



## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

With the welcome of spring's warmer weather and brighter days, most of us look forward to this new season with a renewed sense of hope and optimism. Thanks to more widespread vaccine distribution, the threat of the pandemic seems to be beginning to wind down. And a return to a sense of normalcy can't come soon enough!

Unfortunately, the economic hardship and burdens of the pandemic continue to take their toll. Recovery and resiliency from its many effects will be harder for some, especially the families and children in our community programs. But, despite the challenges, our team at Boys Town Louisiana will continue to do everything possible to help our kids and families succeed.

Later this spring, we look forward to reopening our renovated Magazine Street Family Home in New Orleans to girls in need of long-term care. While it has been several years since Boys Town Louisiana served girls in our residential programs, the past year

has revealed an increased need for these more intensive services. We are excited for this new chapter at Boys Town and will be announcing more information soon, including how you can get involved.

As we begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel of this unprecedented period in our nation's history, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving families and youth who are at risk of being left behind. Together, with our community of donors and supporters, I know we can bring hope to all those who turn to us for help.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rashain Carriere-Williams".

**Rashain Carriere-Williams**  
Executive Director

# Spotlight on: Care Coordination Services

## Board Member Helps Family Come Home for the Holidays

Of the 168 families enrolled in Boys Town Louisiana's Early Head Start, 17% are also enrolled in our Care Coordination Services where trained Boys Town Consultants provide linkages to care to help families navigate complicated systems – like healthcare and food stamps – and work to address barriers preventing them from socioeconomic mobility.

Our Consultants do everything possible to connect families to resources and set them up for parenting success, but sometimes piecing together basic needs is an overwhelming challenge. ***That's why Boys Town believes it truly takes a village to help one another.***

In December, our former Board Chair, Tim Thomas, reached out about sponsoring a family in critical need during the holidays. "2020 was a tough year for most families, so rather than buying Christmas presents for each other, my wife Aurea and I wanted to give back to someone who really needed it," Tim said.

He knew Boys Town Louisiana, which touched the lives of over 400 children and families last year, would be able to connect him to a family that could urgently benefit from direct assistance. We matched him with one of our families in Care Coordination Services that had just moved into a new townhome after bouncing between shelters and hotels for three months.

"Mom had been working reduced hours due to COVID-19 and has to provide food, diapers and clothing for three young children by herself. She has not been able to save any money in her current situation," said Melanie Parker, the family's Care Coordination Services Consultant.

The family initially came to Boys Town Louisiana to enroll the youngest child in Early Head Start, but during their intake, Melanie discovered the family also needed assistance with finding stable housing.

Together with the mother, Melanie applied to every housing resource she could find in the greater New Orleans area. Finally, with assistance from the New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC), they secured her a townhome in New Orleans East with rent paid for six months.

The week before Christmas, Tim showed up at the family's doorstep with Christmas dinner and presents. While a roof was over their heads, the family of four was sleeping on two mattresses on the floor, and they didn't have room in the mini fridge for the food he had brought. In fact, ***they didn't have anything.***

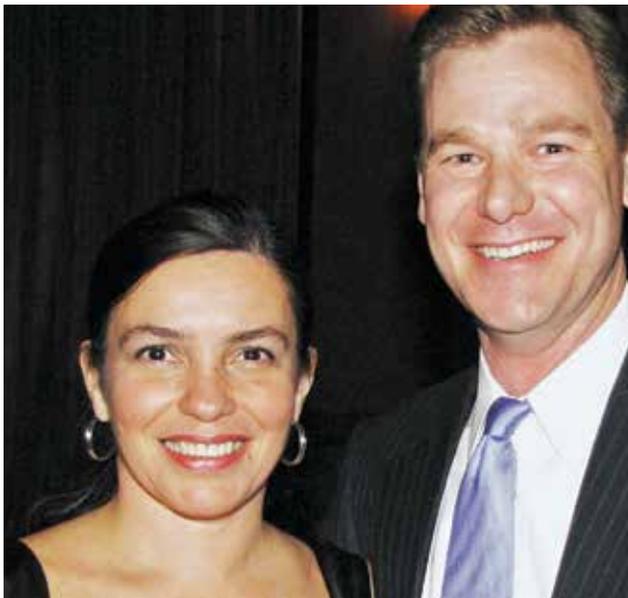
"Seeing how little they had and knowing we were in the position to give, it wasn't a choice," Tim said. "I knew I had to give what I could. I felt motivated to do more for them. It was good to know we were giving things they needed, but it never felt like enough."

Tim came back a total of four times with beds for everyone, a washer and dryer, another refrigerator, a dining room table with chairs, cleaning supplies and groceries to start them out. "The whole family was grateful, but the best was seeing the young boys in their own beds for the first time. That made me the happiest."

Melanie shared how grateful she and the family were to receive Tim's help. "This family had nothing when they moved, and Tim went all out for them. Now they truly have everything they need to be financially independent and stable. Mom has steady employment, steady housing that is fully furnished and she's able to save money and pay rent on her own starting in June. Boys Town truly helped her get back on her feet."

Tim has been a Board Member for Boys Town Louisiana since 2012 and served as Chair of the Board from 2018-2020. He has helped secure several funding resources for the organization, including over \$50,000 from New York Life, and is always eager to lend a helping hand.

"Tim's generosity is an example of how we can each play a part to ensure no family is left behind in our community," said Rashain Carriere-Williams, Executive Director of Boys Town Louisiana.



TIM AND AUREA THOMAS

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**To find out how you can help make a difference in the lives of local children and families, please contact Julia Turkevich at [Julia.Turkevich@boystown.org](mailto:Julia.Turkevich@boystown.org).**

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WISHES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thank you so much to everyone who gave to Boys Town Louisiana this holiday season!

From youth in our residential programs to families in our community support programs, dedicated individuals and groups stepped up to give our clients a Christmas to remember. We received everything from clothing, books, sports

equipment and toiletries to Christmas dinners and canned goods. Whether filling basic needs or simply putting a gift under the tree, your gifts brought smiles to the faces of the youth and families we serve.



## **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the following individuals and groups that brought the spirit of giving to Boys Town Louisiana this holiday season:

Boys Town's Black Organization for Leadership Development (BOLD)  
Boy Scout Troop #317  
Chris and Valerie Barrilleaux  
Cliff Buller  
Fore!Kids Foundation  
First District Missionary Baptist Association, Young People's Department  
Gene Usner  
Harold Koretzky  
High Voltage Youth Camp  
Hobbs Family

Joyce Raphael  
Kent Berger  
Kiwanis Group  
Naomi Green  
New Orleans Pelicans  
One Book New Orleans  
Sandra Tisdale  
St. Catherine of Siena Women's Club  
Tim and Aurea Thomas  
Victory Fellowship Church



*We'd also like to thank the 22 individuals and community organizations that sent our youth and staff holiday cards. Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with one another even though we were apart this year!*

# GRATITUDE

Thank you so much to **Gootee Construction** for partnering with Boys Town Louisiana on our year-end campaign! Between December 18th and December 31st, Gootee Construction matched all gifts made to Boys Town Louisiana up to \$10,000. Thanks to Ben and Ashley Gootee, Ken and Kathy Gootee and the entire Gootee Construction team for your incredible generosity! Gootee Construction's support goes a long way in helping children and families in Boys Town Louisiana's care. Over the past few years, Gootee Construction and its employees have provided thousands of dollars in funding to Boys Town Louisiana.



Thank you to the **Greater New Orleans Foundation** for awarding Boys Town Louisiana with a \$20,000 grant to support our residential programs.

Thank you to Brad Fleming and the **Westbank Rotary Club** for hosting Boys Town Louisiana at its January 19th meeting.

Thank you to the **St. Catherine of Siena Women's Club** for hosting Boys Town Louisiana at its March 1st meeting.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN BOYS TOWN LOUISIANA'S LEADERSHIP

Please welcome our newly elected Board Members, **Terri Stuckey** and **Dede Redfearn**!



**TERRI STUCKEY**

Terri is a graduate of Loyola University College of Law. After a career as a litigation associate, she stayed home to raise her children and to volunteer in the community.

Terri has served as president of the St. Catherine of Siena Co-Op Club, Ursuline Academy Alumnae Association and Parent Club boards. She was secretary of the Council of Catholic Schools Co-Operative Clubs and is currently treasurer of the Spring Hill College National Alumni Association Board and president-elect of the St. Catherine of Siena Women's Club.

Dede has enjoyed a 20-year history with Boys Town. She has an Early Childhood Special Education degree, a master's degree in special education from the University of New Orleans and another master's degree in social work from Tulane University. She has worked with a number of non-profit agencies, including Covenant House and Boys Town, and has set up teen court programs in Orleans and Jefferson Parish Juvenile Courts.

While she is currently a small business owner, most of her career and volunteer work has been focused on improving the opportunities for teens and young adults in the greater New Orleans area.



**DEDE REDFEARN**

For more great stories, visit

**[BOYSTOWN.ORG/LOUISIANA](http://BOYSTOWN.ORG/LOUISIANA)**



### Development Office

**James Howell**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
504-293-7907  
[james.howell@boystown.org](mailto:james.howell@boystown.org)

**Julia Turkevich**  
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR  
504-293-7910  
[julia.turkevich@boystown.org](mailto:julia.turkevich@boystown.org)

For 30 years, Boys Town Louisiana has positively impacted and changed the lives of thousands of children and families through its transformative care and services. Boys Town believes today, as our founder Father Edward Flanagan did over 100 years ago, that every child deserves a future, every family deserves to stay together and every community deserves to thrive. Boys Town offers hope. But we offer hope as more than just an abstract concept; we substantiate it with programs and solutions grounded in our deep experience and supported by our decades of research.

Since opening in 1989, Boys Town Louisiana has focused on meeting the needs of youth and families through a variety of programs and services. We have continued to expand our services, and now serve 7,600 children and families in Louisiana each year.

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