



Empowering and uplifting young people in our community!

628 High School Dr., DeRidder, LA 70634-2806

Uplifting News – November 2023

Instead of focusing on all the problems of the world, be encouraged by the positive impact being made in the lives of our youth.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

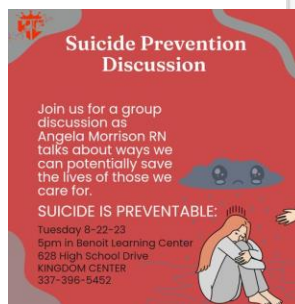
Psalms 139:14 (NIV)

Reaching the Youth where they are: I know suicide doesn't hit home with everyone but it is very common among the youth of our nation and that's why we make it a point to be involved in bringing awareness to them.

One of our new programs here at Kingdom Center is "Poise and Professionalism". In August, we were able to bring four youth to the first annual Miss & Mr. Hope for Eternal Warriors Pageant hosted by the VFW 3617. The pageant honored those who have passed on, survived, or are going through depression, PTSD, bullying, and so many things that can lead to suicide. We had a great time at the pageant and learned about additional opportunities to raise awareness.

We were also blessed to have two representatives from the Beaugard Parish Health Unit come speak to a group of 15 youth about suicide prevention in August, and in October, Kingdom Center hosted the SaveCenla ASIST Applied Suicide Prevention Skills Training, a two-day workshop that was attended by several DeRidder High School students, DeRidder Fire Dept, Pastors, Counselors, EMTs and many community members with a heart to help others in need!

In September, we took 12 youth to Lake Charles and participated in the Out of the Darkness Walk – a journey of remembrance, hope, and support. We also teamed up with Faith Training Christian Academy in Leesville and spoke to a large group of youth during their Open Gym Night about suicide awareness – what a great way to bring the message farther and to more of our vulnerable youth!



Kingdom Center is open 5 days a week and relies on volunteers to help us make a difference in the lives of our youth here in DeRidder and surrounding communities.

Please consider how you can support our efforts with your valuable time or financial resources.

Office Hours (flex):

Mon, Tu, Thu: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Saturday:

Youth Services:

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
3:00 pm – 10:00 pm
1:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Website: www.kingdomcenterla.info

Sign up for our quarterly newsletter here!

Phone: (337) 396-5452

Get the latest news on our Facebook page!



We started the school year in August with student support through our Learning Center. A dedicated volunteer has been available two nights a week to help with any subject the youth requested. More help is always needed in this area (we'd like to offer more times/days) so if you or someone you know has a heart for teaching, please contact us for this critical program!



Throughout the year, this program helps the youth look their best and therefore feel better about themselves!

Free haircuts are provided as needed but especially at the beginning of the school year to encourage a fresh start!

Kingdom Closet made a difference in the lives of several youth who needed special occasion apparel for homecoming – here in DeRidder and in Evans!



Youth Activities & Events:

- Movie Nights (8/26, 9/30)
- YCP Family Day (10/1)
- Cameron Fishing Day (10/28)
- Counselor Presentation (8/8, 9/5, 10/5)
- Billiard Tournament (9/2, 11/4)

Over 117 youth served in Aug-Oct who spent over 670 total hours in our facility!

Huge shout out to **The Gift of Healing Hearts Ministry** for helping us get some back to school shoes for this crew!!! Y'all are awesome! Praise God!

Our Fundraising Activities Paid Off!

In addition to our generous donors, our recent participation in the Beaugard Parish Fair, along with pop-up burger plate sales, have made it possible for Kingdom Center to pay off our start-up expenses! We still need your support for our continuing operating expenses and development of new programs to reach more youth with the educational opportunities, food assistance, and activities that help the next generation of leaders reach their full potential!



KC Sponsors and Contributors – recognizing some of our new and regular supporters...
We want to thank all our sponsors and donors for their generous support of our mission!

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| • Brandon & Bethany Bailey | • Benoit Motors | • Meagan Dearmon | • Marlon & Tori Keel |
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| • John & Patricia Mitchell | • Laura Hext | • Jay's Carpet One | • Samantha Orduno Photography |
| • Abundant Life Church | • Jeffrey Carpenter | • Lions Club of DeRidder | • Unity Baptist Church |
| • Stellar Bank | • Alice Lorenz | • Dry Creek Bible Church | • Walmart (Community Grant) |
| • Christway Church | • Crystal Hennigan | • Modern Woodmen on behalf of Mandy Green | • LA Member Services Association on behalf of Joshua Tarpley |

We also want to thank Mayor Misty Clanton and City of DeRidder – City Hall for the awesome lighting, flooring, and paint updates that were made to our city-owned facility in August & September!