



Magnolia Matters

News from Magnolia Community Services | Fall 2023



Magnolia Moonlight Gala A Great Success!

On a beautiful evening in November, Magnolia Community Services hosted its annual Magnolia Moonlight Gala, presented by the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust and the Angel Wings Foundation. Magnolia clients, families, staff, and friends gathered on campus for the fun and festive evening.

This year's event raised over \$286,000 for Magnolia clients and services, and by all accounts, the Gala was a great success. As Magnolia's primary fundraiser, the Gala raises critical funds for its services and support for adults with developmental disabilities.

The 2023 event featured Margaret Orr as guest emcee, a performance from the Pussyfooters marching group, live entertainment from the Topcats, and delicious food by Pigeon Catering and Events. It was Magnolia clients, however, who stole the show on stage and on the dance floor, encouraging all attendees to open their hearts (and their pocketbooks) to support them and their Magnolia friends.

Led by co-chairs Jeanne Gallo, Sue Jumonville, and Karen Oertling, the volunteer Gala committee planned a fantastic evening on the Whitehall grounds with a fabulous silent auction, wine pull, grab bags, and a gallery of client artwork in Whitehall.

A special thanks to all sponsors and donors for believing in our mission and investing in our clients!



A Note from Executive Director, Jennifer Conrad

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who made this year's Moonlight Gala our most successful event yet! Our gala committee once again did a fabulous job putting this event together – from the food and décor to the auction and entertainment, they gave us another festive, fun-filled evening.

Endless appreciation also goes out to our sponsors, volunteers, staff members, and families, who remain dedicated and unfaltering in their support of this great event and our mission.

Now, more than ever, your support is paramount to our sustainability. Therefore, we are busy planning more events and campaigns, with something for everyone. For example, on Friday, November 24th, La Madeline in Elmwood will donate 20% of your order if you mention Magnolia. We have also been chosen as a charity organization for the Crescent City Classic.

As we roll out additional opportunities, I hope that you will join us in our efforts to further our mission.



Magnolia clients and staff recently participated in the Krewe of Tucks "Gumbo Gras" in Audubon Park. Our clients enjoyed volunteering for this event, which benefitted local non-profits including Magnolia.

We are so appreciative to the Krewe of Tucks for their generosity throughout the year and to their commitment to inclusion and accessibility!

Client Spotlight: Paige



This quarter, we are highlighting one of our residents, Paige. You can find Paige volunteering in the community, participating in activities on campus, and doing chores in her group home. She recently completed employment training through the Ochsner Boh program, and started a part-time job at Dot's Diner.

At the Gala, she shared with Jennifer Conrad and Margaret Orr what she loves about Magnolia and how much our services makes a difference in her life. Paige is also president of Magnolia's Aktion Club chapter, and will reign as Queen in the Harahan Christmas Parade!

Save the Dates to support Magnolia!

Friday November 24 - Let la Madeleine Cook After Thanksgiving! If you're in Elmwood shopping on Black Friday, stop by la Madeleine and mention "Magnolia Community Services" - they'll donate 20% of your purchase to our services!

Treasure Chest Casino "Wreath of Hope" - Vote for Magnolia's wreath between December 1 and December 25. We can win up to \$5,000!



Run or Walk in the CCC for Magnolia! We are participating in the Run for It program, where runners and walkers participate in the Crescent City Classic and raise money for Magnolia. More information to follow, but save the date of the CCC - Saturday, March 30, 2024!

Giving Tuesday and Year End Giving



In this season of giving, we invite you to support Magnolia Community Services and adults with developmental disabilities.

Giving Tuesday is November 28th, or make your gift before the calendar year ends.

We are also accepting donations of plastic grocery bags for our residential program, and art supplies for our vocational program.

Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in our clients!

Give Now! >

**Amazon Wish List
for Art >**

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)
- Site Manager

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



Magnolia
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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developmental disabilities

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