

ACADIANA
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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR OF GROWTH

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on our growth and development in 2022, I am already filled with hope and excitement for all that I believe we will accomplish together in 2023! Over the past year, our staff grew by two and we added a 7,000-square-foot facility to our umbrella. Our team has been working tirelessly to advance the mission of sharing the love of Christ with those in need. Whether serving in homes after disaster, or in schools after periods of neglect, we have seen firsthand the fulfillment of **Matthew 5:16**, where people see our good deeds and give glory to God in heaven. **It's all about Him.**

In 2023, Love Acadiana will expand its impact through **a new foster care initiative** aimed at supporting current foster families and also identifying and equipping new ones in the church, so that every child can experience the love of Jesus, especially in their times of crisis. We will continue our outreach efforts like **Saturday Serves**, where volunteers are given opportunities to serve their community and meet others with similar passions. While we pray for protection from storms, we will keep improving our processes and further developing leaders to prepare for **disaster response** if the need arises.

We also endeavor to grow our donor base and secure the resources necessary to support our expanding efforts. We are grateful for the generosity of our partners and committed to being wise stewards of all that is entrusted to us.

I am honored to lead this organization and humbled by the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate team. Thank you for your continued support, service and prayers. Together, we are making a difference!

All for Jesus,



Tara Baudoin
Executive Director
Love Acadiana

JOIN US!



OUR MISSION = OUR NAME

We believe in a love that gives itself away, the kind that demonstrates itself through action. Our mission is our name – to love the children, families, widows, hurting and needy across Acadiana.

Love Acadiana seizes opportunities to provide help and hope in meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the underserved. We endeavor to connect the faith and business communities together to accomplish life-transforming work.



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STAFF



Tara Baudoin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ashley Adams
OUTREACH COORDINATOR



Angela Gagliano
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Scott Brantingham
EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Sarah Russo
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSISTANT



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY



Kentucky Generator Pick-Up

2 volunteers | 36 hours

Retrieved generators used after the Dec 2021 Kentucky tornadoes



Home Repair

4 volunteers | 16 hours

Fixed leaking ceiling and replaced ceiling tiles



Northside Cemetery Cleanup with Parish Proud

18 Love Acadiana volunteers | 72 hours

4 TONS | 320 BAGS OF TRASH



Saturday Serve with Catholic Charities

34 volunteers | 205 hours

50 bags | 1,250 lbs of yard debris

Repaired home damaged by Hurricane Delta

Painted entire home exterior in 1/2 day

Installed new appliance

FEBRUARY



Crisis Incident Stress Management (CISM+) Training - Austin, TX

5 Staff and Disaster Response Leaders | 80 Hours of Training



Disaster Roundtable at Church of the Highlands - Birmingham, AL

6 Staff and Disaster Response Commanders | 96 Hours of Training

MARCH



Home Repair

10 volunteers | 40 hours

New floors, walls and roof repaired for single mom and 5 kids



Westgate High School Locker Room Cleanup

22 VOLUNTEERS | 77 HOURS

MARCH



Eight Days of Hope (8DOH) LaPlace Home Assessments

4 volunteers | 32 hours

10 families served

Prepped 8DOH to rebuild 100+ homes damaged by Ida



Easter Eggspllosion - West End Park with OSC New Iberia

60 volunteers | 240 hours

10,000 EGGS | 250 CHILDREN



Magnolia Park Egg Hunt - St. Martinville with OSC Broussard

61 volunteers | 214 hours

10,000 eggs | 150 children



Volunteer Appreciation Month

RECOGNIZED

134 VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

APRIL



Love Acadiana Day at the Capitol

Organized 20 pastors/leaders from Acadiana to visit Capitol for LFF tour and to pray for and encourage legislators in session



Inventory Prep Day

34 volunteers | 170 hours

Maintenance and preparation on
400 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT FOR HURRICANE SEASON



Westgate High School Athletic Banquet

69 volunteers | 463 hours

100+ athletes celebrated | 700 balloons
345 attendees (plus athletes)



CISM+ Training (Crisis Incident Stress Management+)

737 training and volunteer hours
Trained 39 volunteers to better serve survivors of traumatic events

JUNE



LA Moving Day

30 volunteers | 120+ hours

Moved 750 pieces of equipment and 100s of resources into 7,000 sf facility
Installed 5 metal racks



Serve Day

628 volunteers | 3,671 hours

4 schools | 1 church | 67 projects
23 kids in VBS | 105 bags of mulch
110 gallons of paint



LA Warehouse Remodel

7 volunteers

13 GALLONS OF PAINT
Removed 1 wall | Installed new racks



CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team) Emergency Preparedness

32 attendees | 128 hours of training

JULY



Pregnancy Center Supply Drive

12 volunteers | 48 hours

6 clinics supported | 13 churches
\$25,000 of supplies collected
15,000 diapers | 700+ boxes of wipes



Acadiana Christian School Saturday Serve with OSC New Iberia

111 VOLUNTEERS | 444 HOURS

10 gallons of paint
Landscaped flowerbeds
Renovated playground



Gifting Grace Pack-a-Backpack

23 Love Acadiana volunteers | 115 hours

500 backpacks in partnership with Gifting Grace Volunteers



Warehouse Prep Day

17 volunteers | 68 volunteer hours

5,000 SF OF EQUIPMENT & RACKING ORGANIZED

SEPTEMBER



Love Acadiana Open House/ Ribbon Cutting

9 volunteers | 36 hours

Over 100 Attendees

Recap video



Saturday Serve at Early Learning Center & OSC Broussard

67 volunteers | 268 hours

385 feet of fencing



Youngsville Middle School

27 volunteers | 162 hours

20 GALLONS OF PAINT

2 bathroom murals
1 upgraded teachers' lounge



8DOH Lake Charles Assessments

7 volunteers | 153 volunteer hours

80 homes assessed between LA and 8DOH volunteers

OCTOBER**Hurricane Ian Response (FL)**

1,780 miles traveled
Served with 2 nonprofits
Gutted/served 3 homes
1 volunteer salvation resulted

NOVEMBER**GOD-IS-GOOD
Gobble Box Outreach**

90 volunteers | 360 hours
640 families received Thanksgiving meals
4,000 lives touched

**Fans to Local Nursing Home**

50 fans delivered by volunteers to help
keep residents comfortable during
A/C repairs

DECEMBER**Broussard Jingle Jam**

72 volunteers | 252 hours
73 BIKES, 80+ TOYS
82 CHILDREN BLESSED

DECEMBER**Giving Wall / Harvest Center**

30 volunteers | 95 volunteer hours

**107 FOSTER CHILDREN
BLESSED WITH GIFTS**

62 underprivileged children blessed

**Christmas Eve Outreach
with OSC**

200 gift boxes distributed to
Christmas Eve workers
5 fire stations | 2 veterinary hospitals
13 ER/nurses' stations
6 police stations served

**New Iberia Tornado Response**

45 volunteers | 315 hours

13 HOMES LOVED

Rebuild assistance plans in progress

"Each one should use
whatever gift he has received
to serve others, faithfully
administering God's grace in
its various forms." *1 Peter 4:10*



C.E.R.T. Training (Community Emergency Response Team)

In conjunction with the Iberia Parish CERT Team, Love Acadiana hosted a CERT Workshop for 30 volunteers, a precursor to the complete CERT Training Course, to provide critical skills in emergency preparedness and response. Participants learned about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their homes, neighborhoods, community and areas. The goal was to get their houses in order so they can be better prepared to help others if disaster strikes.

CISM+ Training

What do you say to someone who just lost everything? After serving countless people in those circumstances, we asked ourselves that question often. CISM+ (Critical Incident Stress Management Plus) training prepared us for those situations. Now 39 volunteers and staff are better equipped to respond to someone who has experienced trauma or loss. In the 14-hour course, we learned to deal with the mental, emotional and spiritual issues people face in times of disaster. All participants received a certification in Disaster Psychological First Aid and CISM/CISD (Critical Incident Stress Management/Critical Incident Stress Debriefing). We are so grateful for United Disaster Relief Network (UDRN), a Christian nonprofit based in Austin, for bringing their first off-site training to us. Our community will be better for it!

Disaster Roundtable

Love Acadiana staff and lead volunteers attended a disaster response round table at Church of the Highlands in Birmingham, Alabama, to glean wisdom from national agency representatives. Attendees also focused on building relationships with Christian counterparts from other churches and non-profits. Having like-minded connections we can call for backup or guidance is critical for all of us when disaster strikes.



Eight Days of Hope Rebuild - LaPlace, LA

Our strategic partners, Eight Days of Hope, brought 1,200 volunteers to LaPlace in April to rebuild 150 homes damaged by Hurricane Ida. Our volunteers and staff helped to prep for the rebuild by assessing homes in the weeks and months preceding the event. Shoutout to Mr. Rudy, one of our committed Love Acadiana volunteers, who enlisted for the whole deployment to help those in need. In eight days, 150 families were helped! We are blessed to have partners like this who love and serve Louisiana – and the U.S. – all for the glory of God.

Inventory Prep Day

Having equipment ready to deploy for a storm season is crucial for disaster response. In April, a group of diligent volunteers spent a Saturday cleaning generators and dehumidifiers, organizing muck-out kits and inventorying supplies. Because of these efforts, we are ready to send the love of Jesus and critical equipment to those who need it at a moment's notice. Working side-by-side on prep events like this allows volunteers to build relationships that make them more efficient and effective when teamwork is critical, like responding to disasters.

Eight Days of Hope Rebuild - Lake Charles

Our team joined Eight Days of Hope leaders to assess and then to repair homes for the rebuild project December 3-10 in Lake Charles. In a period of nine months, SWLA residents were devastated by Hurricanes Laura, Delta and Zeta followed by the ice storm of February 2021 and a flood in May of 2021. More than two years after Laura, there are still so many families living with the devastation. Many were impacted by the storms, then taken advantage of by contractors or insurance companies, and are still living in unlivable conditions with nowhere else to turn. Despite all their loss, the people still have hope and welcomed the love of Jesus that we shared.

Hurricane Help for Single Mom

We partnered with OSC Opelousas to help rebuild a mobile home that sustained major damage from Hurricane Delta, so a single mom and her five children would have a place to call home. Volunteers replaced floors, walls, cabinets, repaired the roof, and ultimately brought beauty from disaster.



Saturday Serve at Princess' House (Hurricane Delta Repairs)

Love Acadiana and Catholic Charities partnered together in February to share the love of Jesus with a homeowner in Broussard who was still dealing with damage from Hurricane Delta 18 months prior. Thirty-four volunteers painted Ms. Princess' entire house, raked and bagged 1,250 pounds of pine needles and debris from the yard, replaced rotting boards, cut down trees, installed an appliance, and enjoyed a special prayer time in the front yard. To make the day complete, a neighbor surprised us with an enormous pot of gumbo for lunch.



New Iberia Tornado Response

With the help of dozens of volunteers, we were able to assist multiple families in two neighborhoods whose homes were damaged by the December tornado in New Iberia. In the days immediately after the storm, we organized volunteer teams to clean up debris and limbs, cut trees and tarp roofs, and love on families who desperately needed hope. Our Crisis Incident Stress Management (CISM+) training earlier in the year proved invaluable in helping our leaders minister to survivors. Thanks to our supporters who enable us to train and respond with the love of Christ and with excellence. At the time of this publishing, we are still involved in helping families to rebuild. **You can assist our efforts by serving or donating at LoveAcadiana.com/GiveandServe.**



One of our favorite days of the year is Serve Day, where churches and Christian organizations worldwide follow Jesus' example and serve others in a big way. This year, we focused on S.J. Montgomery in Lafayette, Youngsville Middle School, Jeanerette High, Early Learning Center in St. Martinville, and The Truth Is Ministry in Opelousas. A total of 628 volunteers painted, landscaped, power washed and prayed over the people and projects where they served. In addition, volunteers set up a Vacation Bible School at a campus in St. Martinville where leaders taught 23 young children from the community about God's love.





The weekend before Thanksgiving, we had our 3rd annual God-is-Good Gobble Box outreach. This year was our largest yet, impacting nearly 4,000 lives with 640 boxes filled with everything needed for a Thanksgiving meal, including a turkey, Fezzo's bread pudding and a devotional book. With 44 drivers and 90 total volunteers, we distributed 640 Thanksgiving meals. We partnered with 13 churches and organizations across Acadiana, including Lafayette North and Southsides, Youngsville, New Iberia, Broussard, St. Martinville, Opelousas, Crowley, Lake Charles, Cutoff, Jennings and Eunice areas. Thanks to everyone who helped - whether donating, labeling, packing or distributing boxes. A special thank you to Fezzo's, Manuel Companies and Laborde Earles for their support.





More than 60 volunteers braved the cold on a Saturday morning in January to clean a neighborhood cemetery on Lafayette's Northside. Volunteers from all parts of Lafayette came together to rake up four tons of yard debris (which was Parish Proud's most successful event at that time), and made new friends in the process. The event served to acknowledge the dignity of those buried there and enhance the area for their loved ones living nearby.



In early August, just in time for the new school year, we partnered with The Gifting Grace Project for its Pack-the-Backpack event. We sorted multiple pallets of school supplies at Mendoza Ford, then packed and delivered 522 backpacks to bless children who meet the homeless criteria in five parishes. Thanks to generous community partners and more than 40 energetic volunteers between both organizations, those children had the materials needed to start the school year.



Westgate High School Athletic Banquet

Love Acadiana partnered with OSC Broussard to organize and host the largest athletic banquet Westgate High School has ever had—with 450 attendees—to celebrate the football team’s success! Their story is the kind movies are made of: from an 0-and-10 record just five years ago to state champs this year, through perseverance, discipline, great coaching, and a principal that stood beside them – all without a big budget or upscale equipment. The underdog-to-champion story is a testament to what young people can accomplish when leaders believe in them and pour into their lives, on and off the field. With the support of Principal Neely Moore, Coach Ryan Antoine mentored the young men on the team through incredible trials, both individually and as a team, to form this tenacious group of overcomers. The community united to sponsor championship rings which were given at the May event, and the outpouring of love was evidence to all of us that God’s hand is at work in this team.

TO SEE HOW THE EVENT IMPACTED THE TEAM, PER PRINCIPAL MOORE AND COACH ANTOINE, SEE VIDEO



Love Acadiana Ribbon Cutting/Open House

After a decade of serving the community from borrowed and scattered locations, Love Acadiana has a place of its own. In September, we cut the ribbon on our new digs on Birdie Lane in Broussard, with the Broussard Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Ray Bourque, many pastors, donors, and volunteers in attendance to help us celebrate God’s blessings on this ministry. We now have our outreach offices, conference room and storage for all our equipment under one roof. Next time you’re in the area, stop by to say hello!





Easter Egg Hunt - St. Martinville

Love Acadiana, OSC Broussard and the Hope Center teamed up in April to host a Family Day and Easter Egg Hunt in St. Martinville's Magnolia Park. The event drew over 60 volunteers and 150 children and their families to hunt 10,000 eggs! They also enjoyed cornhole, Kan Jam, rock painting, and refreshments from Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. The best part was the relationships formed, connections made and invitations to celebrate Jesus, the real reason for the Easter season.



Easter Eggspllosion - New Iberia

We spent the afternoon on Saturday, April 2, at West End Park celebrating Easter by serving the community with OSC New Iberia. More than 250 children and their families showed up to savor the day! We made new friends, great memories and divine connections in the community while creating fun activities for the participants to enjoy. There were basketball, volleyball and football games, rock painting for the young ones, and 10,000 Easter eggs to hunt! We hope that the West End community felt the love of Jesus, the resurrected Savior, through our efforts.



The supply drive in July and August brought together more than 10 local churches and organizations to gather much needed supplies to support six Acadiana pregnancy centers serving Lafayette, New Iberia, Opelousas, Eunice/Mamou, and Abbeville areas. In total, we distributed 15,000+ diapers (which will help more than 500 mothers!), 700+ boxes of wipes, car seats, bottles, pacifiers, clothing items, blankets, and hygiene products. The drive raised more than \$25,000 in baby supplies! We are grateful to everyone who donated and hosted drop-off locations. Providing baby items is one way to help moms and dads facing unplanned pregnancies.

Fans to Nursing Home Residents

As soon as one of our volunteers let us know that a local nursing home needed to cool off its residents while they were having A/C problems, we loaded up and delivered 50 box fans that day. It was one of those times when we had the resources at our fingertips and the Lord, once again, led us directly to the people who needed what He had already provided.



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16



Love Acadiana joined local pastors and leaders for an amazing day at the State Capitol on April 5 hosted by Louisiana Family Forum (LFF). We served our legislators by praying for and encouraging them, as they carry huge responsibilities and make tough decisions daily. Many of the pastors and lawmakers we met have served their communities tirelessly after Hurricanes Laura, Delta and Ida. By connecting us all together, we are better resourced to respond to the needs in our communities in the future.





In December, we organized the Giving Wall project with OSC Lafayette, allowing the congregation and local partners to sponsor gifts for 169 foster children and underprivileged students.



Broussard Jingle Jam Christmas Outreach

December 10 was our very first Broussard Jingle Jam. Love Acadiana partnered with OSC Broussard, Chart Industries and Cornerstone Cares to give 150 bikes and toys to children of Broussard and St. Martinville. The kids came to OSC to pick up their gifts, and enjoy hot cocoa, popcorn and Christmas music. We spread joy and Christmas spirit to all who came out for a gift, love and fellowship.

OSC Community Outreach

Love Acadiana partnered with OSC Lafayette to organize a gift distribution for the community on Christmas Eve. Food trays were delivered to local fire and police departments, as well as TV stations, and gift bags with coffee gift cards to various individuals working that night. They were hand delivered by church-goers leaving Christmas Eve service, many reporting that they were more blessed than those who received the gifts.



Christmas Extravaganza

Love Acadiana joined Harvest Center Church on E. Simcoe in its annual Christmas event for children in surrounding neighborhoods, and we were able to supply gifts for students from Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Elementary School.



Saturday Serve at Early Learning Center in St. Martinville & OSC Broussard

Love Acadiana volunteers made a huge impact at the church, completing a clean-out of designated buildings and years of supplies to make way for new things God is doing there. On the same day, in order to maintain the safety and environment of the students at the Early Learning Center (ELC) in St. Martinville, we installed 300 feet of wood fencing along the back of their playground. Both children and teachers were surprised and excited to enjoy their outdoor space when they returned to school that Monday.

Saturday Serve at Westgate High School

We joined OSC Broussard to spruce up Westgate High's athletic rooms by pressure washing and cleaning the areas where the team prepares for games. The Tigers won the football state championship title this year even with the odds stacked against them. We were honored to serve the coach, principal and team, who persevered through so many trials, personally and together, to take home the win.

Saturday Serve at Youngsville Middle School

Love Acadiana partnered with OSC Lafayette to continue the good work that began at Youngsville Middle School on Serve Day in July. Nearly 40 volunteers showed up to love on the staff and students by organizing and decorating the teacher's lounge, painting the students' bathrooms and restriping the parking lot. Enhancing the learning environment goes a long way to improve morale and remind everyone on campus that they are loved by God and by us. As always, we had a blast doing it!

Saturday Serve at Acadiana Christian School

In July we partnered with OSC New Iberia to bless one of their most important ministries to families – Acadiana Christian School. Over 100 volunteers came out and served by painting, landscaping, cleaning, and even a little demolition of old playground equipment to make room for a new, safer area for the students to enjoy recess and outside activities.



Honoring Our Top Volunteers

During Volunteer Appreciation Month, we recognized 134 committed volunteers in various ways, ranging from sweet treats to drawings for gift cards. As the year came to a close, the top 30 volunteers of 2022 were honored with the coveted long-sleeve Love Acadiana t-shirts. One volunteer soared with over 120 hours, and six more had over 50 hours of service each. They lived out Philippians 2:3 before us: considering others more important than themselves, they looked not to their own interest but to the interests of others. If you know a Love Acadiana volunteer, thank them for all their hard work and dedication to God and the community.



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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023



**FOSTER
CARE**



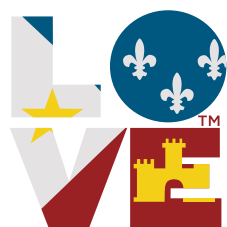
**DISASTER
RESPONSE**



**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

JOIN US! Text LoveAcadiana to 55498 for serving opportunities.
Give at LoveAcadiana.org.





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"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others..." *Philippians 2:3-4*



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