



**Purpose...
Perspective...
Passion.**



Grant Will Provide After School Academy in Minden, LA

I am pleased to announce that Ron Anderson, LLC is the recipient of a \$186,600 grant from the Louisiana Office of Youth Development. This funding is supporting the "Project Reclaim" after school program for youth at Webster Junior High School. The services are prevention-based in nature, aiming to provide youth with the requisite attitudes and strategies necessary to prevent them from becoming involved in the Juvenile Justice system. This effort includes services such as: Academic Support, Life Skills Training, Leadership Development sessions,

Parenting sessions for the parents and guardians of the participants, In-School Mentoring and other case-management services.

Students are referred to the program by the faculty and staff of Webster Junior High.

This funding from OYD reflects their new approach: focusing on prevention-based strategies designed to reach youth who are in need of additional support. This "habilitative" approach is much less expensive than rehabilitation via incarceration in juvenile secure facilities.

It has been my experience that *investing* in the lives of youth with quality programming and well-trained and committed staff with a passion to see them succeed yields positive outcomes for them, and society as a whole. In Project Reclaim, we see the potential of our participants to become contributing members of society, successful in their own right and living up to their fullest potential.



Testimony Given Before Governor-Elect Jindal's Transitional Committee

In December, I was asked to provide testimony during a public hearing of the Governor-Elect's Advisory Council on Youth Development. The Advisory Council consists of members from around the state of Louisiana who agreed to gather information and prepare a report for the new governor with recommendations on Youth Development. I was asked to speak on a panel of three experts that discussed various issues affecting youth development.

My presentation was entitled "*Education is the Key to Success.*" After our presentations, we fielded questions from the Council. I was happy to share our efforts through Project Reclaim, as well as to provide emphasis on the socially redeeming factors of prevention-based approaches in working with youth.

Destin, Florida Workshops are Well Received



The tranquil setting of Miramar Beach in Destin served as the host setting for the 16th Annual "Nuts and Bolts" conference for personnel from Louisiana's Court System. The audience, made up of Judges, District Attorneys, Clerks of Court and others participated in three lively sessions that I presented: One session, entitled "*Window: Effectuating Change in the Lives of Troubled Youth,*" used my personal experience of violence, juvenile delinquency and poverty, coupled with research-based strategies for reaching youth with backgrounds such as my own. The next sessions, "*Crimes of Stealth: Dynamics of Domestic Violence*" and "*Ethics in Public Service*" were designed to assist the audiences in further reflection and discussion on these vital topics.

Destin was a welcomed reprieve for me to take a BREAK! My wife and I enjoyed lounging on the white sands of the beach...viewing the crystal-blue waters...following pods of dolphins while onboard the "Sea Blaster"...and dining on succulent Gulf Coast seafood. If you haven't visited there, we strongly urge you to!

Answering the Call in: Marrero, LA

When I was first invited to conduct a half-day long workshop for Lincoln Elementary faculty and staff in Marrero, I agreed with my usual excitement and enthusiasm. The Principal there, Ms. Janine Holmes, was gracious enough as she described the audience and her expectations for the workshops. She didn't say much more.

As I flew into New Orleans, I reflected on the natural disaster that had ravaged the Gulf Coast. (I sincerely doubt that anyone traveling in that region of our state, even now, doesn't do the same).

Mr. Wilbert Walker, who drove me to Lincoln, was extremely pleasant company, describing the area and its citizens. As we entered Marrero, his 'guided tour' took on a decidedly different tone. The abandoned

homes, cars and the devastation were numbing. As we approached the school, I was struck by the condition of the facilities. Nature's fury had exacted a toll on Lincoln: the high-water marks in the classrooms and library were waist high. A roof had only recently been placed on the main building. (Mr. Walker said that until recently, while inside the building, you could look up and "see the sky"). Books and computers were destroyed.

From the neighborhood, 40% of the kids that had attended Lincoln were...gone.

As the sessions began, however, it was apparent that the faculty and staff were anything but dispirited! They spoke of their desire to return to Lincoln to teach, and to work together. They spoke of their love for their school, their young charges and for one

another. They spoke of their resolve to rebuild and to restore hope to the community.

The leadership of Ms. Holmes was dramatically apparent. Although they mentioned the hardships that they had (and will) encounter, they spoke of her example of fortitude and faith, and their intent to follow.

As we go about our daily duties, may we remember those that shoulder burdens greater than our own. As we settle in to work, let us all pause for a moment to look skyward. If there is a roof overhead, be grateful. I met a team of Americans who, for a long while, had to work inside...without one.



"I want to truly and sincerely thank you for making the first Monroe City School Board Classified Staff Development Day a success. Everything that you expressed touched the heart, mind and soul of many of our employees, who are often overlooked for their hard work and dedication. Their gratitude and appreciation was overwhelmingly expressed throughout each department during the day. Thank you for the blessed experience."

MS. DAVONA HOWARD
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
MONROE CITY SCHOOLS

"You did a wonderful job at Nuts and Bolts. There were tons of excellent comments and requests for your contact information."

MS. JEAN DREW

"Thank you for sharing your expertise during the recent Youth Development Transition Advisory Council proceedings..... We are now at a critical point in Louisiana's history, and I look forward to working with you to help move our state forward."

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR-ELECT OF LOUISIANA



Ron Anderson
L.L.C.

2007 Event Highlights

February

Southern University at Shreveport "Convocation"
Fully Devoted Developers of Children "Leadership Academy Series"
Byrd High School "21st Century Leadership"

March

McDonald's "Business Ethics Series"
Louisiana Institute for Administrative Assistants
"Values-Based Leadership"
"Interpersonal Relations and the High Performing Team"

April

Louisiana/Mississippi/Tennessee Key Clubs "To Be of Service"
Lake Providence Schools "Parent Appreciation Banquet"

May

New Orleans Risk Management "Interpersonal Relations"
Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center "Conflict Resolution"
Southern University at Shreveport "Interpersonal Relations"

June

"Nuts and Bolts" Conference

July

Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program "Mentors and Service"
Louisiana State University at Shreveport LaPrep Program "Commencement"

August

Lincoln Elementary "Window: Effectuating Change in the Lives of Troubled Youth" and "Interpersonal Relations and the High Performing Team"
Lakeside Middle and Senior High School "Window: Effectuating Change in the Lives of Troubled Youth"
Comcast Cable of Shreveport "Customer Service"

September

Southern University at Shreveport "You Get On My Nerves! Dealing with Difficult People"

October

Express Jet "Business Integrity"

November

Lafayette Public Schools "Customer Service"
Comcast Cable of Shreveport "You Get On My Nerves! Dealing with Difficult People"
Pineview High School "Raising Winners! Effective Parenting"

December

Monroe City Schools "Customer Service", "You Get On My Nerves! Dealing with Difficult People", "Values-Based Leadership"
Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program "Mentors and Service"