

# House District 2



## THE HONORABLE ROY A. BURRELL

Volume 3: Issue 1, January 2009

### Happy New Year!



*Working for you!*

**S.E.E.D.S. for Success**

Security

Education

Economic Development

Diversity

Savings

Happy New Year 2009 from House District 2. The year 2008 has ended for some with a measure of success, while for others, it has been a continued saga of highs and lows seeking an equilibrium of stability. Nationally, for many, we say goodbye to an unpopular President George W. Bush, and for others, we elected a person of hope in President-elect Barack Hussein Obama who is expected to work God-only miracles for a world in crisis. Presently, America is directly fighting wars on two military fronts, and it is indirectly involved in many other countries around the world, fighting numerous wars on multiple fronts whether politically, diplomatically, economically, you name it. Even here at home, we are all reeling from one serious challenge after another—from Wall Street to Main Street; it seems to be a never ending battle. But life must go on.

House District 2 (HD2) is no exception. HD2 has had its share of joys and sorrows but the people of the district remain steadfast and challenged to move positively into the future. HD2 consists of many wonderful diverse communities and equally hardworking citizens. Some of these communities include Allendale-Lakeside, Country Club, Highlands, Ingleside, Ledbetter, Queensborough, Stoner Hill and old central Bossier City communities.

Although all politics are local, the state and federal political influences clearly provide their own flavor to the mix for HD2 residents. For 2008, both ethnically and historically, HD2 saw a dynamic shift in leadership, a new mayor who happens to be African American. Also, in the same year on a statewide basis, HD2

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## New Year Message continued . . .

witnessed its first ever West Indian-American governor for the State of Louisiana. And to top it all off, in 2008, HD2 helped elect its first African American U.S. President in the world's history to lead all free nations. How exciting can that be?

Economically, House District 2 remains somewhat stable despite its aging and transitional neighborhoods that have lost much of their revenue generating potential due to lack of private reinvestments, decreasing middle class residents, and deteriorating educational institutions. In spite of these deficits, HD2 has a great opportunity to reinvent itself through targeted tax incentives, moderate bank and private investment, a recommitment to strong neighborhood schools and visionary leadership. Much of the stagnant local politics must be shed and reseeded with fresh and innovative business ideas, with a commitment from its residents to support and restore community pride and economic prowess to recapture and redistribute neighborhood wealth within its business community.

Maximum job growth is not presently being realized through many existing and potential business and community infrastructure development initiatives such as the Bio-med/Inter-Tech, Red River District Entertainment, Texas Street/Municipal Auditorium Entertainment, Inner City I-49 Corridor, State Fair Sports Area, Cross Bayou and Clyde Fant/Stoner Recreation Area. HD2 also consists of a number of fairly active commercial corridors and strip shopping centers that can serve as economic vehicles and profit centers for community wealth building and job creation along Greenwood Road, Jewella, Hearne, Line, and St. Vincent Avenues, Milam and Louisiana Streets and Youree Drive, to name a few.

HD2 consists of mostly small and moderate sized retail businesses except for the gaming casinos (Horseshoe, Boomtown, and Diamond Jack) and a large outlet retail mall development (Louisiana Boardwalk along the Red River in Bossier City). Most other job development in HD2 is generated from the healthcare facilities and the education system. Hospitals such as Doctors, Willis Knighton, Schumpert, LSUHSC— Shreveport, and Promise provide a considerable number of high skill-high paying jobs for residents who do not necessarily reside in HD2, but do yet manage to employ a sizable number of district residents in low skill jobs. HD2 is comprised of about 18 elementary and secondary schools in Caddo and Bossier Parishes with at least 4 of them considered unacceptable according to the State's educational standards. The Caddo School Central Office is also located in the district.

Just as in other urban districts, HD2 has its share of social-economic ills such as high rates of unemployed and underemployed workers, unskilled labor, high teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency, poor neighborhood schools, large number of single family household, high gang and drug crimes, etc. In spite all the negatives as stated above, I would not want to represent any other constituents more than those in HD2 because the people have a heart of change. The more they are educated on the problems of their community, the more they fight back, forming neighborhood associations, business alliances, community non-profits, leadership and mentoring programs and activities to address these issues. They are making more demands of government and the private sector who are more interested in providing a better quality of life for themselves than those they benefit from—we the people.

Remember, I am working for you.

**Rep. Roy A. Burrell would like to hear from the constituents of House District 2. Visit the Contact Us page at [www.royburrell.com](http://www.royburrell.com) and share your ideas for how to make District 2 and the State of Louisiana better.**

## Missouri Division of Youth Services



During early December, I had an opportunity to travel to Kansas City Missouri as part of a fact-finding trip on juvenile reform for the State of Louisiana. The trip was at the invitation of State Supreme Court Judge-elect Catherine Kimble who has been in the forefront for a number of years fighting for a more just way of dealing with juvenile delinquency issues. Although we traveled in weather that was snowy, cold, and sub-zero conditions, the warmth we found waiting for us at each stop we made on the journey allowed us to forget the icy conditions outside. Others invited on this informative and important trip were committee members for the House and Senate that deal with criminal justice issues, selected DA's, a number of judicial members, and some of the governor's and correctional department staff. We visited secured and non-secured juvenile facilities, the student inmates and administrative staff. It was amazing the noticeable difference between the basic structure of the Missouri juvenile justice systems and that of our own State of Louisiana. There, you felt you were among children and not adults. It was almost like night and day from what we witness at home.

Our tour guides were mostly student inmates with very little assistance from the administrative staff. Their attitudes and sense of pride showed through even though they were well aware of why they were there in the first place. Even the students we met that were part of the general population in the facilities were very talkative and expressive as though they were prepped for a news interview. What a change from the grim, hostile, and negative characteristics of our Louisiana incarcerated youth. The students mostly worked in groups that competed with each other to be the best at improving each member's circumstance. They seemed to take the responsibility for the other, reasoning and challenging each member to identify what brought them there, how to analyze their delinquent problem and how they should change their attitude and behavior to fit normally back into society. The training staff seemed to be personally engaged in their activities at every level of accomplishment, nurturing and keeping them on task.

Surely there were those students who appeared to have deeper problems than others, but given time and the proper assistance, one would never know by their controlled demeanor, why they should be there in the first place. It was phenomenal. I did notice that the therapy groups were kept small, probably 10 to 15 students per group. The basic housing and training facilities were not overcrowded, undermanned and were well equipped and properly funded. The training regiments were very structured but the teaching and learning atmosphere seemed very laid back, non-threatening and flexible. One would think they were in a communal col-

## Missouri Division of Youth Services continued . . .

lege environment. In other words, the basic focus of the Missouri juvenile justice system appeared to highlight rehabilitation as a successful correctional model, not incarceration and enforcement as appears to be that of Louisiana's broken system. Rehabilitation seemed to have been the mantra that resounded throughout the tour. If in fact, this was a staged play to show Missouri's talents in the best light possible, they were truly Oscar winners as were noted by my fellow colleagues who watched their star performance. Hopefully, their training model may be replicated by other states, especially here in Louisiana. Maybe once again, the State would not be in last place in another important quality-of- life measurement—youth justice. I would like to thank Judge Kimble for her vision, hard work and leadership to save our youth. This informative and educational tour allowed some of us to see juvenile justice reform in a whole new light. Louisiana, what are we going to do about it?

Rep. Roy A. Burrell  
House Criminal Justice Committee

*Note: Rep. Burrell currently serves on the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee, the House Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs Committee, the House Ways and Means, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay. He also serves on the Interstate 49 North Extension Feasibility and Funding Task Force. His Legislative Caucus memberships include the Democratic Caucus, the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, and the Louisiana Rural Caucus.*



## News for Constituents



December 3, 2008: Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and State Rep. Roy A. Burrell (LA House District 2)

organizations that promote child safety charities that serve children with special needs.

**Funding Amount:** Grant amounts typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

**Who May Apply:** 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations

**For more information, go to:**  
<http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants/champ.aspx>

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### **Washington Mutual**

**Application Deadline:** Ongoing  
**Description:** Washington Mutual is pleased to team up with nonprofit organizations by investing in their efforts to build stronger communities. Washington Mutual awards millions of dollars in cash grants each year to support K-12 public education, financial education, and affordable housing and community development.

**Who May Apply:** Tax-exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code within the areas in which Washington Mutual does business

**For more information, go to:**  
<http://www.wamu.com/about/community/grantsguidelines/default.asp>

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

#### **CIGNA Foundation -- CIGNA Foundation Grants**

**Application Deadline:** Introductory applications -- the first step in

### EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND CIVICS

#### **The Annenberg Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** The Annenberg Foundation accepts letters of inquiry at all times during the year.

**Description:** The Annenberg Foundation's primary grant-making interests are in education and youth, culture, the arts, and community and civic life. The Annenberg Foundation is not presently considering inquiries for:

- individuals
- individual K-12 schools
- for-profit organizations
- political activities or attempts to influence specific legislation
- individual scholarships
- projects focused exclusively on research
- programs outside of the foundation's grant-making areas of interest.

**Who May Apply:** The foundation only considers organizations that are defined as public charities and are tax exempt under Section 501

(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**For more information, go to:**  
[http://www.annenbergfoundation.org/grants/grants\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=210575](http://www.annenbergfoundation.org/grants/grants_show.htm?doc_id=210575)

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH

#### **Build-A-Bear Workshop -- Champ: A Champion Fur Kids Health and Wellness Grant Program**

**Application Deadline:** Champ grants are awarded in two funding cycles each year. Letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time. The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation staff will notify you within four weeks to discuss next steps in the grant review process.

**Description:** The Champ health and wellness grant program supports a variety of health and wellness efforts, including: childhood disease research foundations

## News for Constituents

the application process -- are received and reviewed throughout the year.

**Description:** As part of its overall commitment to support innovative programs addressing the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities, the CIGNA Foundation makes targeted grants to organizations working in five core concern areas. These concerns, and representative activities, are: the health of women, children, and families  
obesity awareness and prevention  
patient/doctor communications and health literacy  
elimination of gender and ethnic disparities in health care  
the connection between a healthy mind and a healthy body.

**Who May Apply:** 501(c)(3) public charities

**For more information,** go to: [http://www.cigna.com/about\\_us/community/targeted\\_grant.html](http://www.cigna.com/about_us/community/targeted_grant.html)

### EDUCATION

#### **The Prudential Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** The foundation receives and reviews proposals throughout the year.

**Description:** The Prudential Foundation provides grants focusing on education and economic development.

**Education:** The foundation supports initiatives that strengthen public education. Emphasis is placed on: systemic school reform  
improving leadership skills for education stakeholders

increasing parent involvement and community engagement  
providing opportunities for arts education and youth development programs  
ensuring that parents and caregivers have the resources needed to support the development of their children.

**Economic Development:** The foundation supports initiatives that increase employment opportunities by strengthening job skills, creating jobs through business development, and promoting neighborhood development activities. Programs involve workforce development and increasing entrepreneurship through training and access to capital. In addition, the foundation promotes creation of decent, affordable housing.

**Who May Apply:** The Prudential Foundation supports nonprofit, charitable organizations and programs whose mission and operations are broad and nondiscriminatory, or whose activities address social needs or benefit underserved groups and communities.

**For more information,** go to: <http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/12334>

### EDUCATION, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CULTURE

#### **The McKenzie Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** The foundation reviews letters on a continuous basis, and they may be submitted at any time during the year.

**Description:** The purpose of the McKenzie Foundation is to encour-

age and support nonprofit programs, primarily in the areas of education, health, human services, and cultural and environmental concerns. Faced with the task of translating these broad-reaching goals into a more focused set of grant guidelines, the board has selected four initiatives that will shape its grant-making for the next few years:

- early childhood development
- education
- the environment
- arts and culture.

**Who May Apply:** The foundation makes grants only to tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) classification from the Internal Revenue Service. It does not support for-profit organizations or candidates for political office.

**For more information,** go to: <http://www.mckenziefoundation.us/guidelines.php>

### POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

#### **The Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** There are no deadlines. Grant applications are considered as they are received.

**Description:** The Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation's mission is to make a positive difference in the

## News for Constituents

lives of individuals. By making grants to other charitable organizations (designated as IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations), the foundation seeks to fund programs that directly impact the lives of individuals. The foundation has identified the following as special areas of interest:

funding programs that assist orphaned children and promote their adoption

intervention in the lives of troubled youths.

However, funding is by no means restricted to the above-mentioned areas.

**Who May Apply:** Organizations must have proof of 501(c)(3) status. No grants to individuals will be considered.

**For more information,** go to: <http://www.swettfoundation.org/index.htm>

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### **MetLife Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** Ongoing

**Description:** Grants usually fall within the following broad areas of concern: health, civic affairs, education, culture, and public broadcasting.

**Who May Apply:** The MetLife Foundation makes contributions only to organizations that have been granted exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue

Code.

**For more information,** go to:

<http://www.metlife.com/Applications/Corporate/WPS/CDA/PageGenerator/0,1674,P296,00.html>

### ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

#### **Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)**

**Application Deadlines:** Grants are awarded twice a year. Deadlines are February 1 and August 1.

**Description:** AFA provides grants to its nonprofit member organizations so that they can develop or enhance educational and support services in their communities.

**Who May Apply:** AFA nonprofit member organizations

**For more information,** go to: [http://www.alzfdn.org/AFAServices/biannual\\_grant.html](http://www.alzfdn.org/AFAServices/biannual_grant.html)

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

#### **Chatlos Foundation**

**Application Deadline:** There are no deadlines for submission of a request, and all requests are responded to in writing. The process typically takes about 120 days.

**Description:** The Chatlos Foundation funds nonprofit organizations in the United States and around the globe. The foundation's areas

of interest are:

Bible colleges/seminaries

religious causes

medical concerns

liberal arts colleges

social concerns.

**Who May Apply:** Only those nonprofit organizations based in the United States and recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS may apply for a grant.

#### **Funding Amount:**

#### **Medical Concerns:**

Grants to medical organizations total 26 percent of foundation distribution. History has shown that grants in this category range in size from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

#### **Social Concerns:**

Grants to organizations involved in social concerns total 4 percent of foundation distribution. History has shown that grants in this category range in size from \$2,500 to \$10,000. This category encompasses secular community programs that provide direct services such as child welfare; vocational training; prison alternatives; concerns for the aged and disabled; and men, women, and families in crisis.

**For more information,** go to:

<http://www.chatlos.org/default.htm>

## News for Constituents



Rep. Burrell and Governor Bobby Jindal



Rep. Burrell and Rep. Jane Smith smooth the concrete while others observe their work.



On Monday, December 29, 2008, Rep. Burrell attended the concrete pouring ceremony to celebrate awarding the contract to pave I-49 North between La. 168 and the Arkansas state line. The ceremony was held on Ida State Line Road overlooking the project. The event was hosted by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; speakers included Congressman Jim McCrery, DOTD Secretary William D. Ankner, Ph.D., and State Representative James H. Morris.



*Working for you!*

### We want to hear from you!

On President-Elect Obama's official website, [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov), they say, "To change this country, we're counting on Americans from every walk of life to get involved. Tell us how an experience in your life showed you something that is right or something that is wrong with this country -- and share your ideas for how to make it better."

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