



## A Message From Our Executive Director

# JENNIFER CONRAD

Spring has arrived at Magnolia Community Services—bringing with it a season of momentum, gratitude, and meaningful progress across our campus and community. It is a joy to share the many ways you continue to show up for Magnolia and the individuals we serve.

We are still glowing from the success of our **Second Annual Magnolia Fest**. To every sponsor, volunteer, vendor, musician, attendee, and donor—thank you for making the day so memorable. Mag Fest is more than a celebration; it is a powerful reflection of community. Your energy and generosity strengthen the bonds that make Magnolia so special. We are already looking ahead—please mark your calendar for March 6, 2027!

That same spirit carries forward for the **Crescent City Classic**. As Charity Partners, Team Magnolia runners and walkers trained, fundraised, and stepped up in support of our clients. We are incredibly proud of each participant and grateful to everyone who has contributed, encouraged, volunteered, or cheered from the sidelines. You are all part of this team, and we enjoyed to celebrating together at the finish line.

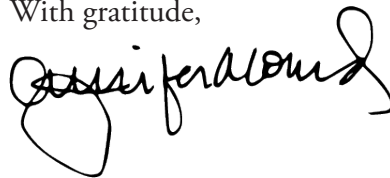
And the opportunities to give back continue. Please join us for **GiveNOLA Day** on Tuesday, May 5—a simple yet powerful way to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and help bridge the gap where funding falls short.

On campus, we are excited to share important updates. The Stern building will soon come down, and Whitehall will undergo major renovations. By next year, Whitehall will house all administrative offices, creating a more collaborative environment that strengthens communication and ultimately enhances the care and support we provide. We are grateful for your patience as we invest in a campus that reflects our commitment to excellence.

We are also proud to celebrate a major milestone—reaching our fundraising goal for a lift-assisted van. Thanks to the generosity of our community, including a successful matching campaign, we have secured critical transportation that supports our clients' independence, access to care, and daily lives. While we celebrate this achievement, the need remains. Upgrading our aging fleet continues to be a priority, and your ongoing support makes this work possible.

From Mag Fest and the Crescent City Classic to GiveNOLA Day and transformative campus improvements, Magnolia continues to move forward with purpose. None of this happens without you. Your support, engagement, and belief in our mission ensure that the individuals we serve have the resources, programs, and care they need to live their best lives.

With gratitude,



Jennifer Conrad  
*Executive Director*

# Happenings at Magnolia

## SECOND ANNUAL MAG FEST WAS A SUCCESS!



On Saturday, March 7th, the community came together in celebration of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Month and in Support of Magnolia!

With over **400 guests** throughout the day under the oaks on Magnolia's River Road campus, we enjoyed a full day of family fun! The day included a second line, live music, professional wrestling, family games, umbrella making, an array of local art vendors, food, beer, and community resources.

We thank our sponsors, attendees, art vendors, volunteers, musicians and staff for their part in making Mag Fest 2026 such a wonderful day.

Yes, we will be hosting next year - save the date **Mag Fest 2027** on **Saturday, March 6th.**

Enjoy photos from the day here:



## DINING WITH A DIFFERENCE

A heartfelt thank you to **Ye Olde College Inn** for hosting a wonderful giveback night in support of Magnolia Community Services on March 25th. With over **150 tables served** and **20% of proceeds donated**, the evening has become an annual tradition of giving. We are truly grateful for the generosity and community support.



## TEAM MAGNOLIA TAKES ON THE CRESCENT CITY CLASSIC

Team Magnolia, with 36 members, proudly walked and ran the **10K Crescent City Classic**, making their way through the city and finishing in beautiful City Park. It was an incredible day of community, energy, and purpose, as participants came together to support Magnolia and the individuals we serve. With donations still coming in, we've **raised \$23,525**—and we are so grateful to everyone who participated, donated, and cheered on our team!



## MAGNOLIA – GIVING PEACE OF MIND FOR THE VINSON FAMILY

For the Vinson family, ensuring lifelong care for Cheryl has been a labor of love and, ultimately, an act of trust.

Born in 1971 and diagnosed with developmental disabilities, Cheryl was lovingly cared for at home by her family, especially her mother, who devoted her life to meeting her needs. *“Our mother stayed at home and dedicated herself to Cheryl’s care,”* shared her brother, Lee. Cheryl attended day programs and returned each evening to the comfort of home, until everything changed.

In 2019, Cheryl’s mother was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS. Determined to secure her daughter’s future, she created a detailed guide, capturing Cheryl’s routines, preferences, and personality, so that others could care for her with the same devotion.

After her mother’s passing, the family faced a difficult reality. Wanting the very best for Cheryl, they turned to Magnolia Community Services. When Cheryl moved into Magnolia later in 2019, her mother’s book came with her—helping to ensure a seamless, compassionate transition into her new home.

Nicolette Pooré, Cheryl’s case manager, remembers *“When Cheryl came back into the day program at Magnolia after almost two years*

*of Covid quarantine in her group home, she absolutely flourished. She was happy before, but I saw a brand-new side of her. She spends her days engaging in meaningful activities and seeing her friends, especially Chrissy. Among her favorites are bowling, fitness, jewelry making, playing cards and getting her nails painted which she loves to show off. She can’t wait to go to “school” every morning. Without Magnolia, Cheryl’s life would look very different.”*



This past year, she experienced the joy of riding in the Krewe of Centurions, soaking in excitement and throwing beads. She also got all dolled up for the gala back in November where she enjoyed a wonderful evening with her family.

Family remains at the heart of Cheryl’s life. Whether sharing lunch with Lee and his daughter Alexis or celebrating birthdays with snoballs on campus, those connections continue to flourish. But Magnolia is her home. Lee notes, *“When I take Cheryl out for lunch or bring her home for the Holidays, after a few hours, she is ready to go back to the Schwegmann House at Magnolia. It is moments like these that I know she is happy and taken care of. She can’t wait to come back home.”*

*“We are truly grateful for Magnolia,”* Lee shared. *“We have peace of mind knowing Cheryl is not only receiving the care she needs, but living a full life, with friends, and activities in a safe, warm place.”*

For families like the Vinson’s, Magnolia is more than care—it’s home.

## SAFE, RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION New Funds Secured For Lift-Assisted Van

At Magnolia Community Services, safe, accessible transportation is essential. Each day, our fleet helps 146 clients across 20 group homes get to campus, jobs, appointments, and evacuate safely when needed. With nearly a third of our vehicles over 15 years old, replacement is critical.

Last November, we launched a \$60,000 campaign for a new lift-assisted van—and thanks to our generous community, we reached that goal.

This milestone was made possible by many supporters, including Lee and Alexis Vinson, who gave in honor of their sister and aunt, Cheryl. Their meaningful gift helped close the final gap.



From a \$15,000 match to gifts of all sizes, 92 supporters made this possible. Because of you, Magnolia clients will continue to travel safely and with dignity. We are truly grateful.



# Magnolia

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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JEFFERSON, LA. 70121



## GIVE TODAY

[MCS-NOLA.ORG/SUPPORT](https://MCS-NOLA.ORG/SUPPORT) 

[LIZY@MCS-NOLA.ORG](mailto:LIZY@MCS-NOLA.ORG) 

504.731.1308 

@MCS.NOLA 

@MCS\_NOLA 

## YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT MAGNOLIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Give NOLA Day** is an on-line community giving day where over 1,000 area nonprofits come together to share their missions and build support. Magnolia Community Services is once again participating. Magnolia relies on Medicaid to support client care and services, yet funding falls short of the real cost of care. We rely on community support to fund the gap, ensuring that our clients receive the direct support, programs and resources to live their best lives. Donations through the GiveNOLA Day campaign help to bridge that gap. Thank you for your consideration of support.

**Early giving starts April 28 culminating on GiveNOLA Day, May 5th.**



### SAVE THE DATE

# GIVE NOLA DAY

GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION 

# MAY 5, 2026

**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!**

[givenola.org/organization/magnolia-gnola](https://givenola.org/organization/magnolia-gnola)