

The Rice Voelker Fund for Recovery  
327 N. Columbia St.  
Covington, LA 70433

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment  
Before starting to improve the world.”

-Anne Frank (1929-1945)

Known as the Mark Twain of baseball, Charles Dryden was one of the first modern sportswriters. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the then Washington Senators baseball team was the paragon of ineptitude. In 1904 Dryden penned an insult to our nation’s capital city that lasted until 1961 when the Senators moved to Minnesota and became the Twins: “First in war, first in peace, and last in the American League.”

The 2019 U.S. News and World Report’s “Best States” list once again ranks Louisiana at #50. A good description of our plight might be “First in food, first in fun, and last in the U.S.A.”

There is no joy in being last in a competitive ranking unless you own a professional sports franchise tanking for the first draft pick. While some metrics in the ranking are questionable, there is no denying that Louisiana has woeful gaps in healthcare, education, crime, corrections, and economic opportunity.

Because of the circumstances faced by our citizenry, our fund does not lack for deserving individuals and organizations to which we can channel your financial assistance. Following are some of the highlights of recent efforts made possible by your generosity.

Since inception the fund has contributed to [Unity of Greater New Orleans](#), a nonprofit heading a coalition of 60 agencies aimed at ending homelessness. Since 2007 Unity has overseen an almost 80% drop in the homeless population to the present level of about 1000 men and women. Unity provides permanent housing and social services to its clients that provide a foundation for their reengagement to the community.

[Lowernine.org](#) has rebuilt 87 Katrina-damaged homes in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans using volunteer labor. Following the storm 100% of that area’s homes were uninhabitable. A lot of work remains but this group is hastening the day of recovery for the Lower Ninth Ward.

Another Ninth Ward asset is the [James Joseph School of Boxing](#) whose coaches use boxing as an instrument to divert at risk youths from the streets while teaching them to take pride in themselves and their community. The school is currently hosting a Regional Junior Olympic Box Off in New Orleans and the fund is a sponsor of that event.

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[Doggone Express](#) is a nonprofit that rehabs shelter dogs into companion and therapy roles. Many of the trainers are incarcerated in Louisiana prisons. The graduated dogs' new human companions are typically disabled veterans and other persons in need of physical and emotional support. The \$150 adoption fee is a minute fraction of the cost of conventionally trained service animals.



VETERANS WITH THEIR NEW COMPANIONS FROM DOGGONE EXPRESS

[Chimp Haven](#) is a new recipient of aid from our fund. The 200-acre refuge in North Louisiana is home to 260 chimps retired from biomedical research. The N.I.H. ended federally funded research on chimps in 2015 but 300 are still waiting for a home. The current expansion at Chimp Haven is aimed at serving that population.



A PAIR OF CHIMP HAVEN'S RETIRED RESIDENTS

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The fund continues its support for [Innocent Project New Orleans](#), the non-profit whose volunteer legal staff works to gain freedom for wrongly convicted life-sentenced prisoners. Since IPNO's founding in 2001, the organization has gained freedom for 34 innocent prisoners who served a total of 813 years in Louisiana and Mississippi prisons. In addition to contributions to IPNO the fund has aided individual exonerees upon their release.

[New Heights Therapy](#) helps people with physical, cognitive, and emotional difficulties through the healing power of the horse. Support for NHT was one of the fund's first grants following Katrina. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, this non-profit has expanded its reach beyond its original youth-centered clients to adult programs including many focused on veterans.

The destruction of three historically black churches in St. Landry Parish by a depraved arsonist this past April was remindful of a time in this state best forgotten. The event became a national story and the fund was part of a capital raise that will totally fund the rebuild for these congregations.

The fund continued support for [Pennies for Bread](#), [Boys and Girls Club](#), [Forgotten Angels](#) (financial aid to students of homeless families), [CEEP](#) (a summer program for at risk teens), and the [Humane Society of Louisiana](#).

Among the victims of the August 2016 massive flooding over the never-flooded environs of Baton Rouge were the residents of a subsidized apartment complex for low-income and disabled seniors in Denham Springs called Livingston Manor. Before the flood, it was one of the few such facilities in Livingston Parish. The torrential rains engulfed the property and rendered it uninhabitable resulting in many of the displaced residents either dying or being put in nursing homes.

Earlier this year Livingston Manor reopened after a long-delayed renovation. One of the returning residents, a disabled former metal worker named Tommy Mauldin, had only a worn recliner for furniture. The fund purchased an entirely new living room and bedroom suite for Tommy.



TOMMMY MAULDIN

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LUKE BERTEL

Luke Bertel is a Covington fourth-grader and goalie on the U10 Team Louisiana lacrosse squad. Luke is confronting a diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukemia. The extensive treatment, which has just begun, is already an overwhelming financial burden on the Bertel Family. The fund is a participant in fund raising efforts for Luke and his parents.

The generous response to Marc Cohodes' matching gift by his Twitter followers has given the fund a total of \$82,460 in new contributions. This year so far, we have paid out \$24,996 and have a current bank balance of \$65,514.

Mother Teresa once characterized her service as being for "the last, the least, and the lost." Many of the recipients of your generosity could well be so defined. But also, thanks to you they may not remain so. Her message was that each of us must find our own Calcutta. "You need not come to India. Calcutta is all around you."

A large number of our fund's clients might not know where Calcutta is, but happily you knew where they were. For that, once more, our most heartfelt thanks.

Tim