



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

As we welcome the New Year, we pause to reflect with gratitude on all that has been accomplished and to look ahead for what is to come. The past year has been one of collaboration, growth, and renewed commitment across Magnolia Community Services, made possible by the dedication of our staff, supporters, partners, and the broader community who continue to stand beside us and the people we serve.

Highlighting 2025 was our most successful gala to date as we recognized 90 years of service and honored the Arbour Family and Kinta. The Moonlight Fais Do-Do not only brought our community together in celebration but also played a critical role in helping bridge our funding gap and strengthen the organization's financial stability. Check out photos at [LINK](#). We are equally excited that our campaign to purchase a new van is nearly complete, (only \$8583 left to raise!) ensuring our clients have safe and accessible transportation each day.

Significant progress can be seen across our campus. **The Henican Group Home** has been newly renovated, providing a refreshing, safe, and welcoming environment for residents. In the coming months, we will embark on updates to our historic

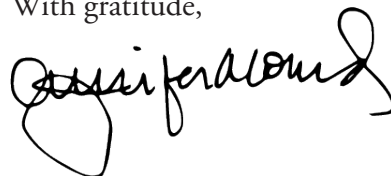
Whitehall building, which will soon house all administrative and business offices, an important step toward increased efficiency, collaboration, and long-term sustainability.

At the heart of Magnolia's success are our people. With that in mind, a significant market-based increase to our pay structure was approved and implemented on January 1, 2026. This investment reflects our commitment to retaining and recruiting high-quality staff and ensuring our team feels valued, supported, and empowered to deliver exceptional care.

Community engagement and program expansion continue to thrive. Planning is underway for our second **Magnolia Fest**, set for Saturday, March 7, 2026, a family fun day building awareness, promoting engagement and supporting our mission. We are also honored to once again be accepted as a **Crescent City Classic Charity Partner**, with registered runners and training already underway. Additionally, our supported employment internship with Ochsner continues to grow, as we prepare to welcome our third cohort of interns in February and expand the program to include the Kenner and St. Charles Parish campuses. We are also working hard to get **Magnolia Artworx**, our new gallery, open to the public in the next couple of months. Our artists are enthusiastically creating pieces for a grand opening that will be announced soon!

Each of these milestones reflects the momentum we are building together. The future is bright for Magnolia Community Services, and we look forward to continuing this journey—strengthened by community, guided by purpose, and inspired by what lies ahead.

With gratitude,





MAGNOLIA ON THE RUN!

Magnolia Community Services is proud to once again be selected as a Charity Partner for the Crescent City Classic, taking place on Saturday, April 4, 2026. This beloved New Orleans tradition brings our community together to promote fitness and engagement while raising critical funds for Magnolia's programs and services.

"Participation in the Classic is a great way to promote health and community engagement", shared Executive Director Jennifer Conrad. "The race is my way to get in shape and personally support such a vital cause. I am so grateful to our clients, staff and the community that are joining me".

Make your New Year's resolution count—join Team Magnolia as a runner or walker! Help us reach our goals of 50 run/walkers and \$30,000 in funds raised. The 10K (6.2-mile) race offers a discounted \$50 registration fee with a minimum fundraising commitment of \$200 to benefit Magnolia.



REGISTER



And if you cannot run or walk, please consider sponsoring a runner (\$300) or donating on one of our runners' pages.

For more information, contact Liz Yager at 504-731-1308 or LizY@mcs-nola.org.

CONGRATS GRADS!

Supported Employment Internship Graduation at Ochsner

Celebrating its second year, Magnolia Community Services' collaborative, state-funded Supported Employment Internship Program with Ochsner Health System proudly graduated four interns—**Donald Jackson, Albert McVille, Olivia Milner, and Ian Smith**. On November 14, 2025, family members, friends, coaches, and staff gathered to celebrate this meaningful milestone. We especially thank the efforts of our coaches who we support our clients each day – **Stacy Bell, Petrina Beasley, Dionne Bryant, and Veronica Hunter**.

Through the program, individuals receive job coaching and hands-on work experience that build skills, teamwork, and accountability—leading to increased confidence. The program equips graduates with the tools and experience to get hired and succeed in their jobs.

Graduation Day was a proud moment for everyone involved. We are thrilled to share that two of the graduates have already secured employment at Ochsner and within the community. Graduate Donald Jackson was hired at Ochsner. He notes, *"I love going to work and having lots of things to do during the day. It makes me happy."*

We look forward to welcoming and celebrating our 2026 internship class!



Albert McVille, Ian Smith, Yolanda Nicholas (Assoc. Program Manager), Donald Jackson, & Olivia Milner

For more details about Supported Employment, contact Stacy Bell at stacyb@mcs-nola.org.



HENICAN GROUP HOME A Renovation to Celebrate

We are proud to showcase the newly renovated Henican Group Home on Magnolia's River Road campus! Thanks to FEMA funding following Hurricane Ida, Magnolia was able to fully renovate this home, named in honor of founder C. Ellis Henican.

The transformed residence is now a state-of-the-art group home, featuring 10 bedrooms, three fully accessible bathrooms,

and a spacious shared living area with a fully equipped kitchen and pantry. Thoughtfully designed to meet the evolving needs of our residents, the home provides comfort, accessibility, and a true sense of belonging. With the dedicated work of Perrier Esquerre Contractors, clients officially moved into their new home on October 1, 2025.

We look forward to hosting an official housewarming celebration honoring the Henican legacy and showcasing this model home to our community—a lasting symbol of resilience, care, and belonging.

Magnolia Community Services proudly provides a true sense of home for 146 clients living in 20 group homes located on campus and throughout the neighborhood. Each residence offers private bedrooms and shared living spaces, including kitchens, dining areas, bathrooms, and laundry facilities—homes that reflect the personalities of their residents and foster independence, connection, and community.

MAGNOLIA RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

After touring Magnolia's campus, meeting our clients, and learning about client needs firsthand, **Virginia Weinmann** was inspired to help. We are deeply grateful for her **\$50,000 gift** in support of Magnolia's mental health initiatives, led by our staff psychologist, **Dr. Jay Sevin (Dr. Jay)**.

Virginia notes, *"I was attracted to Magnolia because they care for people who can't help themselves and will always be there for them to meet their needs; Magnolia ensures the clients live their best lives. The mental health program is important to me because I have family who live with mental illness, and I know how important it is to have the care you need, especially if living with developmental disabilities."*

Mrs. Weinmann's generosity helps fund a full range of therapeutic services, from counseling and cognitive behavioral therapy to group sessions that teach mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques.

Dr. Jay shares, *"Clients walk up to us smiling every week and are proud to say they used their coping skills to make themselves feel better or chase away some problem. It is gratifying to see how our clients have applied and benefitted from the mental health therapies and build self-confidence."*



Mental health is a vital part of overall wellbeing, especially for individuals with developmental disabilities. At Magnolia Community Services, more than 100 clients have behavioral health needs in addition to their developmental disability that require ongoing support. While Medicaid covers medical care, it does not fund non-medical mental health services, leaving a critical gap.

Philanthropic partnerships like Virginia Weinmann's ensure Magnolia clients receive the comprehensive care they deserve. If you are interested in learning more about our mental health initiatives or supporting this essential work, please contact LizY@mcs-nola.org to arrange a meeting.



Magnolia

COMMUNITY SERVICES

100 CENTRAL AVENUE
JEFFERSON, LA. 70121



GIVE TODAY

[MCS-NOLA.ORG/SUPPORT](https://mcs-nola.org/support) 

LIZY@MCS-NOLA.ORG 

504.731.1308 

@MCS.NOLA 

@MCS_NOLA 

Magnolia's Annual Impact:



146 residential clients served with
153 licensed beds



3252 hours hours worked where clients
volunteered with local community
partners (*meal delivery at Jefferson
Council on Aging, and work at Second
Harvest and Longue Vue Gardens*)



24 clients successfully employed
through supported employment
including 13 within the community and
11 on the Magnolia campus

Your support makes a difference.



YOUR SUPPORT ensures our
clients' needs are met.



mcs-nola.org/support



Magnolia Community Services
100 Central Avenue, Jefferson LA 70121



SCAN TO GIVE
with your phone's camera





Magnolia FEST Magnolia

COMMUNITY SERVICES

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 * 10AM-4PM

We are excited to announce **Magnolia Fest 2026**, taking place on **Saturday, March 7**, during **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!** This family-friendly festival brings our community together to celebrate and support Magnolia and the individuals we serve.

From **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Mag Fest will feature live music and entertainment, activities for all ages, local art vendors, and great food and drink. The day will be headlined by **Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra**, with additional performances by local bands and a lively second line with the **Krewe of Tucks**.

Join us in celebrating community, inclusion, and support for individuals with developmental disabilities.



SCAN FOR:

- Sponsorships
- Art Vendor Opportunities
- Volunteering
- Auction Donations
- Tickets

More info: lizy@mcs-nola.org



KEEP MAGNOLIA ROLLING!

Only \$8583 to Meet Our Goal!

Each day, Magnolia relies on its fleet of 30 vehicles to transport clients to our main campus, community jobs, medical appointments, and for emergency needs. Safe and reliable transportation is essential to daily life for everyone we serve. Because the purchase and maintenance of these vans are not funded by Medicaid, Magnolia depends on the generosity of individuals and community partners to keep our fleet running.

At our November 7th gala, we showcased our newly acquired lift assisted van, generously donated by the Oscar J Tolmas Charitable Trust this past summer. We are truly grateful for their commitment to Magnolia and the need for safe and reliable transportation.

The Tolmas van, placed at the entrance of the gala, helped to launch a campaign to raise \$60,000 to add another much needed lift assisted van to our fleet. We are proud to share that, thanks to the combined efforts of Margaret Orr's gala appeal, Giving Tuesday donations, dedicated tribute gifts, and a generous \$15,000 anonymous matching gift (which was fully met!), **we are now just \$8583 away from reaching our goal.**



We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Van Fund over the past few months. Your generosity helps ensure Magnolia can continue providing safe, reliable transportation for our clients every day. As we work to close the final gap, we invite you to consider making a gift to help us fully fund this essential vehicle and keep Magnolia moving forward.



SCAN TO GIVE

