



Bright Ideas

Mission: To provide assistance to individual children for academic, cultural, and personal enrichment so that every child's light will shine.

President's Message

The Shining Light Foundation has received requests to assist with the formation of similar organizations in other Louisiana parish school systems. We are enthusiastic about the possibility of extending assistance to children in a broader area. The boundaries of Lafayette Parish, which we serve, certainly are not the limits for which there is a need for help with band instruments, field trips, special tutoring, and numerous other school activities. The process is currently under review for developing branches of the Shining Light Foundation. In our preliminary discussions, we have concluded the following:

1. The Lafayette Shining Light Foundation board will provide guidance in developing by-laws, policies, and procedures for the new organization.
2. Each organization will be responsible for establishing a Board of Directors and for generating funding for its programs.
3. Each organization will provide information for fiduciary oversight by the Lafayette Shining Light Foundation Board of Directors.

We can think of no greater accomplishment than developing an exponential increase in our efforts! If you or any school representatives want additional information, please contact us. Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome your interest.

Improvement in Student Participation

In meeting with James Balkenol, local Band Director for four elementary schools in Lafayette Parish, Shining Light was proud to discover that there has been an increase in overall participation in band. In some schools, participation has more than doubled. Alice Boucher Elementary School went from having 8 students to 60; Ossun Elementary went from 38-62 students; Carencro Heights went from 12 to 30 and Live Oak Elementary went from 32 to 62 students. This is a great achievement as band participation helps improve student discipline, social skills and confidence.

Congratulations, James for making such a huge difference in these children's lives!

The Shining Light Foundation

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Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- Student Participation Rises
- Financial Report
- Instrument Donations
- Gannett Foundation Grant
- Letters of Appreciation

