



Magnolia Matters

News from Magnolia Community Services | Summer 2023



Magnolia Clients Complete Employment Training Through Ochsner Boh Center

Over a dozen Magnolia clients, who are currently unemployed, completed the Vocational Social Skills Program (VSSP) at the Michael R. Boh Center of Ochsner Health. This two-week program focused on social skills in the workplace while increasing our clients' confidence about working.

Dr. Jay Sevin, Magnolia's psychologist, noted that some who participated had no job experience and were nervous about participating. "Now, they believe they could be successful in the workplace. They view themselves differently," Sevin added.

Dr. Nicole Lasserre, the program lead of Neurodevelopmental Intervention Services at the Boh Center, commented that the VSSP allowed Ochsner to foster great relationships with community programs like Magnolia while looking to expand Ochsner's own workforce diversity.

She stated, "our work with the participants from Magnolia has allowed us to learn about the barriers that often exist as they seek out employment opportunities."

Magnolia clients who are actively employed consider their jobs to be a major part of their identity, pride, and happiness. Our supported employment program currently assists twelve clients who are steadily employed in the community.



A Note from Executive Director, Jennifer Conrad

I am excited about the new and existing relationships we have grown with our community partners, such as Ochsner Health System, Tulane School of Social Work, JPSO, and several others!

These interactions have provided experiences that are valuable to both the individuals of those agencies and to the individuals that we support.

It is my hope that these experiences ignite a passion in some of these folks that will result in a better understanding of people with developmental disabilities, thus leading to better care and a better overall quality of life.

As we remain steadfast in our mission, we are faced with changing times and changing regulations that require us to adjust the services we offer; however, we will continue to respond to the needs of those who we are able to serve.



(Left) Madonna gets ready to play Laser Tag in the community.



(Right) Wyatt and Lynn volunteer at the Greek Fest.



(Left) Tita celebrates the Fourth of July in her group home.



(Right) Rhonda and Betsy talk books at the library.

Through our partnership with Ochsner Health, Magnolia was a clinical site for medical student Neena Maizels, pictured below with Magnolia residents. As a part of her rotation, Neena worked closely with Magnolia medical director Dr. Sara Fernandez and psychologist Dr. Jay Sevin.

As a clinical site for Ochsner medical students, an intern site for Tulane social work students, a volunteer site for Delgado physical/occupational therapy students, and as a part of our mission of advocacy, Magnolia works with rising professionals who may not have been exposed professionally to adults with developmental disabilities. We hope to inspire them to work with our population in their future endeavors.



Save the Dates to support Magnolia!

Saturday August 19 - Join us on Magazine Street for shopping AND dining!
Kendra Scott: Mention "Magnolia" in store or use the online code GIVEBACK-EHIFM, and Kendra Scott will donate 20% of your purchase to Magnolia!
Picnic Provisions: Mention "Magnolia" when you dine in or take out, and Picnic will donate 15% of your purchase to Magnolia!

Thursday September 21, Lunch and Dinner - Union Ramen on Magazine
Union Ramen will donate 20% of net sales on September 21 to Magnolia!

Thursday October 12, 4 pm - 9 pm - Game On Social Hub in Kenner
Play Passes for unlimited laser tag plus 28 arcade credits are \$25, and \$10 from each play pass will be donated back to Magnolia!

Save the Date!

**You're invited to join us at the
Magnolia Moonlight Gala
presented by the Oscar J. Tolmas
Charitable Trust!**

**Friday November 3, 2023 | 7 pm
Whitehall Grounds**

**Our largest annual fundraiser directly
benefits Magnolia clients and services.
We need YOUR support to lead the way
and reach our ambitious goal.**

**Entertainment by The Topcats
Emcee: Margaret Orr, WDSU**

**Purchase sponsorships or tickets:
<https://give.classy.org/MagnoliaGala2023>**

**Magnolia
Moonlight
GALA**
Benefitting Adults
with Developmental Disabilities

**Presented By
The Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust**



Now Hiring!

Magnolia Community Services is urgently hiring across departments to provide a high level of care for our clients. Positions available:

- Direct Support Professional
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Custodian (Part Time)
- Administrative Assistant
- Site Manager

To apply, please email careers@mcs-nola.org or visit: www.mcs-nola.org/careers

Support Magnolia

Please consider becoming a
RECURRING DONOR.

Monthly or quarterly giving ensures steady funding that Magnolia can count on. Magnolia clients can rely on their dedicated staff because they can rely on generous donors.

www.mcs-nola.org/support



Magnolia
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Leading the way for people with
developmental disabilities

Magnolia Community Services
100 Central Avenue
Jefferson, LA 70121

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