ARTICLE:
HOPE EXTREME HAS A HEART FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH

CHAMBER CORNHOLE PHOTOS

Tell your Story
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
APRIL:
4/27  GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
The Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive, Houma | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon

MAY:
5/3  13TH ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC
Tee Off 11:00 a.m.
Ellendale Country Club, 3319 Highway 311, Houma
5/4  CHAMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Chamber Office/Virtual | 12:00 Noon
5/9  HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY
5/11 CHAMBER SMALL BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Chamber Office/Virtual | 9:00 a.m.
5/11 “CULTIVATING CONNECTION: STARTING THE CONVERSATION AROUND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION” WORKSHOP
Featuring Steven H. Kenney, Jr., AVP for Human Resources / Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Theodore Duhe Center, Nicholls State University, 235 Civic Center Boulevard, Houma
5/11 CHAMBER GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Chamber Office/Virtual | 9:00 a.m.
5/14 GULF SOUTH RISK SERVICES RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
250 Barrow Street, Houma | 12:00 Noon
5/19 CHAMBER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Chamber Office/Virtual | 12:00 Noon
5/25 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
Featuring Lori LeBlanc, VP of LMOGA and Executive Director of GEST
The Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive, Houma | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
5/31 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY
Chamber Office closed

**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.**

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Happy May! Not only does this month bring us Mother’s Day and Memorial Day, it is also National Share a Story Month and National Young Achievers of Tomorrow Month. In this issue, we highlight Hope Extreme since they have a heart for our community. Also, check out photos from our Semi-Annual Cornhole Challenge and read what is going on with our Chamber Members!
Meet a CASA: Kathleen Andrews

This month we would like to introduce you to Mrs. Kathleen Andrews. She has been a CASA since March 2020. She was one of the super troopers who swore in right before we all went into lockdown. She has been assigned to a six-year-old boy. Even though she has not been able to visit as often as she would like because of the pandemic, she has been able to form a bond with him.

Kathleen has been married to her husband, Howard Andrews, for 23 years. She has two sons from a previous marriage, Christopher and Kerry Quave. She also has four grandchildren; three grand-daughters aged 13, 10, and six, and one grandson age six. Kathleen was born and raised in New York state. She moved to Houma in 1976 at the age of 19. She was back and forth from New York to Houma during this time. She also spent time in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. She moved back to Houma permanently in 2007. She is currently working as a long-term substitute teacher at Bayou Blue Elementary.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading and solving word search-es. A fun fact about Kathleen is that she enjoys singing and sometimes she writes music.

Kathleen states that she chose to volunteer for CASA because she wanted to volunteer and help children. She says, at first she was very nervous but with the help of Sulma, her supervisor, she developed more confidence in her role. Her greatest hope is that children are in homes where they are loved and the parents put them first.

Just like Kathleen, 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.


Fletcher Surpasses $2 Million In Savings for Students

The Louisiana Library Network (LOUIS), a program of the Louisiana Board of Regents, recently announced $26.8 million in reported savings for higher education students in Louisiana since 2012 by using Affordable Education Resources (AERs), Open Educational Resources (OERs), and other open access materials. Since 2015, Fletcher Technical Community College has saved students over $2 million by using open educational resources. An interactive display of Fletcher’s student savings and impact is available at https://louislibraries.org/alearning.

“I am so proud to be a part of a team that works so diligently to reduce costs of course materials for students,” commented Jodi Duet, MLIS, Director of Library Services at Fletcher. “Through OER and AER efforts, the faculty and staff at Fletcher have proven that affordability and access are priorities, and we will continue to work to increase the savings for our students.”

Fletcher began using OER in 2015 with the adoption of a no-cost, open textbook for Freshmen Studies. Since 2015, Fletcher has been involved with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System e-learning Innovation Fund and Affordable Learning Louisiana projects. Affordable Learning Louisiana is led by LOUIS, The Louisiana Library Network. LOUIS partners libraries and faculty to save students money through the use of OER and AER.

OERs are openly licensed materials that are used for educational purposes. OERs often replace the student textbook entirely, and can be free resources or low-cost resources. These resources can be used for teaching and learning and can be adapted and redistributed. Faculty who adopt an OER for their course can ensure that students have first-day access to the course materials at little or no cost to them.

AERs are a single or collection of required educational resources that may be offered at no or low cost to a student through a post-secondary education institution or an affiliated college bookstore at a pre-sales tax cost to a student that does not exceed an amount equal to four times the federal minimum wage. AER includes copyright-protected material purchased by a library and provided to a student at no cost.
Nicholls ESports Partners with Stratify

Nicholls State University is thrilled to announce a partnership between Stratify and the Nicholls Esports Team.

Jason Bergeron, CEO of Stratify, will provide a $10,000 in-kind partnership by lending his expertise and guidance to the newly formed competitive gaming squad. Stratify is a business consulting company with a mission to “drive economic growth one opportunity at a time.”

Bergeron has decades of experience in leadership, information technology and strategic solutions. He says he is particularly excited because it was his interest in gaming that got his career started.

“An initiative like this provides a future for our youth along with possible economic development opportunities,” Bergeron said. “Our region needs to look at innovative opportunities like this along with technology to help solidify our future. This cause is personally important to me.”

Nicholls Esports was first created in January 2021. The team will compete in the College Call of Duty League this year, with the intent of competing in new games in the future.

“I am excited with this collaboration,” said Elizabeth Layton, access services librarian with Ellender Memorial Library and coach of the Esports team. “This will give us a great opportunity to not only have someone that can speak the language of gaming but also to build bonds within the community.”

Momentum for the program is moving fast. During the 2021 Give-N-Day, the newly formed organization raised $18,725, the second-highest amount ever for Give-N-Day.

“Not every partnership has to have a monetary component. Here, Jason is going to be lending his leadership, consultation experience and passion for gaming to these students,” said Jeremy Becker, executive director of the Nicholls Foundation. “A university is at its best when it can combine social experiences with academic knowledge. These students will have the opportunity to learn from a local business and community leader as members of this team.” Other organizations interested in assisting can reach out to Bergeron at info@rustratified.com.

TFAE Selects New Executive Director

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence is a nonprofit organization dedicated to positively affecting academic achievement and to fundamentally improving education for the students in the Terrebonne Parish Public School System. After an intensive search, the foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Ashlee Champagne Barahona as its new executive director. The foundation selected Ashlee after an extensive search led by members of the executive board.

We are pleased to have Ashlee join us as Executive Director for TFAE. Her broad experience in non-profit management, fundraising and marketing make her ideally suited to lead the Foundation during these challenging times for our public school system. We are excited for the ideas and opportunities her vast knowledge base will deliver for the betterment of public education for the children of Terrebonne Parish.

Ashlee Champagne Barahona joins the foundation after 10-years of work with the United Way for South Louisiana. She has extensive knowledge in marketing, public relations, leadership, business development and fundraising having had the opportunity to lead corporate, and employee giving campaigns. She is particularly proud of her work organizing big and small fundraisers and working alongside committee members in the community to raise over a million dollars every year.

Mrs. Barahona also served on Leadership Terrebonne’s Executive Board, serving from 2010 to 2015. “I am a proud public-school graduate and lifelong resident of Terrebonne Parish. I am privileged to have worked alongside hundreds of local servant leaders in our community in my professional career. Together, we are stronger, together we make bigger impacts, and it is in this spirit that I begin my work at the foundation. I am excited to work with an exceptional board made up of the most knowledgeable individuals in our community. Together we will help the students and teachers in Terrebonne Parish public schools meet the challenges this pandemic has created,” says Barahona.

It only works if we all work together; our community, workforce and children rely on it. I am honored to be part of the organization working alongside the school board to help in any way we can to enhance our public-school education.” Ashlee Champagne Barahona started her role as Executive Director on February 15, 2021.
Photo Gallery

Congratulations to Brandon Boudreaux (First Horizon Corporation) and Brandon Carreras (Bayou Cornhole Association), Team Full Send, for winning first place in the Semi-Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge! Special thanks to Cajun Critters and Chauvin Brothers for donating the prizes!

Chamber staff Tara Wolfe and volunteer Jami Bennett (Terrebonne Parish Assessor’s Office) stop to pose for a photo at the cornhole tournament!

Thank you to Courtyard by Marriott for joining us at the Semi-Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge! It's always a great time with this crew!

Congratulations to Brett Duthu (South Louisiana Bank) and Dustin Favis, Team Feeling Corny, for winning second place in the Semi-Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge! Special thanks to Bouquet Distributing Company and Copeland's for donating the prizes!

Thank you, Fletcher Technical Community College, for participating! Pictured is Ryan Devillier and Logan Borne.

Congratulations to Brennan Arcemont & Tim Leblanc (Terrebonne Parish Assessor’s Office), Team Going in Dry, for winning third place in the Semi-Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge! Special thanks to Outside in & Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers for donating prizes!
Congratulations to Mackenzie Vordick for receiving the Teenager of the Year Award presented by the American Legion! Pictured is Toni Martinez & Katie Richard (Team Victorious Secret), Casey Peltier & Sheri Sothern (Team Maized and Confused), and Elmy Savoie.

Thank you to Rushing Media for coming out to the tournament! Team Zillenial Unicorns, Keely Diebold & Beth Ann Tabor, were a blast!

A big thank you to Cajun Bahamas for coming out as a food sponsor! Your food was a hit!

Special thank you to Dr. Chip Riggins, Louisiana Department of Health, lunch sponsors Thibodaux Regional Health System, and all attendees for making the March General Membership Luncheon a success!

Congratulations to bioPURE on your one-year anniversary! For all of your disinfectant needs, call (985) 322-3003, or visit www.biopure.com!

Special thank you to scorecard sponsors Thibodaux Regional Health System! Pictured is Toni Martinez & Katie Richard (Team Victorious Secret), Casey Peltier & Sheri Sothern (Team Maized and Confused), and Elmy Savoie.
Danos Foundation Announces 2021 Grants to 24 Nonprofits

The Danos Foundation is awarding charitable grants to 24 nonprofits totaling $89,000. The grants are part of the Foundation’s Danos GIVES program, which is funded by employee and company contributions. Since its establishment in 2017, the Danos Foundation has provided nearly a half million dollars through its GIVES, WORKS and CARES programs. This year’s GIVES recipients are located in South Louisiana, West Texas and Pennsylvania, all areas where Danos employees work and live.

“The Danos Foundation is a true manifestation of our company purpose: ‘Honor God. Develop great people to solve big challenges for our customers and communities,’” said company Owner Mark Danos. “Our goal is to make a positive impact by providing financial assistance to organizations serving their local communities.”

Each year, Danos GIVES accepts applications from 501(c)(3) or 170(b) nonprofit organizations that benefit education, healthcare, environmental or welfare initiatives in areas where the company conducts business. Special consideration is given to projects targeting community welfare needs. Applications must be submitted by August 31 each year for consideration. Employee and company contributions provide funding for Danos GIVES, as well as Danos WORKS, a program that contributes money to qualified organizations where Danos employees volunteer their time.

2021 Danos Foundation grant recipients, selected out of 62 applicants:

- A Place of Restoration, Gray, Louisiana
- CASA of Terrebonne, Inc.
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Galliano
- Catholic Community Center, Galliano
- Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, Thibodaux
- Dulac Community Center, Dulac
- Hope Extreme, Houma
- Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), Chauvin
- Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Houma
- The Salvation Army Houma Service Center, Houma
- The Life of a Single Mom, Baton Rouge
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Acadia, Lafayette
- Junior Achievement of Acadia, Lafayette
- The Salvation Army of Lafayette, Lafayette
- Eden House, New Orleans
- Bridge House/Grace House, New Orleans
- Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans
- New Orleans Mission Inc., New Orleans
- Second Harvest Food Bank, New Orleans
- The Salvation Army New Orleans Area Command, New Orleans
- YMCA of Greater New Orleans, Metairie
- Pennsylvania: Beverly’s Birthdays, North Huntingdon
- Texas:
  - Bill’s Backpacks, Levelland
  - Refuge Services, Inc., Lubbock

$25,000 Chevron Grant to Boost STEM Learning in Terrebonne Parish Schools

Chevron, in partnership with the Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE), has given a $25,000 grant to three Terrebonne Parish High Schools to purchase Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) equipment.

“The Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence is excited to again be working with Chevron,” said Ashlee Champagne Barahona, TFAE Executive Director. “The company continues to support our schools and provide young men and women with meaningful STEM programs and opportunities. We thank them for their continued investment in the community.”

Last year, Chevron contributed over $90,000 which TFAE is continuing to use to help schools in the area enhance their science labs and libraries. With this $25,000 donation, three additional high schools in Terrebonne Parish will each receive $8,333 each to upgrade their science equipment. The donations will be used to fund items such as digital scales, working sinks, Chromebooks, digital microscopes, chemicals, probes, goggles and much more. This equipment will give students and teachers the ability to safely conduct STEM experiments and projects.

“As a former teacher, I know that experiential learning is the best way to engage students and get them excited about their schoolwork,” said Leah Brown, Public Affairs Manager of Chevron’s Gulf of Mexico Business Unit. “We hope this $25,000 contribution will not only expand access to hands-on STEM activities, but also spark students’ interest in considering a STEM career. Chevron is proud to provide these resources to three more high schools and expand STEM learning in the state.”

The following schools will receive the TFAE/Chevron Science Lab Grants:
- Terrebonne High School
- Ellender Memorial High School
- South Terrebonne High School

To learn more about TFAE, visit www.tfae.org.

New CASA volunteers

Left to right: Elaine Beyer, Kathryn Mella, Vickie Darlene Naquin, and Molly Arrington.
14th Annual Southdown Bar’s Crawfish Boil Off

The Herman J. Courville Foundation proudly presents the 14th Annual Crawfish Boil-Off benefiting CASA of Terrebonne. Proceeds help in efforts to recruit and train community volunteers to step into courtrooms on behalf of the abused and neglected children of Terrebonne Parish. This year’s event will be held across the street from Southdown Bar and Grill in the old Rite Aid parking lot on St. Charles Street. Crawfish sales begin at 11 a.m. along with live music from Beep Beep & the Jeeps. There is a $5 entry fee for adults and children over two years of age. $5 entry fee will include one pound of crawfish.

There is still time to sign up for a four-person cooking team. If you believe you and your friends boil the best crawfish in town, stop by Southdown Bar and Grill to sign up to compete. There is a $75 team entry fee. More information can be found at www.hjcboiloff.com.

2021 Give-N-Day Sets New Fundraising Record

The Nicholls Foundation 2021 Give-N-Day nearly doubled the record for most dollars raised during its March 2 fundraiser.

This year’s event raised $183,830 from 1,199 donors to 89 campus organizations. Gifts came from 34 states ranging from Washington state to Washington D.C., and eight countries. The previous record for most money raised was in 2019 with $100,454.

Give-N-Day was first organized in 2018 as a way for student organizations, academic programs and athletics to raise money in a way they couldn’t before. For the first time ever, every organization that registered, received at least one gift.

Nicholls Foundation Executive Director Jeremy Becker said he was impressed with the commitment from donors and organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The 2021 Give-N-Day was the most successful to date, and there are increases in all measured areas,” he said. “This year saw the most funds ever raised, the most gifts ever from the most donors and the most gifts from outside of Louisiana.”

Maritime Management led the way with $19,555 raised. Other programs that received remarkable financial support were:

- Colonel ESports with $18,725
- Nicholls Accounting with $15,465
- Nicholls Volleyball with $12,020
- Bridge to Independence with $9,820
- College of Business Administration Excellence Fund with $6,440
- Ellender Memorial Library and Nicholls Cross Country and Track & Field with $5,685
- Nicholls Soccer with $5,291.10
- Nicholls Bands with $5,050.

Ellender Memorial Library received the most individual donations with 94. Other programs to receive a significant number of donations were:

- Nicholls Accounting with 89
- Kappa Sigma with 69
- CROWN with 57
- Nicholls Soccer with 49
- Pre-Dental Society, Maritime Management and Colonel ESports with 46
- Nicholls Alumni Federation with 44
- College of Business Administration Excellence Fund with 41.

For more information on Give-N-Day or to connect with the Nicholls Foundation, visit NichollsFoundation.org.

Nicholls Biology Professor Appointed to State Task Force

Gov. John Bel Edwards has appointed a Nicholls State University biology professor to a new task force that was created to address critical issues in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Dr. Chris Bonvillain, associate professor of biological sciences, will join the 21-member Task Force on Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement.

Gov. Edwards created the advisory board in December with the hopes it could address critical issues facing the basin through collaboration with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and other coastal-based organizations.

“The Atchafalaya Basin is the largest river-basin swamp in the country and is a vital part of Louisiana’s ecology, economy, culture and flood protection. However, human-made changes in the basin have resulted in many negative consequences including altered water flow and hydrology, reduced water quality and sedimentation issues,” Dr. Bonvillain said. “This task force will be a collaboration among multiple basin stakeholder groups to raise public awareness about issues in the basin, identify sources of funding for basin projects and identify and implement projects that will benefit economic, cultural and natural resources in the basin.”

Gov. Edwards in announcing the group will address the holistic management of navigation, flood control, economics and restoration, as well as identify and provide support for new and recurring sources of funding.

“I hope to use my 17-plus years of research knowledge in the Atchafalaya Basin to provide scientific leadership, advice and assessment on projects that will conserve, sustain and enhance the Atchafalaya Basin,” Dr. Bonvillain said.

For more information on Nicholls Biological Sciences, visit www.nicholls.edu/biology.

Submitting Your Articles for Member News

Our Member News section of the Focus is a great way for Chamber members to promote your event or project, and to announce special awards or certifications. Word Document articles of 250 words or less may be submitted to info@houmachamber.com by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month’s newsletter, space permitting.
May is much more than just Mother’s Day and Memorial Day; it’s also National Share a Story Month and National Young Achievers of Tomorrow Month. Terrebonne has so many success stories within our community organizations that are simply untold. Local organization Hope Extreme has a heart for our youth and creates a better tomorrow by providing resources to help build a stronger community.

Hope Extreme is located at 437 Grand Caillou Rd. in Houma where Tara Detiveaux has served as Director since formation in 2009. The organization has been dedicated to the youth of Houma who specifically works with students from East Houma to prepare them for a brighter future. The signature program consists of both an after-school and summer education program. Students receive the help they need through homework help stations, learning labs, and fun electives that help the students grow in their learning. Not only is Hope Extreme committed to the student’s long-term life while mentoring them through their teen years as well as preparing them for successful adulthood as well. The passion behind this organization and heart for youth shone through Tara Detiveaux’s narrative about one specific student, Jaquan O’Neal Veal.

It was just another Sunday Morning as Detiveaux was getting ready to start their outreach programs. She noticed one of their most faithful kids was sitting without his brother. His brother always attended, so after the service, she asked where he was, and he simply shared he was sick. The next week at the close of service, she noticed he was missing once again, and asked his brother where he said he was at Children’s Hospital in New Orleans. “For East Houma children, that always meant something severe...and severe it was.”

A couple of volunteers made the trip to New Orleans where they joined his family to check in on Jaquan. “Walking into a room we saw what looked like an old man shriveled, not alert, and defiantly not healthy. But he was not an elderly man at all, he was our Jaquan.” Detiveaux said her heart fell. The doctors updated them of his condition, and it was learned that a bacteria infection that had taken over his heart in just a few short weeks. The only option left for him was to get a heart transplant and it would have to happen as soon as possible. “We prayed. We fasted... And miraculously God answered...”

The heart transplant was then schedule and performed successfully. It took months for recovery and the weekly visits to see Jaquan never stopped, but eventually, he came back to the organization! Of course, his life was forever altered; he would have to stay on medication for the rest of his life and would not be able to be active like he once was. Despite this, he was steadily improving, and they enjoyed having him mingle with the leaders when the rest of the kids were involved with activities that he could not participate in.

One night as they were driving a van to teen service, he told Detiveaux about dreams he had been having. “Ms. Tara, I see angels...”
sometimes when I dream.” “What kind of angels?” and Jaquan described “big angels, men looking angels, warrior angels.” Detiveaux said, “perhaps God is trying to tell you something.” The sweet boy responded with “I think he wants me to tell the world. To go to all people and tell them.” But he never got that chance.

That same year, Jaquan visited his ‘pops’ for Christmas break in Texas. Detiveaux did not know he had left until Christmas Eve when they were all playing games at the center and she noticed Jaquan was not present. Then they received a phone call.

Jaquan’s mother called and shared some news that changed everything. Jaquan was gone. “We drove to Senator Circle, hoping the news wasn’t true. But it was. His heart stopped beating and there was nothing they could do to get him back.” No one could understand what happened and they said the next two weeks were a blur. Shirts with his photo and angel wings were created, funeral programs were printed, children were coming to the center at all times of the day and night to talk about him. “All I knew was that a young life was finished way too soon.”

New Year’s Eve was the day that Detiveaux unlocked the doors of the church to let the family in, but no one there yet, besides her and the sound tech. A few moments later, the service attendants arrived, and Jaquan was rolled into the sanctuary. Detiveaux was then led to one of her most profound experiences. “I just stared. Timidly the funeral director tapped me on my shoulder “Mam could you inspect his body to make sure that everything is all right?” I just continued to stare. “Mam?” Dazed I shook my head and timidly approached his casket to do right by his family and make sure that he looked like Jaquan. But he never would again. The Jaquan I knew was long gone. As I shook my head to confirm that he was good, as good as he could be, I couldn’t help but remember another conversation that we had on one of our many van rides.” Jaquan had shared to her “Ms., I am thankful that God gave me another heart.” Detiveaux responded with “Yes, we all are. It was a miracle, and we are so thankful.” He corrected her saying “Actually, I am thankful that God gave me two hearts.” She was confused. “No Jaquan, you only got one.” “No Ms. Tara, he gave me two. One physically. One spiritually.” This was one of the most uniquely profound things that she ever heard one of the kids say. She said up until the surgery, he had never surrendered his heart to Christ. “Somewhere in the process of doctors taking his heart out physically and replacing it with a new one, Jesus had done the same thing. At that moment of rebirth, he was promised a forever home. And I was just looking over the casket of someone who had found his home that Jesus had been preparing for him.” That’s where she made a promise to God, “Whatever it takes…I promise to help more people find their forever home.”

Jaquan is a reminder on just how important our youth is. Hope Extreme recognizes that how young people are a product of their environment which makes life tough for some, specifically in East Houma. “More often than I would like to admit, students get caught up in the environment that surrounds them and makes it tough to continue work here at Hope Extreme.” Detiveaux shares, “but the good news is that they are also the most impressionable during their youth years, and if a student sticks it out for the long haul, their lives are forever changed…They are looking at what you do and copying your behavior, so lead not just by word, but also in deed.” What a beautiful and influencing story. Starting with the youth is the starting point to make your community stronger, and Hope Extreme is highlighted for their influential help. The organization could use volunteers in the After School and Summer Education programs. They are also in need of snacks and donations to help run the programs daily. “Any donations would be accepted and appreciated.”
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