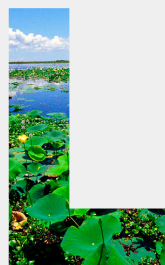




2021

ANNUAL  
REPORT

**CONNECTING | RECOVERING | REBUILDING**  
WHILE IMAGINING THE FUTURE





# 2021

## CONNECTING | RECOVERY | REBUILDING WHILE IMAGINING THE FUTURE

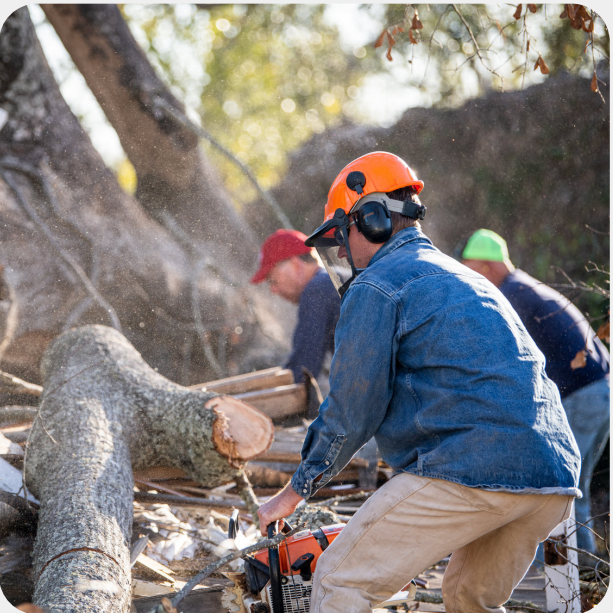
### SWLA Hope Video

Our goal in creating an inspiring song and video was to showcase the strength and spirit of the people who live here, as we change their focus from what happened to what we can make happen for our community. The inspiration was carried across the country to Bakersfield, California, where Mayor Karen Goh created her own Hope video for her city when reopening after the COVID-19 shutdown.

Rebuilding was a priority of 2021. The Foundation's Hurricane Relief and Recovery Fund made strategic grants to organizations focused on rebuilding homes in the SWLA area.

Volunteer teams have replaced roofs, sheetrock, and more in over 200 houses across the region.

Mental health was also a priority in 2021. Residents were able to receive counseling services at Family & Youth Counseling Center and the Kay Dore Center at McNeese State University, made possible by grants from the Hurricane Relief and Recovery Fund.



When Hurricanes Laura and Delta devastated our community, community foundations across the country offered assistance for Southwest Louisiana. We were ready and honored to give help behind the scenes to the Bayou Community Foundation when Hurricane Ida made landfall and uprooted the lives of those in Southeast Louisiana.

The Community Foundation SWLA is facilitating the planning process in partnership with Urban Design Associates, an internationally recognized planning firm based in Pennsylvania. Louisiana-based team members include Franklin Associates, a public engagement firm based in Baton Rouge; Stantec, an internationally recognized resilience, infrastructure, and engineering firm; WHLC Architecture, a Baton Rouge-based architecture firm; and Dr. James Richardson and Dr. Daniel Groft, Louisiana-based economic consultants.



### JUST IMAGINE SWLA

A 50-Year Resilience Master Plan for  
Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes

The Just Imagine SWLA project will create a 50-year resilience plan for Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, including 10 specific projects that will show the potential of the region and layout strategies to implement them.

# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grants</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$2,567,887</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Total Assets</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$38,059,940</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2008-2021 Total Grants</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$22,953,135</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021 Return on Investment</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>18.46%</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021 Funds</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>132</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Funds</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>19</b></p>

## CHARITABLE FUNDS

Through charitable funds, the Foundation can give you access to our knowledge of the local nonprofit community and the needs of our region. This partnership will also allow you to stay informed about the organizations you support and the effect your giving will have on the future of the community.

- Sara Judson, President & CEO, Community Foundation Southwest Louisiana

## ENDOWMENT FUND HIGHLIGHT



Electrician Wayne Simmons enjoyed hunting, fishing and helping the less fortunate.

### A lasting gift

How an electrician with a modest lifestyle established an endowment fund that is continuing to help others after his death

**By John Gadsden**  
 More than seven years ago, the Wayne Simmons Memorial endowment fund was created through the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. Last year, \$1 million was put into the fund to benefit the Salvation Army of Lake Charles, the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries and the American Cancer Society. Since then, the endowment has provided more than \$250,000 to those nonprofits.

**'Having known Wayne for longer than I can even remember, he would be so thrilled at the impact that his estate has had on our community. Wayne was just a good ol' boy who acquired a respectable amount of money and has created a legacy that will go on forever.'**

also helps with getting residents to Ashland's Alzheimer's meetings and providing coffee and snacks at the meetings. Brian Manning, American Cancer Society executive director of development, said the money received from the endowment is specifically used to provide to local cancer centers. Then the centers apply for the grant and receive it. There is a separate fund cards to patients who need help getting to their cancer appointments. Manning said the money received from the endowment has given him \$400 in his first year, in more than \$17,000 currently. The Community Foundation support helps the American Cancer Society focus on research and patient services with the ultimate goal being to end cancer, Manning said. Still, the endowment is there to address specific needs, like access

#### Establishing a charitable fund

**GIVE**  
 Make a contribution at any time and receive a tax benefit.

**GROW**  
 Your fund is invested and grows tax-free.

**GRANT**  
 Advise grants to support causes that

**'When a person, family, company or nonprofit decides to open a charitable fund, they may do so with a minimum of \$10,000 and get the tax deduction in that year.'**

**Sara Judson**  
 Community Foundation, SWLA president and CEO

The Wayne Simmons Endowment Fund has granted over \$250,000 to the organizations of his choice since his passing in 2014: The American Cancer Society, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, and Salvation Army Lake Charles.

In 2021 American Cancer Society provided grants to local cancer centers for patient lodging and transportation. This kind of partnership is just what Wayne Simmons, a regular guy, wanted to create with his legacy.

*Without a fund like this, we wouldn't have the benefit of helping as much as we can.*

*We touch more lives because of Mr. Simmons' gift.*

**Lt. Morrison, Salvation Army Lake Charles**



# A LETTER FROM THE CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Our Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter. In 2021, we connected hope to action through strategic recovery and rebuilding our communities. Our connections with local and national donors, elected officials, and organizations, like the National Park Service and Urban Design Associates, are actively giving us the opportunity to Just Imagine SWLA. This is the time to join us! Become an annual member, open a charitable fund, volunteer on a project or do all three! Together, we are creating a positive and lasting impact in Southwest Louisiana.

**SARA JUDSON**     **MARSHALL SIMIEN**  
President & CEO     Foundation Board Chair



## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*All members are invited to participate in Foundation events and will be listed publicly unless otherwise specified.*



**Visionary Society**     \$10,000



**Partners in Progress**     \$5,000

**Community Impactor**     \$2,500

**Community Leader**     \$1,000

**Supporter**     \$500



**Friend**     \$100

## KEY INITIATIVES MADE POSSIBLE BY MEMBERS

### Hurricane Recovery & Rebuilding

*Volunteer teams have replaced roofs, sheetrock, and more in over 200 houses across the region.*

### Help SWLA Now

*The Foundation facilitated advocacy efforts to support the federal dollars for recovery.*

### Bayou Greenbelt

*The vision of Mike Nodier, member of the Foundation to connect the waterways around Lake Charles.*

### Just Imagine SWLA

*A 50 year resilience plan that will help shape our region into a thriving area for generations to come.*