



A Message From Our Executive Director **JENNIFER CONRAD**

As we move into the hot summer months, I want to take a moment to reflect on our most impactful Magnolia functions so far this year and to share some exciting updates about what's ahead.

As we celebrate our 90th year, we've had the pleasure of hosting several fantastic events. We were proud to bring back **Mag Fest** in March which featured live music, community art vendors and family fun with games and umbrella making. Over 300 people attended throughout the day! We thank all our area sponsors and in-kind donors including Title Sponsors: **Domino Sugar, Angel Wings Foundation, Krewe of Tucks** and **Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra**. Mark Saturday March 7 for MagFest 2026! In April, Magnolia was proud to be a **Crescent City Classic** Charity Partner where 34 runners ran or walked the 10K route while raising over \$20,000. I know I felt every mile! We are especially proud of **Chad Adams**, a Magnolia client who completed the race and has become an example to all our clients – many have shown interest in joining next year. Check out Chad's profile in this newsletter. And finally, May 6th was **GiveNOLA Day**, where over 1000 area nonprofits participated in an online community giving day. We were proud to have 114 donors who, combined with corporate matches, raised over \$40,000 in support of Magnolia's art program. Your presence, energy, and support have made a lasting difference. Each gathering reminded us of the strength of our mission and the incredible people – families, staff and community supporters - who make it possible.

Since our last newsletter, We're thrilled to welcome new members to our team:

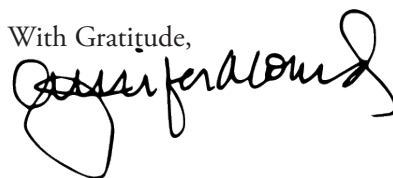
Darryl Stevens is our new Facilities Director. Darryl brings close to 15 years' experience to ensure that our grounds, buildings and 21 group homes are well maintained. **Marie Giffin** joins Magnolia as our new Administrative Assistant. Marie's tech and organizational background will help all of us! **Nicholas Ford** and **Walaa Ismail** join our team of case managers bringing their positive energy and compassion to our clients. **Adrian Castro** has joined us as our Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer. Adrian brings a wealth of experience in accounting and auditing in the nonprofit sector. We are confident Adrian's passion and leadership will be a tremendous asset to our organization. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Darryl, Marie, Nicholas, Walaa and Adrian!

On campus, we are excited about the long-awaited renovation of **Henican** Group Home creating a fresh welcoming space for our clients! We are also applying the final touches to **Magnolia Artworx**, our new store on River Road that will feature client art and creative finery. The Magnolia Artworx Gallery opening will be Fall 2025!

Looking ahead, we are excited to invite you to our upcoming **Magnolia Moonlight Fais Do-Do** on **Friday, November 7, 2025**, celebrating 90 years of service and honoring the Arbour Family. Mark Your Calendars! This special evening will showcase the heart of our mission, recognize our supporters, and raise vital funds for the year ahead. We hope you'll join us for a night of Cajun culture, inspiration, connection, and celebration while we all *laissez les bon temps rouler*! Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now at onecau.se/magnoliagala.

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support. Whether you're a donor, volunteer, staff, family member, advocate, or friend, your commitment fuels our work every day. We can't wait to see you soon—and to continue making an impact together.

With Gratitude,





90 Years of Magnolia Magic

Celebrating a Year of Fabulous Moments



Magnolia FEST Magnolia

COMMUNITY SERVICES

MagFest made a big return with second lining featuring the Pussy Footers and Krewe of Tucks, live music from Delfeayo Marsalis & the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, and family fun sponsored by Domino Sugar and Krewe of Tucks.

Save the Date
MAGFEST
2026
3.7.26



Team Magnolia was proud to participate as a Charity Partner in this year's Crescent City Classic. With 34 runners representing Magnolia, we successfully completed the 10K route and raised over \$20,000 in support of our Wellness Program. It was an incredible day of community, determination, and support for a cause that means so much to us. Mark your calendar for next year, April 4th, 2026, as we aim to grow our team to more than 50 runners.



Growing Magnolias

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Growing Magnolias for their incredible support of Magnolia Community Services. Hosted by Colonial Lanes in Harahan and powered by the passion and dedication of Steven and Mel Perez, the event on Sunday, May 25th brought the community together and raised over \$11,000. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of fun and excitement, with raffle winners taking home hundreds of prizes—including coveted diamond earrings from Ramsey's and gift cards to local restaurants and coffee shops. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support that made this event such a success.



Profiles of Magnolia

CHAD ADAMS

Chad Adams is a shining example of determination, joy, and personal growth. A proud and independent individual, Chad joined the Supported Independent Living program at Magnolia 17 years ago when he was 31 years old. He approaches each day with a sense of purpose—whether he's heading to work, training for a race, or spending time with friends at Magnolia. He takes tremendous pride in the life he has built and the milestones he has achieved.



This year, Chad reached a major fitness goal by joining **Team Magnolia** and completing the **Crescent City Classic 10K** road race while raising funds for Magnolia—an accomplishment that brought a huge smile to his face and cheers from those who know his hard work and dedication. Chad also competed in the **Special Olympics** this past May, where he not only participated but triumphed, placing in events and inspiring many with his determination.



Chad's love for his job is another source of deep pride. He was excited to share that he now works with the carts allowing him to move about through the day. Chad values the responsibility, routine, and relationships that come with being part of a team at **Zuppardo's** for the past 4 years. When not at work, Chad volunteers at **Longue Vue Garden** where he helps clean and weed the grounds. His commitment and positive attitude are an example to those around him.

Chad's mother, Stacy Winn Mills, shares how grateful she is for Magnolia, a place where Chad continues to learn, grow, and connect with others in meaningful ways. *"Magnolia has given Chad the chance to be independent and himself,"* she says. *"I also feel comfortable because I know Magnolia is there for him".*

Chad's journey is also supported by Barret Kain, his Personal Care Assistant who has worked closely with him since 2017. He helps when needed, including transportation, managing his finances and shopping for meals. *"It's a privilege to walk alongside Chad in his daily life,"* Barret shared. *"To see his confidence grow and be part of his accomplishments—there's nothing more rewarding."*

Chad's story is one of resilience, pride, and community. He reminds us that we can all achieve great things with hard work and loving support, regardless of ability.



Magnolia

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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SAVE THE DATE



Magnolia Moonlight

Benefitting Adults with Developmental Disabilities

FAIS DO-DO 11.7.25

Join us on **Friday, November 7, 2025** for Magnolia Community Services' signature fundraising event as we celebrate 90 years of service and honor the **Arbour Family**.

This year's theme pays tribute to the rich traditions of Louisiana's Cajun culture, featuring vibrant music, authentic cuisine, and unforgettable community spirit.

Don't miss this special evening filled with celebration, connection, and purpose—*Laissez les bon temps rouler* with us!



TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS
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