



2024 Giving Guide

Mission: *Through collective giving, collaboration, and shared faith, the Women's Giving Circle of the Diocese of Baton Rouge seeks to promote philanthropy that glorifies God, compels action, and empowers women.*

2024 Key Dates

Wednesday February 7th 10:30 AM Kick-off Mass/Lunch
St. Gerard Majella Church - 3808 St. Gerard Ave. Baton Rouge Fr. Tat Huang, celebrant

Thursday, Feb. 8th: Round 1 of voting opens **Friday, Feb. 16th:** Round 1 of voting closes

Thursday, March 21st 6:00 PM Sip and Learn – Mass/Nonprofit Presentations
St. Jude Church - 9150 Highland Rd. Baton Rouge Fr. Matthew Graham, celebrant

Friday, March 22nd: Round 2 of voting opens **Friday, March 29th:** Round 2 of voting closes

Wednesday, April 24th 10:30 AM Celebration, Mass/Luncheon/Grant Awards
Mercedarian Prayer Center 17560 George O'Neal Rd. and
White Oak Estates, 17660 George O'Neal Rd., Baton Rouge Bishop Michael Duca, celebrant

2024 WGC Grants Committee

Thank you to our volunteers for their guidance, wisdom, and prayers: Jan Ross, Beth Alison, Coletta Barrett, Shivaun Davis, Vera Dunbar, Carolyn Dyer, Edy Koonce, Donna Mayeux, Maria Mathews, Julie Millard, Charlene Montelero and Gennie Shannon.

Funding Eligibility

Organizations Eligible to Receive Funding: The organizations included in your Giving Guide have been confirmed as being in relationship with the Diocese of Baton Rouge or are non-diocesan organizations which have been reviewed by Circle leadership on a case-by-case basis to ensure that their missions/programs comply with Roman Catholic Church teachings.

2024 Focus Area: Ministry to the Oft Forgotten

This ministry umbrella speaks to the varied needs of individuals that often do not receive attention, including our elderly, persons with disabilities or mental illness, and those incarcerated or formerly incarcerated. Organizations that serve individuals under this umbrella through evangelization, education, or corporal and spiritual works of mercy build up the body of Christ and fulfill our Lord's command to serve the needs of those we may never meet. By serving physical and spiritual needs of those who are often forgotten, we hope to help them realize their own worth as children of God and nurture within them a relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. By supporting these selected ministries, the WGC joins in Jesus' command to love one another.

The Grants Committee has already ensured that the organizations listed in this Giving Guide fit this year's focus area, reach the target group, and are affiliated with our Catholic faith in purpose and mission. To aid you in your discernment process, here are a few questions to consider as you review each organization. If it is helpful, please use the checklist below each organization's description to help you in determining your ranking of organizations.

1. **Reputation:** Do you know this organization to be a reputable and worthy organization?
2. **Proposed Work:** Is this organization doing valuable work in the community?
3. **Connection:** Do you feel a connection to this ministry and the population they serve?

2024 Potential Grantees (to appear on Ballot for Voting Round 1)

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area
The Arc Baton Rouge
The Bridge Center for Hope
Catholic Charities – Joseph Homes
Families Helping Families of GBR

Family Service of GBR
GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship
Launch
Life House
La. Industries for the Disabled -WCRC
Louisiana Mental Health Association

Louisiana Parole Project
One Touch Ministry, Inc.
Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge
St. Lillian Academy
Volunteers of America S. Central La.

Please review the information on each of these organizations and take it to prayer. You are encouraged to visit the websites to learn more about each. When you receive an email for voting, follow the instructions and vote online. Voting will be open for one week only, so please do this promptly. During the first round, you will be asked to vote for FIVE organizations. If you have any questions or run into technical problems when voting, please send an email to womensgivingcirclebr@gmail.com or call Bonnie at 225.223.3211.

Holiness consists of one thing: to do God's will, as He wills it, because He wills it.

St. Katharine Drexel

Thank you for seeking to do God's will as a WGC partner.

2024 Listing of Organizations

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area

www.ALZBR.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Serving over 5000 individuals annually in Ascension, Assumption, EBR, E & W Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, WBR
- **History & Mission:** Founded in 1983, the mission of Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area is to teach, care for, and connect with those in our community affected by Alzheimer's disease and other memory-related impairments. Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area serves over 5000 people annually.
- **Request:** Funding provides supplies, resources, activities and counseling for those affected by Alzheimer's and their family and caregivers including educational programs (Lunch 'N' Learn, Financial Literacy for Alzheimer's, ADAPT, and an Education Conference), Support Programs (Support Groups, a telephone Helpline, TLC Activities), and Charlie's Place Respite Centers where we provide respite care for the affected individual while giving the family caregiver a break to recharge and maintain care at home. The stigma of mental illness often causes isolation for both the affected one and caregiver. The caregiver's health often declines due to the stress of caregiving 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We would like to request funds for our Respite Reimbursement program for caregivers of homebound Alzheimer's affected individuals so they can hire a sitter and be reimbursed. Caregivers can receive \$100 per month up to \$600 per year to get a few hours of relief. Caregivers use sitters so they can go to the doctor, grocery shop, and go to church.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We are an autonomous nonprofit and raise all our funds. Fees are charged for Charlie's Place and the Education Conference; these are reduced for those in need; all other programs and services are offered free of charge. We have two annual fundraisers: Memories in the Making luncheon and the Walk to Remember. Additional sources of income are memorial, tribute, and annual donations, grants, corporate partners and sponsorships, Third Party Fundraisers, and interest.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection
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The Arc of Baton Rouge

<https://www.thearcbr.org>

- **Location:** Baton Rouge
- **Impact Area:** Serving over 1000 individuals and caregivers annually in EBR, WBR, Iberville, Ascension, E & W Feliciana, Pointe Coupee and Livingston
- **History & Mission:** Since 1954, our mission has been to improve the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities - such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol syndrome and other similar conditions - and their families, through advocacy, services, and support. Our vision is to promote an inclusive community where people of all abilities can live, learn, work, and play together.
- **Request:** We are seeking funds toward replacing our wheelchair accessible van damaged in a spring flood. Our wheelchair-enabled individuals are most at risk for not overcoming barriers to community access, inclusion, and employment. Without accessible transportation they sometimes have had to stay behind while others go on outings or be manually lifted in and out of the vehicle reducing their independence and increasing the risk of injury for them and their support worker. The vehicle would be utilized for wheelchair-enabled individuals ages 18 to 70 years olds served through our North Baton Rouge Campus- keeping them connected and actively involved in their community, reducing isolation and improving their sense of well-being as they safely engage in community opportunities.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We receive Medicaid reimbursement for day habilitation services which do not cover the cost of transporting individuals into the community. We rely on private donations to cover the costs associated with transportation, including fuel, insurance and vehicle maintenance.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

The Bridge Center for Hope

<https://brbridge.org/>

- **Location:** Baton Rouge
- **Impact Area:** Serving over 2500 annually in EBR and surrounding parishes
- **History & Mission:** For the last seven years, the mission of the Bridge Center has been to provide pathways to treatment for people experiencing behavioral health issues and links to providers to create an integrated continuum of care from prevention to rehabilitation. The Bridge Center for Hope is Louisiana's first-ever and only crisis stabilization center that has delivered services to 51 out of the 64 parishes. The Bridge Center serves those experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis. As we know, mental health does not discriminate and can impact anyone directly or indirectly. The stigma associated with mental health and substance use treatment sometimes discourages individuals from seeking assistance. We strive to meet people where they are and provide hope, help, and healing for the whole person.
- **Request:** In 2024, the Bridge Center plans to expand its mobile crisis response services by establishing a partnership with EMS (911) and law enforcement to handle low-risk mental health crisis calls in the community, freeing up first-responders to address more critical calls in the parish. Because crisis services are new to Louisiana (2022), the funding to provide care is not sustainable, leaving providers with little to no assistance to expand services. The funding will provide assistance to the mobile crisis response team as well as the ongoing community program and services.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We are funded by a property tax, and our provider has contracts with Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurers. For EBR residents that do not have insurance, the Bridge Center covers the cost of care at 100%. A bill will never be issued to a guest (what we call patients) at the Bridge Center.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

CC DBR – Joseph Homes

<https://www.ccdiobr.org/what-we-do/transitional-housing/joseph-homes/>

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** serving over 40 men per year in EBR, WBR, Livingston, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, E & W Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, St. James, Assumption, Ascension
- **History & Mission:** We proclaim the gospel vision of Jesus Christ as our mission by serving the needs of individuals and families, especially the poorest, and working with Church and community for justice, peace, and compassion in society. Joseph Homes has been in the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge portfolio of programs since 1990. Joseph Homes is a housing program that incorporates efficiency studio apartment housing for homeless, formerly incarcerated men who are recently released from prison. It incorporates case management so that the men can be successfully reintegrated into society and become gainfully employed. Many of the men who come to Joseph Homes have been incarcerated for decades. Our Program Coordinator is a longstanding resource for criminal justice reform circles, locally, statewide, and nationally. As Louisiana tries new ways to cut the prison population, more and more people are being released without the supportive services that Joseph Homes provides. CCDBR has been providing these services for over 30 years to address the needs of homeless formerly incarcerated men to reduce recidivism and create safer neighborhoods. We are the only housing program of its kind in the greater Baton Rouge area.
- **Request:** Funding would be used for the case management activities that are integral to the participants' success. These include developing individualized support programs, biweekly support groups with guest speakers on health, financial stability, and sobriety, referrals for substance abuse counseling, financial management counseling, vocational counseling, and job training.
- **Other Funding Sources:** Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation and the Emergency Transitional Housing Program.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge

www.fhfgbr.org

Location: Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Over 1000 families served annually in EBR, WBR, E & W Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Ascension

- **History & Mission:** Since 1998, our mission is to provide the individualized services, information, and support, needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity, and integration of persons with disabilities into the community.
- **Request:** FHF is a non-profit, family-directed resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families. We provide information and referrals, education and training, and peer-to-peer support across all of our program areas. Our programs include the Bureau of Family Health, Family 2 Family Health Information Center, Early Steps, The Empowerment Program, Inclusive Education, the Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder (RCASD), and Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN). We are requesting funding consideration for the RCASD, a comprehensive information hub for anyone living with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The RCASD offers peer support to parents, self-advocates, family members and caregivers. Staff provide families with referrals to the medical, therapeutic, educational and legal resources they need. This program also provides a variety of social interaction activities for children and adults living with ASD, i.e. Sunshine Social Dances, Friday Night Out Game Nights, Sensory Santa, Sensory Bunny, and an Aloha Luau.

Other Funding Sources: FHF has state contracts to administer other programs; however, the RCASD is funded solely by proceeds from the Annual Active for Autism fundraising event. This event has been on hiatus for a few years because of COVID, however we are excited to welcome back our families to this community fundraising event on April 27, 2024. This grant request along with other fundraising efforts will allow us to reinstate this vital program. All of our services are free and we do not charge families to participate in our activities.

Reputation	Proposed Work		Connection

Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge

<https://www.fsgbr.org/>

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: over 10,000 individuals served annually in EBR, WBR, Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, E & W Feliciana, Livingston, St. James

- History & Mission: Since 1955, Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge counsels and strengthens individuals and families improving their quality of life. Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge is proposing funding for services to victims of domestic violence. According to recent domestic violence statistics, up to 50% of homeless women and children in the United States are fleeing domestic violence. The issue is prevalent in our community. Many women and children become homeless and live in their vehicle for safety from their abusers. These women and children could fall into the forgotten category as they believe they have nowhere to turn to rebuild their lives. The Family Safe Haven at Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge was developed to help victims rebuild their lives by providing mental health treatment and emergency financial assistance.
- Request: The proposed funding for the Family Safe Haven will help victims of domestic violence secure emergency services, housing, supportive services, transportation vouchers to get to work and access needed services, transportation expense to flee the area for safety, hotel stays, food vouchers, and other emergency needs to ensure their safety and the safety of their children.
- Other Funding Sources: We receive funding from a grant through the City of Baton Rouge. There are no fees charged for services.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Gaitway Therapeutic Horsemanship

www.gaitway.org

Location: Baton Rouge

Impact Area: Over 100 individuals served annually in EBR, WBR, Iberville, Ascension, Livingston and more

- History & Mission: Created in 2005, GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship enables children and adults with disabilities to move beyond their boundaries through the healing power of the horse and the dedication of professionals in a caring community. Our initiative aims to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding lessons. Our programs foster a sense of empowerment, inclusivity, and joy for individuals often marginalized due to their disabilities. The therapeutic benefits of equine-assisted activities are well-documented, promoting physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- Request: With your support, we can expand our services, providing transformative experiences for more participants within Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. The requested funds will directly contribute to program expansion, enabling us to reach more individuals with disabilities, including the elderly, foster children, and veterans.
- Other Funding Sources: GaitWay sustains its operations through grants, community fundraising efforts by hosting events such as our Derby Day Gala and Horse Show, and individual donations. While we do charge fees for our therapeutic riding services, they only cover about 20% of our operating expenses. We utilize a sliding scale based on individuals' financial capabilities. We firmly believe that financial constraints should not hinder access to our transformative programs. We have a scholarship program to reduce or eliminate fees entirely for those facing financial hardship. By providing financial assistance whenever we can, we ensure that our services remain accessible to a diverse range of individuals, including those with limited financial means. This approach aligns with our commitment to inclusivity and our mission of serving individuals with disabilities, irrespective of their economic circumstances.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Launch Therapy Center

www.launchpeds.com

- **Location:** Denham Springs **Impact Area:** Serving 600 children a year in Livingston, EBR, Ascension, Tangipahoa
- **History & Mission:** Since 2015, Helping Exceptional Children Lead Extraordinary Lives. We provide speech, occupational and physical therapies for children with disabilities.
- **Request:** Launch aims to provide services regardless of payment by insurance and Medicaid. Often, visit limits, authorization denials and policy exclusions prevent children with disabilities from receiving optimal care. Furthermore, some families have commercial insurance, and their child has not yet received a formal diagnosis, disallowing application for Medicaid coverage. The waitlists are often 6 months to a year long. Early intervention and appropriate intensity/frequency of services are crucial to achieving maximum results. Funding would go directly to covering this gap for parents in need. In 2022, the cost of these services neared \$200,000. If we can support families and help their children receive appropriate care, we can empower them to meet the other needs of their family unit.
- **Other Funding Sources:** Launch bills insurance and Medicaid, collects patient insurance responsibility, and utilizes grants/general donations/fundraising. When children are denied or limited in services the family automatically is reduced to the Medicaid rates for private pay. Beyond that, they complete a sliding scale to determine the amount of discount from there. The numbers are based on the ALICE income numbers used by other organizations such as United Way, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and the like. Lastly, we have one fundraiser annually that is dedicated to decreasing high out-of-pocket expenses. Parents who have paid more than \$1,000 in a calendar year receive a proportional share of the funds raised for the upcoming year's expenses.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Life House

<https://www.thelifehouse.fm/>

- **Location:** St. James **Impact Area:** serving over 300 men and women annually in Ascension, EBR, WBR, Tangipahoa, E. Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, St. James and other Louisiana locations
- **History & Mission:** Since 2005, partnering with our Community to Change the World by Teaching Men and Women to Live in Freedom Everyday. Life House is a Christian ministry providing an all-encompassing pathway including supports and case management in the areas of family restoration, help with sobriety, job training, job placement, transportation, faith based connections, legal advocacy, court appointments, mental health support and community connections.
- **Request:** Life House University is a one-year pathway to freedom with intensive accountability in the form of 24 hour live-in supervision and drug and alcohol screens. Our residents receive a different level of care with us than with a lot of other great programs. Life House University is not an addiction recovery facility or halfway house. Life House University is a pathway to freedom to help forgotten men and women learn to live in freedom every day. Life House tackles the tallest barriers all at once; housing, transportation, legal responsibilities, employment, education, parenting classes and working with DCFS to unite women with their children. Funds will be used on Women's Outreach for community awareness and giving resources to those forgotten. Additionally, case management, spiritual development, childcare, transportation cost for mothers and children to and from work, church, doctor appointments, court appointments, spiritual retreats (Freedom camp) and mentor interaction. Funding will also go toward upgrading facilities to better service our men, women, and children.
- **Other Funding Sources:** Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation, materials donations from local industry, consulting and volunteer hours from local sheriff departments, cooperative agreements with local community colleges and rehabilitation services for work readiness.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

La. Industries for the Disabled, Inc/Women's Community Rehab Center (WCRC) www.wcrcbr.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Serving 25 – 35 women annually in EBR, WBR, Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, E & W Feliciana
- **History & Mission:** Opened in 1974, WCRC's mission is to provide a pathway to recovery to women in need of mental health services, often homeless, may have a co-occurring addictive disorder, and may have legal issues; to create hope through an educational, therapeutic, and vocationally-focused program in a safe environment; to promote dignity and self-worth through employment, permanent housing and independent living. We serve 25 – 35 women annually. WCRC is a 16-bed, state licensed, 24-hour residential treatment center that provides our clients with a safe, homelike and therapeutic environment to practice, with support, the skills necessary to regain independent living. Clients receive individual and group counseling to educate them on their mental health, life skills and coping skills. We assist in obtaining and maintaining employment, learning money management skills and upon graduation, moving to permanent housing with follow up support. WCRC also works with clients discharged from the Forensic unit at the state hospital in Jackson, LA. These clients are conditionally released to WCRC and work the same program towards independent living as our civil clients but are followed closely by a judge, probation officer and forensic coordinator. WCRC is the only program for the female Forensic clients in the state.
- **Request:** Funds to cover the cost of clients not covered by the state. Including continue counseling services, food and daily need, personal hygiene, laundry and clothing items.
- **Other Funding Sources:** WCRC has funding from state agencies for 14 of its 16 beds. Other funding comes from grants and donations. Women in the program are not required to pay any fees until they begin working. Then they pay a small fee and receive financial counseling to prepare for saving and budgeting for their future independent living.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Louisiana Mental Health Association

www.louisianamha.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** serving over 2,000 individuals annually in the Greater Baton Rouge Area
- **History & Mission:** Established in 1954, The Mission of the Louisiana Mental Health Association is to provide services, education, and advocacy for persons who need mental and behavioral health support.
- **Request:** Funding for our Fisher Project for individuals who have either attempted suicide or have chronic suicidal thoughts (ideations). Individuals with public insurance have limited access to therapy and support. They can be discharged from the emergency room with no means of ongoing therapeutic support or case management. The Fisher Project, provided at no cost to participants, is designed to fill the gaps between therapeutic appointments and to support individuals and their caregivers on the journey towards healing. We employ recognized peer support specialists, as caseworkers. Peers assess client needs and determine referrals to resources that will improve their overall mental health: legal aid, doctors, psychiatrists, therapists, disability, housing, food pantries and banks etc. After 6 months of participation in the program, clients are given a reassessment. At this point, clients are able to decide if they would like to continue in the program or discharge.
- **Other Funding Sources:** All of LAMHA programs and services are provided at no cost to the client. LAMHA currently receives sustainable funding from the Office of Behavioral Health through 2025. Government funding is critical to providing services at no cost but does not cover the full cost of running a program.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Louisiana Parole Project

www.paroleproject.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Serving over 100 individuals annually in EBR and surrounding areas
- **History & Mission:** Established in 2015, Parole Project enhances public safety through advocacy, programming, and services so that people who have served long prison sentences can reach their full potential.
- **Request:** Our organization operates nine transitional houses in Baton Rouge. The men and women we serve have a safe, stable home to return to after incarceration so that they can begin to rebuild their lives. Upon release we assist them by ensuring their basic needs are met and help them develop skills that will impact their quality of life. We help our clients find employment and work with them to become self-sufficient. We provide transportation to visit their parole officer, doctor visits, grocery shopping, and other necessary trips. We work to find volunteer opportunities for our clients so they can feel involved and accepted in their community. We start working with our clients before they are released from prison so that they can create a realistic plan of action for their future. Most of our staff are formerly incarcerated persons who serve as peer mentors with the experience of finding success after incarceration. This funding would help us manage the costs of operating our program which include clothing, food, utilities and other housing costs, insurance, fuel and maintenance of vehicles. It also helps us help clients once they move into their own apartments with necessities like furniture, kitchenware, and utility deposits. Your support would make a significant impact on our organization and ability to serve people who seek to better their lives and become good neighbors.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We receive funding from multiple sources including limited state and federal funding. Nonetheless, most of our funding comes from private foundations like Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation and the generosity of individual donors. We provide services to our clients without fees. We want them to save their money once they become employed so they can work towards independence..

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

One Touch Ministry

www.1touchministry.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** serving 170 individuals annually in the greater Baton Rouge area
- **History & Mission:** Since 1997, OTM has been dedicated to the reduction of recidivism among our recently released formerly incarcerated citizens, leading to fuller, more productive lives for them and a safer community for us all. OTM believes when returning citizens have a stable and safe housing environment, a support network, post-release life skills programming, and employment opportunities, they will prosper and successfully re-enter society. We provide housing, counseling, clothing, toiletries, food, and other necessities for each of our returned citizens. OTM has an 89% success rate for men who stay and complete the program. As a faith-based, non-profit organization, we strive to ensure that those who complete the program have all the tools necessary to become law-abiding and productive members of society, through spiritual guidance, education, life skills programming, and mental health counseling.
- **Request:** OTM strives to emulate the teaching of Matthew 25:40. Our entire mission revolves around providing transitional housing and support to hard-to-place men who are coming out of prison with no place to go. We are often contacted by them or their families or Case Managers, Parole Officers and other entities statewide while they are still incarcerated. However, many we have to turn away for the lack of housing space. We desperately need to replace our bedding (mattresses and box springs) and washers and dryers in the six homes we provide for these reentering men.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We receive a grant from the Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation and private donations. The residential program participants, once fully employed pay a monthly housing fee of \$575. Those who cannot pay or remain unemployed, we simply cover their living expenses.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge

www.rtbr.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Serving 150 people annually in EBR, Ascension, Livingston, Pointe Coupee
- **History & Mission:** Since 2004, our mission has been repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives. Our vision is safe homes and communities for everyone. Our home repair program focuses on those most vulnerable to the rising cost of living and falling social service budgets, the often forgotten. We make homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient for low-income elderly and/or disabled homeowners. The greatest need of our organization is funding for roof replacement, which is our number one request for assistance, and the most critical repair. If a home does not have a sound roof, the integrity of the entire home is compromised and it will deteriorate quickly. In fact, we must often decline other much needed interior work due to a faulty roof. Most requests come from 70805, the poorest zip code in Baton Rouge, where the homes are 40-90 years old. Many of these homeowners are living well below the poverty line, and do not have the physical or financial means to make even basic home repairs, much less replace a roof.
- **Request:** The requested funding will be used to provide critical roof replacement at no cost to 21 low-income elderly and/or disabled homeowners.
- **Other Funding Sources:** We have received funding from Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, William Edwin Montan Charitable Trust, Home Depot, ExxonMobil, Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge Foundation Fund, The Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors, and Capital Area United Way. We do not charge fees to those who receive our services. All home repairs, improvements, and accessibility modifications are provided at no charge to qualified homeowners.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

St. Lillian's Academy

www.stlillian.org

- **Location:** Baton Rouge **Impact Area:** Serving 123 children annual in EBR, Livingston, Ascension, Plaquemine, St. Gabriel
- **History & Mission:** Established in 2011, Our Mission is to provide a measurably effective education for students who have communication and learning challenges. Our Vision is to ensure that our students maximize their futures and become productive, contributing members of their community.
- **Request:** For our students, St. Lillian Academy is able to offer very low student/teacher ratios (6:1), appropriate instruction materials, specialized curriculum, and individualized learning tools appropriate for each unique child. The funds will be used for continued professional development of our staff, program expansion for our newly combined schools, tuition assistance to cover the gap between tuition paid and actual costs of educating the child, as well as general operating expenses for our organization.
- **Other Funding Sources:** St. Lillian Academy is a private school and operates from revenue received from tuition, fees, and extended programs, as well as funds raised from public and private sources. Each year we have dedicated funds for scholarships, expanding our opportunity to serve any family who wishes to have their child attend. We aim to serve as many families as possible. The current cost of our education (\$14,600) can be prohibitive to most families. Due to the specialization of our instruction and support services, the actual cost of one student's education is \$20,000-\$22,000 and is not fully covered by tuition fees. Each year we provide financial aid to families who otherwise cannot afford to access our school if it were not for scholarship support. More than 80% of our students receive some form of financial aid from multiple sources. 20% of our families receive support directly as waived fees and tuition assistance. Our development plan aim is to raise approximately \$400,000+ from individual donors, grant resources, and public funds annually.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection

Volunteers of America – South Central Louisiana

<https://www.voascla.org/>

- Location: Baton Rouge Impact Area: Annually serving 233 elderly residents in the housing program in EBR, WBR, Ascension, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, E & W Feliciana
- History & Mission: Established in 1921, Volunteers of America is a movement organized to reach and uplift all people and bring them to the knowledge and active service of God. Volunteers of America, illustrating the presence of God through all that we do, serves people and communities in need and creates opportunities for people to experience the joy of serving others. We measure our success in positive change in the lives of individuals and communities we serve.
- Request: Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana (VOASCLA) is requesting funding to provide essential financial assistance, to defray the cost associated with maintaining permanent housing for elderly residents. The housing market is constantly rising and rental prices remain high, while supplemental income and programs lag significantly behind. This has often led to financial hardship and homelessness. We are proposing to use the WGC funds to assist elderly residents who are at risk of homelessness with deposits and rental assistance and utility assistance, to regain stability and to prevent eviction proceedings that cause homelessness.
- Other Funding Sources: VOASCLA receives funding from the Capital Area United Way, DCFS, Housing Initiative Program, Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, ESG (Emergency Shelter Grant), Ryan White/MAI (Minority AIDS Initiative), ESFP (Emergency Shelter and Food Program), and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). We have served over 700 families in supportive housing case management through HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) and four HUD Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

Reputation	Proposed Work	Connection