SMILE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Annual Report
The Stimulus Years
2009-2010 • 2010-2011
St. Martin • Iberia • Lafayette
Community Action Agency

“Pumping Life into the Community”
There are those who say that the federal stimulus dollars didn’t work.

We beg to differ.

In our tri-parish service region of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette, as well as Acadia and Jefferson Davis Parishes whereby we also have state contracts for weatherization and LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program), our stimulus dollars definitely made a difference.

A big difference.

With that in mind, we have devoted our annual report to those stimulus years – fiscal years June 1, 2009-May 31, 2010 and June 1, 2010-May 31, 2011. After all, it was during these years that we were able to pump life into our community through creative and innovative programs.

We were able to stimulate our economy.

Stimulus dollars meant that we were able to expand our Early Head Start Program, and serve an additional 136 infant, toddlers and pregnant mothers. They meant that we were able to weatherize more homes resulting in more energy savings, and that we were able to provide more families with utility assistance through LIHEAP.

Moreover, stimulus dollars meant that we were able to develop and implement unique programs and services with our CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) funding. We were able to provide job readiness and life skills through partnerships with the Lafayette Business & Career Solutions Center, Goodwill, and the Lafayette Training & Career Development Center. We were able to provide on-the-job training for homeless men through a collaboration with St. Joseph’s Shelter for Men, and on-the-job training for students through a collaboration with Acadia Technical College. Stimulus dollars meant that we were able to provide vital support services with our Family Mentoring and Young Adult Male Programs.

Stimulus CSBG dollars also meant that we were able to provide computer skills workshops in computer/internet basics and Microsoft software programs. Stimulus dollars meant that we were able to provide a health and wellness program that was enhanced by partnerships with Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center and the University Medical Center. Stimulus dollars meant that we were able to provide youth support through a collaboration with Helping Hands. In addition, stimulus dollars meant that we were able to provide invaluable emergency assistance and child care assistance.

Therefore, proudly, we reflect back on these past two fiscal years, which were stimulated by those stimulus dollars – those ARRA dollars – as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

We are grateful that these dollars enabled us to serve 100s of people in our community. We didn’t conduct miracles, but for a two-year period – instead of just providing people with fish, we were able to teach people how to fish. Remember the proverb: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

And that – that is what it’s all about.

Sincerely,

Alvin Wiltz
Executive Director
About SMILE

The St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency, Inc., or SMILE (as it is widely known by its popular acronym), serves as the primary provider of social services in a tri-parish region. Chartered as a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt corporation in 1968, the Agency is headquartered in Lafayette. During the stimulus fiscal years – June 1, 2009-May 31, 2010 and June 1, 2010-May 31, 2011, the Agency celebrated its 41st and 42nd anniversaries.

The Agency’s motto, “People Helping People,” stems from the Economic Opportunity Act’s goal to uplift the nation’s disadvantaged, and to assist them in obtaining self-sufficiency.

SMILE’s programs include Head Start/Early Head Start, comprehensive housing counseling, emergency assistance, family transitional shelters, utility and rent/mortgage assistance, prescription assistance, senior volunteers/expo, youth mentoring/tutoring, weatherization, parenting education, job placement/referrals, and the distribution of clothing, food and hygiene.

During the stimulus years, SMILE welcomed an apprentice program, computer technology program, Early Head Start Expansion, weatherization expansion, young adult male program, homeless painting project, job readiness, child care assistance, family mentoring, health and wellness and an afterschool youth program.

AGENCY MANAGEMENT

SMILE operates under the administration of Executive Director Alvin Wiltz. He oversees a managerial staff that includes the Director of Field Operations, Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start, Director of Grants/Communications and the Equal Opportunity Officer. These supervisors, in turn, have staff members who oversee their various departments.

The Agency has an accounting system in place, and conducts an annual audit. It also practices non-discrimination.

SMILE is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of the public, private and low-income sectors of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes. The volunteer Board serves as the legal entity of the organization, and is committed to its success.

NETWORKING WITH AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Collaboration has always been an intricate part of the Agency. Not only does the Agency collaborate, but it has also been instrumental in the development of important programs in the region, including the Council on Aging and Meals-on-Wheels. SMILE has also assisted agencies in their start-up efforts, including 232-HELP. The Agency was also instrumental in the creation of ARCH (Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing), and served as a founding member. SMILE also collaborates with the La. Workforce Commission.

History of SMILE

People Helping People is a noble phrase, one that almost assumes a spiritual connotation by an American public influenced by Judeo-Christian principles and practices. But without a concerted effort of vital resources and funding, the concept lacks the means to significantly change the lives of poor people. The federal government acknowledged this fact with the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in August 1964.

The Act provided for the establishment and funding of Community Action agencies and programs. Its purpose was to focus all available local, state, private and federal resources so that low-income individuals and families could attain the skills, knowledge, motivation and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient. Its primary mission was to make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor.

Although the undertaking of such a mission was monumental, concerned local citizens were determined to set into place the mechanism to assist the area’s poor. In 1965, a non-profit organization called Acadiana Neuf’ was founded to serve the needs of the poor; it was the forerunner of SMILE Community Action Agency. The consortium of nine parishes included St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette, as well as Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry and Vermilion.

While representatives struggled to define the organization, three of the parishes – Avoyelles, Evangeline and Pointe Coupee – withdrew. The remaining six parishes persevered against odds and even achieved a measure of success. The organization selected Mr. Gordain Sibille as its first executive director, and was awarded an initial grant of slightly over $40,000 to serve the needs of school dropouts through education, training and counseling. This was later followed by grants for Head Start, remedial reading and other projects that were consistent with the organization’s mission.

Inasmuch as the Economic Opportunity Act made provisions for the delegation of activities, Acadiana Neuf entered into contractual arrangements for many of its services. Organizations as the St. Martin Parish School Board, St. Landry Parish School Board and the Southern Consumer Education Foundation were engaged to administer pilot programs such as Head Start. Acadiana Neuf was also successful in securing funding for programs such as Medicare Alert, Neighborhood Referral Workers Program and Neighborhood Service Centers.

Even while achieving moderate success in these initial endeavors, the young organization still did not have the internal stability required to be truly effective. Instead, sectionalism and personality clashes eventually led to Acadiana Neuf being phased out in April 1967.

In its aftermath, individual parishes opted for autonomy; having become disillusioned by the consortium concept. Iberia Parish formed a single-parish agency; Lafayette attempted a limited agency for sponsoring Head Start, which had emerged as a highly effective vehicle for realizing social competency among mostly lower income families. While acknowledging that these single-parish organizations were serving a useful purpose, the general consensus was that they were much too limited in scope to truly serve the needs of the area’s disadvantaged populations.

Movement toward a multi-parish agency was started by such visionaries as the Rev. Stovall and State Sen. Edgar Mouton. The concept of a tri-parish agency – serving St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes – was developed through the efforts of pioneers such as Dr. James Oliver, Mr. Dennis David and Mr. Carlton James, who were formerly associated with Acadiana Neuf, as well as newcomers such as Mr. Charles Finley, Mr. L.L. Broussard, Mr. William Prade and Mrs. Jessie Taylor. These concerned citizens became the principal architects of what is now known as the St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency – SMILE.

As the Agency looks to the future, painstaking efforts are taken to ensure that SMILE remains true to its primary mission – serving the needs of the impoverished. The founding fathers would indeed be pleased to know that the torch has been passed without cessation or deviation these many years. While challenges are ahead, the concept of People Helping People remains the guiding force – interwoven in SMILE’s history.

Pumping Life into the Community

3
SMILE Stimulus Projects

Overlapping two fiscal years, SMILE’s stimulus programs helped to pump life into the community. Funded as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, known as ARRA, SMILE programs responded to the needs of the community, and helped to fulfill the Agency’s mission statement: “SMILE Community Action Agency empowers people and communities for economic independence through education, human and social services.”

Family Mentoring/Young Adult Male Programs
Making A Difference for Individuals & Families

ARRA funding meant that SMILE could devote the necessary time and staff to provide the support necessary to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families.

That was the idea behind the Family Mentoring and Young Adult Programs, conceived by St. Martin Parish Coordinator Paulma Johnson and Assistant Parish Coordinator Brenda Jones. “We wanted to serve the entire family,” Jones said. “Our goal was to help families develop goals for themselves and their children so that they could be successful.”

That is exactly what they did. The project, which was highlighted in the local media, responded to whatever needs families and young adult males had. Activities included family counseling, life skills training, literacy training and case management.

“In these trying times, families need all the individual support they can get in order to move from one level to the next,” said Irma J. Bourgeois, Director of Field Operations, who oversaw the program.”

Early Head Start Expansion
Reaching More Families

Thanks to an Early Head Start Expansion Grant, SMILE is now serving an additional 136 infants, toddlers and pregnant women. The stimulus funding, known as ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), has also meant job opportunities for the tri-parish service region of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes.

Expansion sites include the St. Martinville Childhood Developmental Center, New Iberia Head Start/Early Head Start Center, Jeanerette Early Head Start Center, Second Street Head Start Center and La. Avenue Early Head Start Center.

“It has meant positive growth for our community,” said Director of Head Start/Early Head Start Alvin Jones.

“What makes our program unique is that we involve the whole family and community, working hand-in-hand,” added Mary Cobb, CSW, who is the Assistant Director of Head Start/Early Head Start.
Painting Crew Project Provides Learning Experience; Also SMILE Upgrade Offices and Head Start Centers

The Painting Crew Project had a two-fold goal: to teach painting skills to homeless men at St. Joseph’s Men Shelter so that they would become more employable; and to upgrade Agency offices and centers.

The project, spearheaded by local contractor Leroy Frederick, included SMILE Central Office’s lobby and Human Resources Office in Lafayette, New Iberia Head Start/Early Head Start Center, Family Resource Center in St. Martinville, George Washington Carver Head Start Center in Breaux Bridge, and Holy Rosary Head Start Center in Lafayette.

Colby McZeal and Jonas Houston supervised the project’s closing, including the Holy Rosary site and Jeanerette Head Start/Early Head Start Center.

“There’s a misconception that the homeless do not want to work,” said Ruth Foote, Director of Grants/Communications, who oversaw the program. “We had so many men wanting to be part of the project.”

Stimulus CSBG Projects + Quality Control = Success

CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) stimulus projects included Job Readiness and Life Skills Programs. SMILE partnered with the Lafayette Business & Career Solutions Center and Goodwill as a part of a state pilot program for food stamp recipients.

In St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, SMILE provided Job Readiness and Life Skills through a partnership with the Lafayette Training & Career Development Center. SMILE also partnered with Helping Hands to provide a summer youth program.

Stimulus CSBG projects also included Entrepreneurship, Health/Wellness, Nutrition, Computer Technology, Family Mentoring, Young Adult Male Program, Counseling, Homeless Youth Activities, Painting Crew, Emergency Assistance and Child Care Assistance.

In addition to CSBG, ARRA projects included Head Start/Early Head Start COLA & Quality, Early Head Start Expansion, Weatherization and Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Quality Control Specialist Joe Gregory monitored projects to ensure they were meeting their goals and outcomes.

Computer Technology Classes Offer Employability

More than 100 individuals took advantage of the Computer Technology Program, which provides classes in Computer/Internet Basics, Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Individuals received a certificate upon completion.

The goal was to help individuals become more employable. It also helped them to understand how to use their computers at home.

The program included a partnership with the Acadiana Technical College, resulting in internships for five students. Interns included LTC students Corina Ballabara, Celeste Cormier, Elizabeth Demouchet, Tricea Goera and Kristen Meche.

The students worked under the guidance of Coordinator Mary J. Joseph and Assistant Coordinator Jimmie Williams. Classes were provided in all three parishes. Lafayette instructors included Uma and Dinesh Deoras.

“A digital age demands that individuals are computer savvy. Otherwise, they might get left behind,” said Ruth Foote, Director of Grants/Communications, who oversaw the project.

Staff also coordinated with the Business CORP to provide computer technology training for the apprentices.

(continued on page 10)
Financial Report for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2010

Resources (Funds/Match) Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funding</td>
<td>$3,457,073.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Funding</td>
<td>$2,699,172.00</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,839,805.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>

Resources Allocated by Program Costs

- Early Childhood Development Programs (Head Start/Early Head Start/USDA) .......... $13,833,749.00
- Low-Income Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP) .................................................. $4,625,755.00
- Transportation (Elderly, General, STEP) ......................................................... $695,707.00
- Community Services (Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Shelters, Food, Medication) ....... $1,452,650.00
- Weatherization ........................................................................................................ $1,408,861.00
- Elderly (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program--RSVP) ...................................... $66,006.00
- Administration ........................................................................................................... $584,892.00
- Other ........................................................................................................................ $172,185.00

**TOTAL..........................................................................................................................** $22,839,805.00
# Financial Report
for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2011

## Resources (Funds/Match) Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funding</td>
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<td>Local Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funding</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$26,304,838.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

## Resources Allocated by Program Costs

- Early Childhood Development Programs (Head Start/Early Head Start/USDA) .............. $15,721,420.00
- Low-Income Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ...................................................... $5,202,735.00
- Transportation (Elderly, General, STEP) .............................................................. $542,736.00
- Community Services (Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Shelters, Food, Medication) ........... $2,603,479.00
- Weatherization ........................................................................................................ $1,595,383.00
- Elderly (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program--RSVP) ........................................... $70,736.00
- Administration ......................................................................................................... $568,349.00

TOTAL ......................................................................................................................... $26,304,838.00
### SERVICES PROVIDED 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Source</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Household Members Benefiting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSBG Services</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>993</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRA</td>
<td>1,899</td>
<td>1,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Non-Crisis</td>
<td>25,120</td>
<td>56,991</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Crisis</td>
<td>3,695</td>
<td>9,473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weatherization</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys for Tots</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Pantry (St. Martin)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>163</td>
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<tr>
<td>VITA Income Tax</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>1,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia - Medication</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia - Homelessness</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lafayette Consolidated Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Agency Funding</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATMOS - Share the Warmth</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>270</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>32,282</td>
<td>72,461</td>
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### TRANSPORTATION

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<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Unduplicated Number Served</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (STEP)</td>
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<td>13,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation (Title XIX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation (General)</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>5,112</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>10,036</td>
<td>55,795</td>
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### RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)

- **Number of Volunteers**: 675 Volunteers Enrolled
- **125,174 Hours Donated**

### HOUSING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Housing Services (HUD)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Housing Services (Non-HUD)</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weatherization (ARRA)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>398</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPRP (Homeless Prevention)</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>415</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPRP (Rapid Re-housing)</td>
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<td>364</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>707</td>
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## SERVICES PROVIDED 2011

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<th>Service/Source</th>
<th>Households</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSBG Services</td>
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<td>FEMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Non-Crisis</td>
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<td>LIHEAP - Crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weatherization</td>
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<td>610</td>
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<td>Toys for Tots</td>
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<td>Medicaid Enrollment</td>
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<td>CSBG ARRA</td>
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<td>Food Pantry (St. Martin)</td>
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<td>United Way of Iberia - Homelessness</td>
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<td>Lafayette Consolidated Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATMOS - Share the Warmth</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,387</strong></td>
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## TRANSPORTATION

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<td>Transportation (Title XIX)</td>
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<td>Transportation (General)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,603</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,814</strong></td>
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## RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>675 Volunteers Enrolled</th>
<th>115,160 Hours Donated</th>
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## HOUSING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comprehensive Housing Services (HPRP)</th>
<th>1,389 Households</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,389 Households</strong></td>
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</table>
Stimulus Projects (continued from page 5)

**Emergency & Child Care Assistance Programs Help Families**

Through emergency assistance, individuals and families were able to obtain support services. Emergency assistance funds were available for rent/mortgage, utilities, prescriptions and food. Child Care Assistance provided vouchers for child care services. Qualifying individuals had to be unemployed, underemployed or in training. All recipients had to meet 200% of the federal established poverty guidelines.

**Health & Wellness Not Only Part of the President’s Agenda**

Keeping healthy has been part of President Obama’s agenda from the beginning of his presidency. First Lady Michelle Obama has made it part of her mandate as well. Thanks to stimulus dollars, the Health & Wellness Program became part of SMILE’s agenda, and has been growing since its inception.

“We not only heeded our President’s call, but we heeded the community’s call,” said Director of Finance Brenda Foulcard, who supervised the program. “The skyrocketing obesity rates and the numerous health issues demanded our attention.”

Under Health & Wellness Coordinator Vanessa Williams, the program has grown in leaps and bounds.

The program includes partnerships with health organizations, including Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center and the University Medical Center.

**Business CORP “Creating Opportunity with Real Possibilities” through Entrepreneurship**

SMILE provided individuals with the opportunity to learn how to own their own business by working as apprentices. The SMILE CORP (Creating Opportunities with Real Possibilities) Business Apprentice Program, the brainchild of Director of Finance Brenda Foulcard, was dedicated to providing individuals with the tools to start their own business.

“When the program comes to an end,” said SMILE Executive Director Alvin Wiltz at the time, “the students will have the knowledge and the tools necessary to start their own business and become leaders in the corporate world.” According to Wiltz, the goal was to help individuals realize their dreams by shaping their future.

“Being an organization that assists individuals with their needs,” Wiltz said, “we decided to take our assistance a step further.”

**Foulcard Named SMILE’s Hero During Regional Event**

During Region 4’s Community Action Hero Awards and Showcase, which was held in Lafayette, SMILE Director of Finance Brenda Foulcard was honored as SMILE’s “hero” for her exuberance, energy and empathy. She was described as the “Energizer Bunny,” and credited with encouraging her colleagues to “think out of the box.”

Foulcard was also recognized as the creator of the SMILE Business CORP, and the SMILE Health and Wellness Program. Heroes were also named for the remaining Region 4 community action agencies, including ASSIST, Evangeline, St. Landry and St. Mary. The event, which brought officials from the La. Workforce Commission, highlighted stimulus programs statewide. Its theme was “Putting the Pieces Together.”

The SMILE Host Committee included Ruth Foote, chairperson; RoxAnne Chaisson-Pitre, Veronica Figaro, Joe Gregory, Brenda Henry and Vanessa Williams.
Pumping Life into the Community

SMILE Programs

• HEAD START
Perhaps one of the greatest social programs of recent years, Head Start provides a part-day program for 1,368 preschool children, ages three to five. Includes social competence in health, educational, social and nutritional activities. Also offers disability services for children, and provides special needs for them so that they can interact and assimilate in the learning environment. In addition, the program provides training and technical assistance to the staff and parents to better prepare them to achieve the overall goals and objectives of Head Start. This includes workshops and college credit courses in Early Childhood Development.

• EARLY HEAD START
Provides comprehensive early childhood development and family support services on a year-round basis for 216 children under age three and pregnant women in order to enhance children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Also supports parents in fulfilling their parental roles, and helps parents move toward self-sufficiency. The program is interwoven with Head Start, and offers the same support system.

• CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)
Provides funds to assist with food service costs for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

• COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CSBG)
Provides support services for community-based, anti-poverty programs and projects, such as emergency assistance, transportation, housing and weatherization.

• LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)
Provides direct payments to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, particularly the elderly and disabled.

• WEATHERIZATION
Provides energy conservation and preventive measures to eligible households.

• GENERAL TRANSPORTATION
Provides transportation services (within and outside of respective parishes) for a nominal fee so that clients may attend hospital and medical appointments and social service appointments.

• EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM
Provides emergency food and shelter, and helps with rent or mortgage payments and assists those families in need of emergency shelter and food.

• EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Provides emergency assistance with food, clothes, shelter and prescriptions.

• LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS
Provides supplementary assistance for transportation, housing and emergencies.

• COUNSELING AND REFERRALS
Provides counseling services to clients who have been referred by other social agencies. Also provides referral for alternative services that may be available to clients.

• HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Provides the homeless with the opportunity to make the transition out of poverty. Also provides social and maintenance assistance.

• HUD-APPROVED COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING COUNSELING
Provides housing counseling assistance to HUD-related clients. Housing counseling activities include mortgage default, pre-purchase activities, consumer education, preoccupancy rental, rental delinquency, relocation assistance, and others. Provides the pros and cons of becoming first-time homebuyers.

• RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)
Places retired senior volunteers in various social service agencies, which is beneficial to both the volunteers and the community.

• STEP-TRANSPORTATION
Provides transportation for qualified participants, including clients and their preschool children who are transported to education sites and day care facilities, respectively. Previously referred to as the FIND Works Program and Project Independence, it is designed to assist certain groups of TANF clients in securing independence from outside resources.

• EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM
Provides transitional housing for the homeless, including supportive services, to help them achieve independent living.

• MEDICAID APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
Assists with completing applications for clients wishing to enroll in the Medicaid Program. Eligibility determinations are made by the state.

• FAMILY RESOURCE/PARENTING CENTER
Provides community education in St. Martin Parish on developmental stages of child growth, importance of parenting skills, stress/anger management.

• HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Provides a wellness program including workshops, health and fitness screenings, and nutrition/fitness education sessions.

SMILE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL*

Officers
Joanie Ledet
Chairperson
Nicole Drake
Vice-Chairperson
Tina Anthony
Secretary
Frederick Wiltz
Treasurer
Jessica Ledet
Chaplain

Community Representatives
Kathy Bourda
Mary Johnson
Vonda LeBlanc
Jennifer Olivier
Edith C. Sam

Parents
Kizzy Broussard
Tameka Edmond
Rhonda Gary
Theola Jackson
Christina Miller
LeeAnna Mouton
Arkilla Williams
Minnie Williams

*Current Policy Council Members
SMILE Board of Directors*

Deidre Ledbetter, President
Iberia Parish, Private Sector

Regis Allison, Vice-President
Lafayette Parish, Public Sector

Pernell Livingston, Secretary
Lafayette Parish, Low-Income Sector

Bronel Hebert, Treasurer
Iberia Parish, Private Sector

Zachary Landry, Parliamentarian
St. Martin Parish, Private Sector

Thomas Guidry, Chaplain
St. Martin Parish, Private Sector

Ex-Officio Member of the Board
Jonie Ledet
Head Start Policy Council Chairperson

St. Martin Parish
Low-Income Sector
James Charles
Vacant

Public Sector
Vonda LeBlanc
Richard Potier

Iberia Parish
Low-Income Sector
Arnold Green
Roszella Viltz

Public Sector
Patricia Douglass
Norma Vital

Lafayette Parish
Low-Income Sector
Kendall Wiltz

Public Sector
Margaret Guidry

Private Sector
Pamela Lemoine
Eldridge Simon

SMILE Central Office
501 St. John Street
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 234-3272 • www.smilecaa.org • (337) 234-3274/Fax

St. Martin Community Action Center
2097 Terrace Rd.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-6013

Iberia Community Action Center
722 Walton St.
New Iberia, LA 70560
(337) 365-8151

Lafayette Community Action Center
501 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 232-6810

Head Start Central Office
306 S. Theater St.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-6071

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)
501 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 234-3272, Ext. 252

Transportation Headquarters
722 Walton St.
New Iberia, LA 70560
(337) 369-9387

*Current Board of Directors