

A Note from the Akula Family

2012 was a wonderful year for the Akula Foundation. The foundation's programs continue to grow because of each of you. We have made a positive difference in people's lives throughout Southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We would like to thank everyone who has shown support through your volunteerism and by your generous donations. As we embark into 2013 we hope the Akula Foundation continues to grow and that we double the people we touched in 2012. For more information on the foundation you may call (504) 818-2723 x3003 or visit our website at www.akulafoundation.com. Again, thank you for your continued support, it truly is appreciated.

- Dr. and Mrs. Shiva Akula and Family

Reminiscence Groups

The Reminiscence Groups have had another successful year. We were able to serve residents from Baton Rouge to the North Shore to Mississippi, and the Greater New Orleans area. These groups are offered to nursing homes, assisted living, independent living, and senior residential homes. Each location brings its unique talents, skills, and creativity. The Akula Foundation has a wonderful group of therapist that adds life to each facility that is served. 2012 ended with more than 60 reminiscence groups combined. We have both received and witnessed amazing things through the groups. We have heard of residents that have not spoken in a year and attend the groups and begin participating. Also residents that do not usually like to

leave their room come out once a month to participate.



Ms. Marci, a 3 year resident of St. Francis Villa, shared "I enjoy and have lots of fun when we talk about the old times. I don't like to miss this group because I enjoy it so much." There are so many other examples of how these groups brighten the lives of

the residents we serve. We are looking forward to another great year.

- Laura Phillips, LCSW

A-Coola Cards

In May of 2012, a new idea was brought forward by Sheila Marriott, called A-Coola Cards, to help raise money for the foundation. A-Coola Cards are personalized greeting cards made from recycled program covers. Sheila, along with volunteers, hand make each card with love. These cards are sold throughout the year and were even sold at a holiday expo in December. A-Coola cards contributed a significant amount of money to the foundation in 2012. With the help of volunteers we hope to raise even more! To learn more about A-coola cards or to purchase

them, please call (504) 818-2723 x 3003.

- Sheila Marriott, Canon Hospice Art Therapist

The AIM Program

The Akula Foundation's AIM Program (advanced illness management) works with patients and families who are currently under the care of home health, but are dealing with the end stages of a serious illness.

The AIM Program provides support to get through the difficult times encountered while dealing with a life limiting illness.

Services offered through AIM are:

- ∞ Home based customized case management, social and spiritual support, and education
- ∞ A team of a Nurse Liaison, Social Worker and Chaplain all who follow the patient and caregivers over the course of the illness, offering support and guidance
- ∞ Support groups for caregiver and non-pharmacological interventions for symptom management.

This service is provided FREE of charge. AIM bridges the gap between curative care and hospice care.

The Akula Foundation's AIM Program was started in June of 2011 and has serviced 82 patients with a 53% conversion rate to Canon Hospice.

- John Calderara, AIM

Grants and Donations

Supporting the Akula Foundation means that you believe in fostering the power of growth, renewal, and comfort in families that have suffered loss. The Grief Resource Center has increased its charitable assistance to our community in every one of its programs.

How Can YOU Help?

- Make a gift of cash or check
- Make a pledge, to be paid during a calendar year
- Make a gift of appreciated securities
- Make a gift of tangible personal property, including real estate
- Make a gift through a bequest, charitable trust or a gift of life insurance

- Make a gift that can be matched if you are associated with a company that matches charitable donations
- In-lieu of flowers, donations to the Akula Foundation
- Attend Akula Foundation Fundraisers

The Akula Foundation recently received a grant from the the PeyBack Foundation to operate the November 2012 session of Camp Swan, our bereavement camp for children.

Denver Broncos Quarterback Peyton Manning established the PeyBack Foundation in 1999 to promote the future success of disadvantaged youth by assisting programs that provide leadership and growth opportunities for children at risk. We are most grateful for their support.

If any one of you in our community would like to become involved in our fund raising efforts or can recommend a specific foundation that we may approach for a grant, please contact us at (504) 247-7898. The support of individuals is so important to the success and expansion of our programs.

- Paul Mathes,

Director of Grants

Fundraising

During 2012, the Akula Foundation raised over \$20,000 through its three major fundraisers. In 2013, we hope to surpass that!

2012 Fundraisers:

- Mardi Gras Party
- Brunch in the Park
- Wine and Cheese

In March of 2012 the foundation held a Mardi Gras Party/Fundraiser at Colonial Oaks Golf and Country Club in Harahan. The party had tasty food, cocktails, a silent auction and “dancing” music. The male and female guest with the best mask were crowned king and queen of the party.

In July of 2012, the Akula Foundation held its 5th Annual fundraiser, “Brunch in the Park” in New Orleans City Park. Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch, silent auction and live jazz band. The silent auction consisted of donated items ranging from local art and themed baskets to

sporting events and theatre tickets. “Brunch in the Park” raised over \$18,000, making it our most successful fundraiser to date.

The first fundraiser on the North Shore was held in November of 2012 at Beau Chene Country Club in Mandeville. Everyone enjoyed a variety of different wines, cheeses, and jambalaya. Guests browsed the silent auction as they sipped wine and listened to live music by pianist Sheila Marriott. The event had a terrific turn out, raising close to \$2000.

- Christopher Guthrie,
Fundraising

Celebration of Life

The Akula Foundation sponsor’s Canon Hospice’s Celebration of Life semi-annually for New Orleans, and annually in Baton Rouge, the Northshore and Mississippi. We invite the family members and caregivers of the deceased patients we had the privilege of caring for. The celebration includes a reflection lead by one of our chaplains, a video montage set with music and photos of our patients in various stages of their life, ending with a reception.



New Orleans first celebration of 2012 took place on June 2 at the Rose Garden in Harahan, LA. The theme for the event was butterflies. The family members and caregivers were each presented with a butterfly seed packet as a token in honor of their loved one’s memory. There was a butterfly release at the end of the celebration.

The second celebration in New Orleans in 2012 was on December 2, also at the Rose Garden. The theme for this event was the white dove. E. Jae James, the owner and director from X-finity Dance Academy choreographed a lyrical dance performed by five dancers to the song, “For Good” from the Broadway musical “Wicked.” At the end of the celebration, five live doves were released.

- Charlotte Jackson and
Paige Perre, Canon Hospice

Canon Hospice Hour

The Canon Hospice Health Hour began in March of 2006. In response to the thirst for good health information, The Akula Foundation and Canon Hospice have teamed their resources to provide this offering to the community. The show's guests are members of the medical community (private physicians, and health related organizations).

The Canon Hospice Health Hour airs live each Saturday at 1pm on WGSO 990 AM New Orleans; and at 7am on WXBD 1490 AM Gulfport/Biloxi on Saturdays.

- Sue May, CHPLN, CHA,
Canon Hospice
Administrator

Would you like to be a guest on the show? Call (504) 729-6920 in New Orleans or call (228) 575-6051 in Gulfport.

Camp Swan

Camp Swan is a 3day/2night camp for children ages 7-12 who have lost someone significant in their lives. This camp is sponsored by Canon Hospice and the Akula Foundation. Over 70 children attended the camps in 2012. Camp Swan is designed to provide an experience in outdoor

living combined with therapeutic activities to facilitate grieving in a fun and naturalistic setting.

The camp is staffed by volunteers including bereavement counselors, social workers, doctors, nurses, medical students, and adults from the community.



Therapeutic activities will include art, music, drama and group and individual discussions. These are designed to help the campers to better understand and express their feelings of grief.

If you know a child who may benefit from Camp Swan, Call the Akula Foundation today!

- Sue May, CHPLN, CHA,
Camp Director

Grief Resource Center

Through the Grief Resource Center, the Akula Foundation offers a multitude of Grief Groups. These groups are available FREE of charge to anyone in the community who has suffered a loss. These losses may include grieving the death of a loved one, loss of property, loss of a job, loss of a way of life, loss of a pet and allows them to share their experience with others as they move through the healing process – all in a therapeutic environment. Our professional, caring staff is dedicated to providing comprehensive bereavement to all who participate. The mission of the Grief Resource Center is to provide a safe environment for children, teens and adults to explore and express their feelings related to their feelings of loss and learn to thrive in their world as it changes.

Grief groups are offered in throughout Southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. At this current time we offer over 16 groups and expect to expand in 2013. For more information or times and locations of our groups please call (504) 818-2723 x 3003 or you can

2013 Camp Dates

Camp Swan Gulfport/Biloxi

April 5, 6, 7, 2013

Camp Wilkes, MS

Camp Swan New Orleans

November 22, 23, 24, 2013

Camp Living Waters, LA



Winter/Spring 2013

visit our website at

www.akulafoundation.com.

- Dr. Lee Matthews,
Grief Resource Center



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