

SUPPORT FOR PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE

This memorandum is submitted to the City of Denham Springs, Office of Planning & Development ("OPD") in support of the Petition for Zoning Variance (the "Petition") submitted to OPD on July 7, 2020, by Bradley W. Barber ("Petitioner") with respect to three lots located at 228 Capitol Street, 230 Capitol Street and 232 Capitol Street.

A public hearing to authorize the Petition was authorized by OPD at its July 13, 2020 meeting. For your reference, the Petition is attached to this memorandum as **Attachment A**.

In further support of the Petition, Petitioner submits this memorandum.

I. Property and Existing Zoning.

The property at issue is three adjacent lots, each measuring 60.0 feet by 150.0 feet, for a combined total of 0.620 acres, or 27,000 square feet. The property was recently rezoned R-1 residential on July 9, 2019, from C-2 commercial.

Petitioner acquired the property with the intention to donate the land to Empower 225, a Louisiana non-profit corporation ("Empower 225"). Empower 225 intends to construct and operate a male youth/young adult home on the property to be called Anchor House.

II. Resubdivision

In conjunction with the request for zoning variance, Petitioner has submitted a request to resubdivide the three lots on Capitol Street into a single lot. The map showing combination of these lots, and the application for approval of final plat are attached to this memorandum as **Attachment B**.

Petitioner understands that the request for zoning variance is subject to the successful resubdivision of the three lots into a single lot.

III. Petitioner

Bradley W. Barber is a former Denham Springs resident. He was born in Baton Rouge. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer and President of H&E Equipment Services, Inc. H&E is headquartered in Baton Rouge, and is one of the largest integrated equipment companies in the nation with 102 locations across 23 states, employing over 2,000 people.

Mr. Barber served as a CASA volunteer for a number of years focusing on youth in Livingston Parish generally, and Denham Springs specifically. In addition to CASA,

Mr. Barber has volunteered both his time and other resources to serve at-risk youth through a variety of other non-profit organizations focused on youth welfare and education.

IV. Empower 225

Empower 225 was incorporated in 2010, originally under the name Healing Place Serve. Its goal from inception has been to empower youth in the Great Baton Rouge area. Recently Empower 225 has expanded into Livingston Parish working closely with the Healing Place Denham Springs Campus, and its pastor, Ryan Frith.

A more detailed description of Empower 225's mission and accomplishments, as well as its outreach into Livingston Parish is attached to this memorandum as **Attachment C**.

V. Anchor House – Denham Springs

The proposed male youth/young adult home on the property will be the second such home operated by Empower 225. Like the first home, it will be called Anchor House. The genesis and mission of the Anchor House is described in more detail in **Attachment D** to this memorandum.

The Anchor House will be required to obtain and maintain licenses and permits from, among other governmental bodies, Department of Children and Family Services, Office of Public Health and State Fire Marshall. The building itself will also be inspected by Department of Health and State Fire Marshall.

Petitioner and Empower 225 have solicited the professional services of Hollingsworth Design to do all of the design work for this project. Hollingsworth is a well-respected, very capable residential new construction architectural firm that will ensure the Anchor House not only meets local, Parish and State requirements, but also importantly enhances the property and the entire Capitol Street.

It is proposed that the Anchor House will comprise nine bedrooms; six bedrooms housing two youths each and three bedrooms for three fulltime, adult residential assistants. The structure will be a single story building, designed in classic Southern-style architecture.

ATTACHMENT A
PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE

NOTE: OWNER / REP. MUST ATTEND PLANNING
& ZONING COMMISSION MEETING!

CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
225 667-8326 buildings@cityofdenhamsprings.com

PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE

MEETING DATE July 13, 2020 TIME _____ DATE OF PETITION July 7, 2020

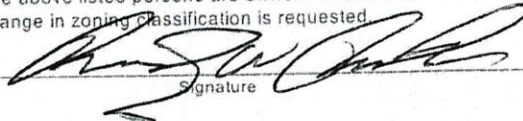
I. PETITIONERS (Type or Print)

NAME	ADDRESS
<u>Bradley W. Barber</u>	<u>228 Capitol Street</u>
<u>Bradley W. Barber</u>	<u>230 Capitol Street</u>
<u>Bradley W. Barber</u>	<u>232 Capitol Street</u>

The above listed land owners of record hereby petition the Zoning Commission and City Council of the City of Denham Springs for a variance in the Zoning Ordinance.
The requested amendment is:

(V) (A) Change in Zoning Text _____ (B) Change in Zoning Classification of Land _____

The above listed persons are owners of record of more than fifty percent (50%) of the land area for which a change in zoning classification is requested.

	<u>7/7/20</u>
Signature	Date
_____	_____
Signature	Date
_____	_____
Signature	Date
_____	_____

II. DESCRIPTION OF ZONING VARIANCE REQUESTED: See Attached.

From _____ To _____

III. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA REQUESTED TO BE REZONED:

If requested change involves a change in zoning classification, maps identifying boundaries of land area and a legal description of the property requested to be rezoned must be submitted along with application.

Attach three (3) copies of map, prepared to scale and signed by a licensed engineer or licensed land surveyor showing streets, roads, lot lines and identifying the land owned by the petitioners for which a variance in zoning classification is requested. On map, show distance from each corner of property to be rezoned to nearest street and/or nearest building (identify building). Attach a legal description of the property to be rezoned.

IV. REASON FOR REQUESTING VARIANCE: (Describe the reason(s) for the request, providing any information considered necessary to support the request.) See attached

V. CONTACT PERSON FOR PETITION:

Name Scott Chenevert Phone(s) 225-706-4040
Address 100 North St., Ste 800 Bata Rouge LA 70802
Street or Box No. City State Zip

VI. ACREAGE OF AREA FOR WHICH VARIANCE IS REQUESTED: (If map change)

The acreage of the parcel(s) of land / tract(s) proposed for reclassification is 0.63 () acres.

1. Properties.

The three properties at issue are contiguous properties totaling approximately 0.63 acre, or 27,400 square feet. A copy of the plat is attached as Exhibit A.

2. Existing Zoning.

The properties are currently zoned R-1. Prior to July 9, 2019, the properties were zoned C-2 commercial. See the zoning verification from the City of Denham Springs attached as Exhibit B.

3. Existing Permitted Conditional Use.

Permitted conditional uses under R-1 include “[h]omes for the aged, nursing homes, convalescent homes and orphan homes when located on a site having a minimum of five acres or 1,000 square feet per occupant, whichever is greater, including permanent employees domiciled upon the site.”

4. Proposed Use.

The properties were acquired by Bradley W. Barber for the purpose of building a male youth/young adult home on the site providing residents training and services to empower them to reach their highest potential through educational support, life skills training, career preparedness, housing and mentorship. It is envisioned that the home will house up to 12 residents plus three resident assistants living at the property full-time.

5. Proposed Variance.

The properties at issue do not total five acres, but do exceed by a large margin the 1,000 square foot per resident criteria. We therefore request a variation from the five acre minimum to 0.60 acres.

EXHIBIT A

PLAT

**LOTS 9, 11, AND 13 OF SQUARE 5 OF MILEY'S CITY LIMITS SUBDIVISION
228, 230, AND 232 CAPITOL STREET**

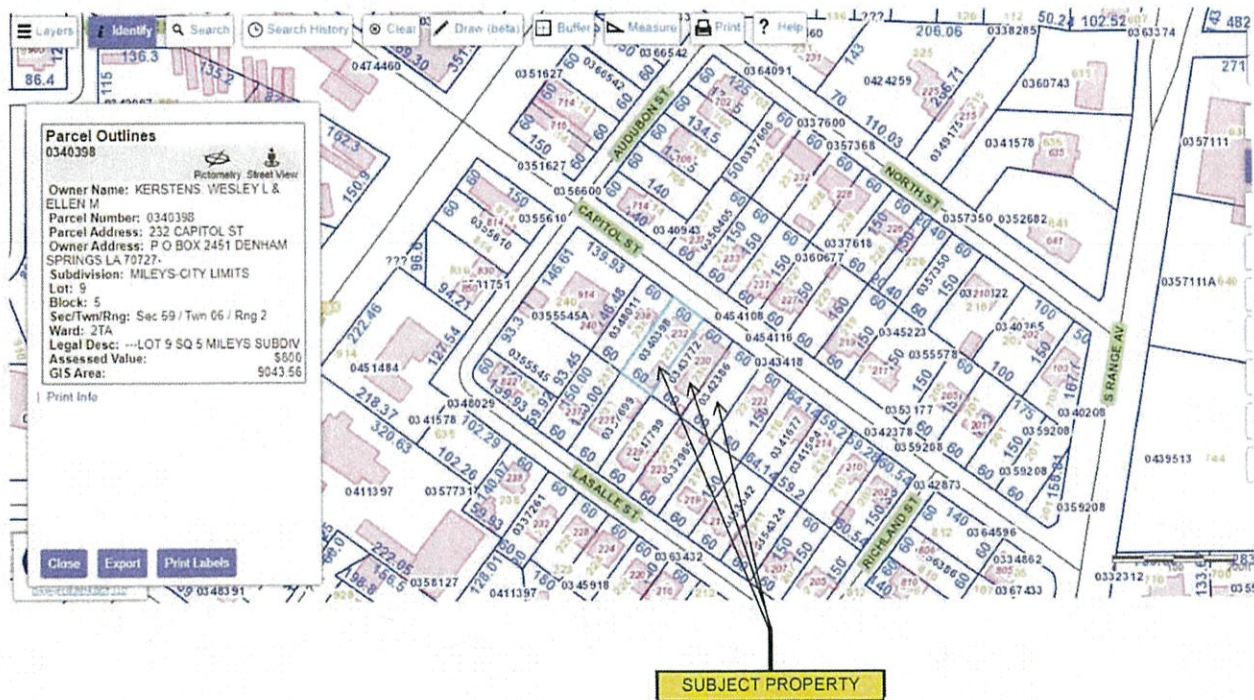


EXHIBIT B
ZONING VERIFICATION



CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS

Office of Planning and Development
116 N. Range Ave
Denham Springs, LA 70726
(225) 667-8326

April 20, 2020

Mark C. Macmurdo
Fishman Haygood
100 North Street
Suite 800
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Phone: (225) 706-4063

RE: REQUEST FOR ZONING VERIFICATION

Dear Mr. Macmurdo,

In response to your request for zoning verification for the following properties listed below. The following properties are currently zoned R-1 Residential.

228, 230, and 232 Capitol Street, Denham Springs, Louisiana
(LOTS 9, 11, & 13 of square 5 of Miley's City Limits Subdivision)

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact our office at (225) 667-8326.

Thank you,

Rick Foster, Building Official
City of Denham Springs

Livingston Parish Recording Page

Jason B. Harris
Clerk of Court
PO Box 1150
Livingston, LA 70754-1150
(225) 686-2216

Received From :
CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS
PO BOX 1629
DENHAM SPRINGS, LA 70727

First VENDOR

DENHAM SPRINGS CITY ORDINANCE NO 19 04

First VENDEE

DENHAM SPRINGS CITY ORDINANCE NO 19 04

Index Type : Conveyances

File Number : 952039

Type of Document : Ordinance-Resolution

Book : 1358

Page : 251

Recording Pages : 3

Recorded Information

I hereby certify that the attached document was filed for registry and recorded in the Clerk of Court's office for Livingston Parish, Louisiana.

On (Recorded Date) : 07/11/2019

At (Recorded Time) : 11:40:13AM



Doc ID - 013007700003



CLERK OF COURT
JASON B. HARRIS
Parish of Livingston

I certify that this is a true copy of the attached
document that was filed for registry and
Recorded 07/11/2019 at 11:40:13
Recorded in Book 1358 Page 251
File Number 952039

Deputy Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 19-04

ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1.02 OF ARTICLE ONE OF THE DENHAM SPRINGS ZONING COMMISSION ORDINANCE OF 1990, AS AMENDED, CITY ORDINANCE NO. 1001 BY ADDING THERETO, PARAGRAPH 182 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REZONING FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL, LOTS 9, 11 & 13, OF MILEY'S SUBDIVISION, SECTION 59, T6S-R2E, G.L.D., CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS, LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA (R-427). REQUESTED BY WESLEY KERSTENS (CAPITOL STREET).

Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Denham Springs, Louisiana, now acting as the governing authority of said City, in legal session convened that:

SECTION 1. Paragraph (182) of Section 1.02 Article 1 of the Denham Springs Zoning Ordinance of 1990, City Ordinance 1001, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Section 1.2****

(182) LOTS 9, 11, 13, OF MILEY'S SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN SECTION 59, T6S-R2E, G.L.D., CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS, LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA (R-427), ALL ACCORDING TO A MAP SHOWING SURVEY OF REZONING OF LOTS 9, 11 & 13 MILEY'S SUBDIVISION, FROM C-2 COMMERCIAL TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL, LOCATED IN SECTION 59, T6S-R2E, G.L.D., CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS, LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA FOR WESLEY KERSTENS, BY ALVIN FAIRBURN, JR. P.L.S., ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or part of ordinance in conflict therewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized, instructed, and directed to record a certified copy of this ordinance in the conveyance records of the Parish of Livingston, State of Louisiana.

SECTION 4. Be it further ordained that the Clerk be and she is hereby instructed, authorized and directed to have said ordinance published one time in the official journal of the City of Denham Springs, and upon such publication the ordinance shall become effective.

The above and foregoing ordinance was introduced at a prior meeting, a public hearing was advertised and held thereon, and upon reading of the title was submitted to an official vote as a whole and the vote thereon was as follows:

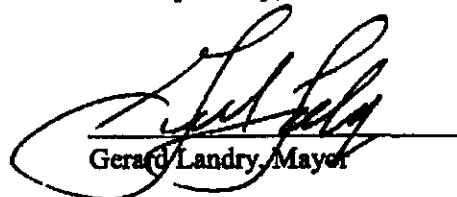
Yeas: Dugas, Lamm-Williams, Poole, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Wesley

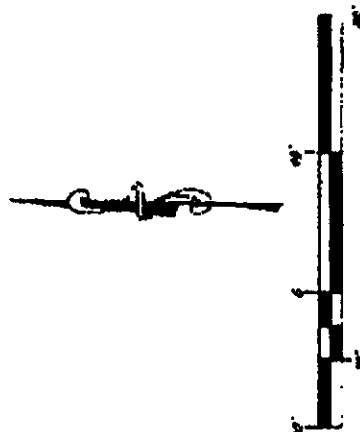
Abstain: None

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared this ordinance adopted on this 9th day of July, 2019.


Gerard Landry, Mayor

ATTEST:

21. The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



REZONING OF
 LOTS 9, 11, & 13
 OF MILEY'S SUBDIVISION
 FROM ZONE C-2 TO R-1
 LOCATED IN SECTION 39 T6S R4E. 6LD
 CITY OF DENVER, COLORADO
 LINDSEY PARKWAY, LOUISIANA

WESLEY KERSTENS

ALVIN FAIRBURN & ASSOCIATES, LLC.

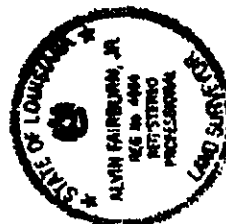
ALBERT EINSTEIN - SPECIAL RELATIVITY

SALES SUPERVISORS - DISTRICT MANAGERS

STANLEY J. KATZ

647 TMS 4532
 1090 1335 4920
 NEWBAY WARRIOR 10675/1284 73722 1073
 (PNC) 505 0115

1970-1971 1972-1973 1974-1975 1976-1977 1978-1979 1980-1981 1982-1983 1984-1985 1986-1987 1988-1989 1990-1991 1992-1993 1994-1995 1996-1997 1998-1999 2000-2001 2002-2003 2004-2005 2006-2007 2008-2009 2010-2011 2012-2013 2014-2015 2016-2017 2018-2019 2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029 2030-2031 2032-2033 2034-2035 2036-2037 2038-2039 2040-2041 2042-2043 2044-2045 2046-2047 2048-2049 2050-2051 2052-2053 2054-2055 2056-2057 2058-2059 2060-2061 2062-2063 2064-2065 2066-2067 2068-2069 2070-2071 2072-2073 2074-2075 2076-2077 2078-2079 2080-2081 2082-2083 2084-2085 2086-2087 2088-2089 2090-2091 2092-2093 2094-2095 2096-2097 2098-2099 2100-2101 2102-2103 2104-2105 2106-2107 2108-2109 2110-2111 2112-2113 2114-2115 2116-2117 2118-2119 2120-2121 2122-2123 2124-2125 2126-2127 2128-2129 2130-2131 2132-2133 2134-2135 2136-2137 2138-2139 2140-2141 2142-2143 2144-2145 2146-2147 2148-2149 2150-2151 2152-2153 2154-2155 2156-2157 2158-2159 2160-2161 2162-2163 2164-2165 2166-2167 2168-2169 2170-2171 2172-2173 2174-2175 2176-2177 2178-2179 2180-2181 2182-2183 2184-2185 2186-2187 2188-2189 2190-2191 2192-2193 2194-2195 2196-2197 2198-2199 2200-2201 2202-2203 2204-2205 2206-2207 2208-2209 2210-2211 2212-2213 2214-2215 2216-2217 2218-2219 2220-2221 2222-2223 2224-2225 2226-2227 2228-2229 2230-2231 2232-2233 2234-2235 2236-2237 2238-2239 2240-2241 2242-2243 2244-2245 2246-2247 2248-2249 2250-2251 2252-2253 2254-2255 2256-2257 2258-2259 2260-2261 2262-2263 2264-2265 2266-2267 2268-2269 2270-2271 2272-2273 2274-2275 2276-2277 2278-2279 2280-2281 2282-2283 2284-2285 2286-2287 2288-2289 2290-2291 2292-2293 2294-2295 2296-2297 2298-2299 2300-2301 2302-2303 2304-2305 2306-2307 2308-2309 2310-2311 2312-2313 2314-2315 2316-2317 2318-2319 2320-2321 2322-2323 2324-2325 2326-2327 2328-2329 2330-2331 2332-2333 2334-2335 2336-2337 2338-2339 2340-2341 2342-2343 2344-2345 2346-2347 2348-2349 2350-2351 2352-2353 2354-2355 2356-2357 2358-2359 2360-2361 2362-2363 2364-2365 2366-2367 2368-2369 2370-2371 2372-2373 2374-2375 2376-2377 2378-2379 2380-2381 2382-2383 2384-2385 2386-2387 2388-2389 2390-2391 2392-2393 2394-2395 2396-2397 2398-2399 2400-2401 2402-2403 2404-2405 2406-2407 2408-2409 2410-2411 2412-2413 2414-2415 2416-2417 2418-2419 2420-2421 2422-2423 2424-2425 2426-2427 2428-2429 2430-2431 2432-2433 2434-2435 2436-2437 2438-2439 2440-2441 2442-2443 2444-2445 2446-2447 2448-2449 2450-2451 2452-2453 2454-2455 2456-2457 2458-2459 2460-2461 2462-2463 2464-2465 2466-2467 2468-2469 2470-2471 2472-2473 2474-2475 2476-2477 2478-2479 2480-2481 2482-2483 2484-2485 2486-2487 2488-2489 2490-2491 2492-2493 2494-2495 2496-2497 2498-2499 2500-2501 2502-2503 2504-2505 2506-2507 2508-2509 2510-2511 2512-2513 2514-2515 2516-2517 2518-2519 2520-2521 2522-2523 2524-2525 2526-2527 2528-2529 2530-2531 2532-2533 2534-2535 2536-2537 2538-2539 2540-2541 2542-2543 2544-2545 2546-2547 2548-2549 2550-2551 2552-2553 2554-2555 2556-2557 2558-2559 2560-2561 2562-2563 2564-2565 2566-2567 2568-2569 2570-2571 2572-2573 2574-2575 2576-2577 2578-2579 2580-2581 2582-2583 2584-2585 2586-2587 2588-2589 2590-2591 2592-2593 2594-2595 2596-2597 2598-2599 2600-2601 2602-2603 2604-2605 2606-2607 2608-2609 2610-2611 2612-2613 2614-2615 2616-2617 2618-2619 2620-2621 2622-2623 2624-2625 2626-2627 2628-2629 2630-2631 2632-2633 2634-2635 2636-2637 2638-2639 2640-2641 2642-2643 2644-2645 2646-2647 2648-2649 2650-2651 2652-2653 2654-2655 2656-2657 2658-2659 2660-2661 2662-2663 2664-2665 2666-2667 2668-2669 2670-2671 2672-2673 2674-2675 2676-2677 2678-2679 2680-2681 2682-2683 2684-2685 2686-2687 2688-2689 2690-2691 2692-2693 2694-2695 2696-2697 2698-2699 2700-2701 2702-2703 2704-2705 2706-2707 2708-2709 2710-2711 2712-2713 2714-2715 2716-2717 2718-2719 2720-2721 2722-2723 2724-2725 2726-2727 2728-2729 2730-2731 2732-2733 2734-2735 2736-2737 2738-2739 2740-2741 2742-2743 2744-2745 2746-2747 2748-2749 2750-2751 2752-2753 2754-2755 2756-2757 2758-2759 2760-2761 2762-2763 2764-2765 2766-2767 2768-2769 2770-2771 2772-2773 2774-2775 2776-2777 2778-2779 2780-2781 2782-2783 2784-2785 2786-2787 2788



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

ATTACHMENT B

RESUBDIVISION MAP AND APPLICATIONS

NOTE: OWNER / REP. MUST ATTEND PLANNING
& ZONING COMMISSION MEETING!

CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
225 667-8326 buildings@cityofdenhamsprings.com

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FINAL PLAT

MEETING DATE _____ TIME _____

Application is hereby made for approval of the final plat of the subdivision of land described below:

Subdivision Title Miley's Subdivision, Block 5

Subdivision Location Capital Street, Lots 9, 11 & 13

Number of Acres 0.620 () Number of Lots 3 into 1 ()

Owner of Land Bradley Barber Phone 225-939-9073

Owner Address 18250 Bayou Pierre Monroe LA 70449
Street / Box No. City State Zip

Subdivider/Developer _____ Phone _____

Subdivider/Developer Address _____
Street / Box No. City State Zip

Land Surveyor/Engineer David L. Patterson Phone 225-752-0995

Land Surveyor/Engineer Address 6730 Exchange Dr. Baton Rouge LA 70809
Street / Box No. City State Zip

STATUS OF REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS:

☐ Required Improvements have been completed, inspected, and found acceptable by the City Engineer. (Submit written approval by City Engineer and written approval recommending acceptance by Utility Department.) Post surety maintenance bond of ten percent (10%) of cost of improvements guaranteeing work for one (1) year.

☐ I intend to assure the completion of the required improvements by posting a surety bond. Such bond approved by City Attorney has been presented to the Planning Commission and two (2) copies of certified construction plans showing required improvements to be built.

DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION:

- ☐ 1. One (1) set of reproducible and nine (9) black and white or blue line prints of final plat.
- ☐ 2. One (1) set of reproducible and two (2) black and white of "as built" construction drawings.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 20____

Subdivider/Developer [Signature]
Signature

ATTACHMENT C

EMPOWER 225

EMPOWER 225

— Equip · Inspire · Elevate —

Mission

To empower youth who are at-risk of homelessness and dependency to reach their highest potential through Educational Support, Life-Skills Training, Career Preparedness, Housing, and Mentorship

History

HP Serve (now Empower 225) incorporated in September 2010. The name was changed to Empower 225 in January of 2019 to better reflect the mission of empowering youth in this area. Our target populations have always been youth who are homeless; youth involved with foster care, particularly those aging out with no support; and victims of human trafficking. From the beginning, we have been committed to six organizational strategies: (1) establish community-based partnerships; (2) recruit and train volunteers; (3) develop indigenous leadership; (4) develop best-practice programs; (5) provide and coordinate supportive services and referrals to help individuals and families escape poverty; and (6) secure additional resources for the community. We have more than 100 partners including government entities like DCFS and the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ); local employers like GW Oliver Construction and Richey Roche Landscaping ; community organizations like the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and St. Vincent De Paul; restaurants like N & Out Soul Food, Canes, and Uno Dos Tacos; and many others. Youth are paired with positive adult mentors; connected to available resources, and participate in leadership activities within the community.

Programs

The **Empower 225 Leadership Academy (ELA)** is a central program and a gateway for youth 13-24 to become involved with Empower 225. ELA empowers youth through **educational support** and **life-skills training** in the DAP after-school/summer programs, and **employment** with the E225 Employment Program that partners with local employers to obtain and retain successful employment.

There are two **Housing** Programs. The *Transitional Living Program*, aka Anchor House, is an eight-bed family-style home in Baton Rouge that provides stable housing and a supportive environment for homeless or at-risk male youth 16-21. The *Rapid Rehousing Program* supports up to 25 homeless youth 18-24 with rental payment assistance and supportive services – including integration into ELA for education and employment.

The **Street Outreach** Program provides services to homeless and at-risk youth 12-21 on the street including providing food, water, toiletries, and basic necessity items; crisis intervention; and linking them with resources including emergency shelter and Empower 225 programs. They have a 24-hour hotline available to youth.

The **Foster Care/Adoption** program provide advocacy for youth in care, training and support for potential foster/adoptive caregivers and birth parents, and recruits families with the Louisiana Heart Gallery which displays pictures and information about youth available for adoption.

The **HOPE Team** provides supportive services and mentoring to victims of human trafficking and training for those who serve these victims including law enforcement, medical employees and state officials.

Financials

In ten years, we have grown from two employees and an annual operating budget of \$60,000 to a staff of thirty-three and an annual budget of \$2 million. Empower 225 completes yearly audits. The audit for FY 2018 was completed by David Dominique CPA, LLC. 2018 revenue sources included state, federal, and private grants (67%), donations (20%) and in-kind (13%). 78% of expenses were direct program support, with management and general expenses at 16% and fundraising at 4%.

EMPOWER 225

— Equip · Inspire · Elevate —

Why Livingston Parish?

The Empower 225 target populations has always included youth who are homeless and youth involved with foster care, particularly those aging out with no support. Recently we've expanded to begin serving the families of these youth and addressing the underlying issues that lead to these circumstances. In 2019, Livingston Parish had:

- 101 formal FINS cases regarding runaways and 419 informal (193 ungovernable and 226 truancy or school rules violations);
- 159 children entered into foster care in Livingston parish; and
- 137 families with children had a DCFS family services case opened.

FINS case referrals came from caregivers, the DA Office, juvenile court, law enforcement, and schools. Young people who run away, are homeless or have experience in the foster care system are at higher risk of developing serious, life-long health, behavioral, and emotional problems. The first organizational strategy for Empower 225 is to establish community-based partnerships, and it is instrumental to the success of an initiative. Partnerships with some of these entities that provided referrals have already been established, and it will be a priority to continue to establish these relationships and offer our services.

Healing Place Church Partnership

Empower 225 came into existence largely in part to Healing Place Church (HPC). Since incorporated in 2010, HPC has supported Empower 225, including allowing use of offices, meeting, and event space at the Highland, North Baton Rouge, and now Denham Springs campus location as well as volunteer and financial support. The North Baton Rouge campus houses the Baton Rouge Dream Center facility which is the main Empower 225 office.

We already work closely with Pastor Ryan Frith and the HPC Denham Campus to coordinate resources and serve the community. This partnership with the new campus is the perfect opportunity for Empower 225 to provide accessible resources to Livingston Parish. HPC and Empower 225 are both actively involved in the My Community Cares initiative. The HPC Denham Campus has committed to help youth and families in the Livingston community. Some examples of how they have shown this commitment include:

- Developing relationships with the DCFS team members through lunch meetings and coordination of donations to foster families,
- Working with Judge Edwards on a parenting class curriculum,
- Hosting events/meetings for various foster care organizations,
- Working with The Foster Village to impact fostering families through donations,
- Hosting Christmas party for Fostering families in Livingston Parish,
- Working with DCFS to train church members to teach foster care certification classes, and
- Working with Empower 225 to expand services throughout Livingston Parish.

ATTACHMENT D

ANCHOR HOUSE



Empower 225's Anchor House

HISTORY

Anchor House (AH) is a housing program within Empower 225. The idea was birthed from a small group at Healing Place Church with a heart to help older youth in foster care. That group developed the initial plans to support a dream that has transformed many lives. AH started in 2012 with a federal grant and a six-bed rented residential home located in a suburban area of Baton Rouge. Eventually that home was sold, and we temporarily moved our operations into an apartment while locating and renovating a permanent facility. In 2016, we officially moved into our Government St location, which now serves as the main hub of operations.

WHAT WE ARE

The AH is a state facility licensed through DCFS. We are a transitional living program (TLP) designed to serve male youth between the ages of 16 – 21. The house is an eight-bed facility with two



additional rooms for Resident Advisors to provide 24-hour care. We are a bridge from homelessness to stable housing and foster care to independence. Our trained team is comprised of individuals with real-life knowledge on navigating the difficult situations at-risk youth find themselves in. Our staff attends national and regional trainings annually and are trained to utilize best practices such as Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, and Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). We are

committed to youth development and providing resources that promote independence through case management, individual support services, access to transportation, etc. We are a Christian-based program that promotes servanthood, others, family, teamwork, and accountability. We are NOT a medical facility, a substance abuse clinic, a group home, or a boot camp.

The Anchor House strives to provide a safe family-like atmosphere for young men to learn how to become healthy, productive adults.

HOW WE DO IT

Empower 225 utilizes established relationships with partners to provide an access point for youth who decide to come into the AH program. Most of our referrals come from the street outreach team, Department of Children and Family Services, and Office of Juvenile Justice. Social media and community outreaches have been vital tools for connecting youth with our services, as well. We assist our youth by offering free housing, educational resources, leadership development, and job readiness training. The length of the program is 18 months. This is flexible, however, depending on the age, need and living capacity of each individual. There is 24-hour on-site staff presence with the youth.

We track the progress of individualized goals of our youth through quarterly evaluations and work with the youth to decide which goals will be accomplished in the next quarter. The focus of our goal setting is education, life skills, employment, transportation, and financial literacy.

We teach our youth a variety of fundamental skills necessary for their transition into independence including meal preparation, cleanliness, hygiene, coping skills, etc. We also encourage community involvement, peer support, and positive long-term connections. The program offers a structured schedule that promotes individual responsibility. We offer additional supportive services like assistance with obtaining important documents like Driver's Licenses and Birth Certificates and counseling with medical professionals. We teach our youth to engage with the community through serve events, outreach projects, youth celebrations, life skills trainings, and positive connections. As a youth progresses towards independence, his success is found in our ability to affect the whole person. Safety, trust, and transparency are key to healing the heart while accountability, discipline, and leadership are key to developing the person.

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WHY WE DO IT

Meet Mark. He entered the foster care system at 9 years old. Before entering state custody, washing clothes in a bucket, getting food from the neighbors, and physical abuse described his life experience. While learning how to grow up on his own, the foster care system was instrumental in providing placement and resources to help Mark succeed. Nineteen months ago, he volunteered to come to the Anchor House. It was a decision that would alter the course of his life forever. Mark got his first job, opened a bank account, enrolled in school, and obtained a TWIC and OSHA card. He has completed a scaffolding training program through River Parish Community College, received his NCCER Certificate from AMI Kids and is set to begin working with Brand/Safeway as a scaffold builder this month.



Meet Brandon. We learned about his story through the Office of Juvenile Justice. His drive and dedication to help his family when growing up led him to run with the wrong crowd. With his father in and out of jail and his mother struggling to pay the bills, he turned to the streets to get money. That choice would ultimately land him in juvenile detention. While detained, Brandon took the initiative to earn his high school diploma. After released, he was looking for a healthy alternative to continue building on his success. We were excited to give him an opportunity at the Anchor House. In less than a year Brandon found gainful employment, opened a bank account, received his OSHA and TWIC card, bought a car, enrolled in secondary education, and paid the deposit on his first apartment. Brandon successfully completed all requirements of the Anchor House program.