



TOGETHER FOR HOPE



END OF YEAR REPORT - 2017

Together for Hope – Louisiana

This year, Director Marc Boswell continued teaching **GED classes** and providing **educational support** for the citizens of Lake Providence. In addition to teaching, Together for Hope has worked with partner organizations, local volunteers, and other congregations **to provide over \$2,500 in scholarships** to offset the cost of testing, travel, and study materials.

At the end of 2017, **over 80 sub-tests have been passed**, leading to **eleven graduates** and over seven others who are very close to finishing. Four students are one test away from graduating and aim to finish in January. Students participating in the GED classes also receive **support in career, college, and financial aid counseling**, in addition to connecting with area Workforce programs. Students like Trinity, for instance, received help with completing her GED, getting her first job, and enrolling into a Certified Nursing Assistant program.

IF YOU, YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, CIVIC ORGANIZATION, OR CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A GED STUDENT, A GIFT OF \$20 WILL COVER THE COST OF A WORKBOOK AND A GIFT OF \$100 WILL COVER THE COST OF THE FIVE REQUIRED GED TESTS.

Together for Hope also celebrates the opening of a new Learning Center in Lake Providence. The center will provide additional space **for tutoring, other TFH-related programming opportunities, and our first ever office space!** Over \$8,000 was raised to make this possible. The Together for Hope Advisory Council is currently exploring **additional grant opportunities** to make this space a sustainable presence amid other community efforts to **revitalize the downtown** of Lake Providence.

This year also marked the **15th anniversary of partnering with the public schools** in Lake Providence. Cooperative Baptist congregations and Southside Elementary joined together to gather school supplies for children and teachers. Together, we were able to raise over **\$3,000 worth of school supplies**, along with hosting a **Back to School Party**.

Highlights of 2017 also include Marc's work with the city council of Lake Providence to craft an **economic development plan**. This was done to help register Lake Providence as a "**Development Ready Community**" through the state agency, Louisiana Economic Development. Three church groups came to Lake Providence during the summer to a) host a **reading/literacy day camp** for elementary school students, and b) help community members **rehab a building** which they hope to someday open as an after-school tutoring program.

This has been a very fortunate 15th year of work in Lake Providence. We're tremendously grateful for the support and dedication of people in town (Sister Bernie, the Brocks, the Condreys, Stanley Pitts, Lynn Thom, Patricia Johnson, Rosie Brown, Anita Traxler), along with all of the congregations, CBF-LA leaders, partner organizations (i.e., Teach for America, CASA, JAG, the Public Library), and individual donors who have supported the ministry and, most importantly, the people of Lake Providence. Thank you!

Yearly Highlights

- *Over 80 GED Sub-Tests passed
- *11 GED Graduates!
- *Opening of the Learning Center
- *15th Year of gathering school supplies and bookbags
- *Economic Development Plan
- *Mission Teams, Literacy Camps, Building Rehabs

