-interest loans of up to $40,000 from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans may be used to cover the cost of repairing or replacing essential hurricane-damaged personal property.

For information, visit SBA.gov/disaster, call 800-659-2955 (TTY 800-877-8339).

Brocato Family First to Join Athletics Naming Campaign

Sal and Lisa Brocato are the first to donate to the new Nicholls Athletics campaign to name spaces within the Bouchvall Family Athletic Complex. As a result of their generous support, the coaches’ locker room within the facility will be named The Brocato Family Coaches Locker Room, pending approval by the UL Board of Supervisors. The Brocatos, whose son, Dominic, is a long snapper on the football team, said they have been overwhelmed by the support from the Nicholls community over the last three seasons and were inspired to give back.

“When this opportunity came up, we knew we had to get involved. We jumped at the chance to be able to not only help the current student-athletes but student-athletes decades into the future,” Sal said. “That’s what we’re all about is helping people out. And helping Nicholls win more conference championships.”

Lisa added, “We are so happy to give back to a university that has given so much to us. We want to pay it forward and help everyone who will be here after our son has graduated.”

Earlier this month, the Nicholls State University Foundation and Colonel Athletic Association announced the joint campaign to provide for current and future needs within the athletic programs. The campaign will run alongside the construction of the athletic complex and expansion of Barker Hall. The $6.9 million project is expected to be complete before the Fall 2021 season.

“The support of the Brocato family speaks volumes to us, and it shows how far we can go with the help of our community,” said Jonathan Terrell, Nicholls athletic director. “The Brocatos not only fell in love with the football team but the whole university. This is so inspiring, and their support is going to leave a mark on our program and give back to our future Colonels.”

The goal of the campaign will be to name all areas of the new facility in an effort to raise funds. This will allow Nicholls Athletics to invest a portion into an endowment and use the other funds for upkeep and maintenance within the department.

Each new room or area of the Bouchvall Family Athletic Complex may be named after an individual, family or business as per guidelines set forth by the state of Louisiana, Nicholls State University and the Donor Gifts Agreement. The opportunity will allow donors to pay off their investment over a five-year period, and the naming rights to the space for 15 years.

Construction of the athletic complex will benefit every sport at Nicholls by building a football operations center behind the south end zone of John L. Guidry Stadium and expanding the existing Barker Hall.

For more information or to donate, contact Jeremy Becker, foundation executive director, at 448-4006 or jeremy.becker@nicholls.edu, or Katlyn Callahan, assistant athletic director of external affairs, at 448-4010 or katlyn.callahan@nicholls.edu.

Since 1972, locally owned Terminix Pest Control of Houma has proudly served Bayou Region businesses and residents. Put our power to work fighting all pests—from termites and mice to roaches and crazy ants. Call the Bayou Team, Dan and Billy Foster, today for a FREE inspection and a FREE quote to make your home or business pest-free!

Chamber Member for 36 Years
Thibodaux Regional
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50 TOP
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thibodaux.com/about-us/awards