

# YOUNG HEROES

## PAST PARTICIPANTS UPDATE 2017



**Robert Vincent** (1996) is an attorney in Erath. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Erath Fourth of July Association for over 20 years. Robert serves on a number of boards and committees including the Board of Directors of the Acadian Museum, the Board of Directors of the Erath Building Association, and is a member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Erath Backer's Club, and more.

**Ashley Barton Autin** (1997) is married and has three sons. She is Membership Coordinator and Fitness Instructor at Peak Performance Health and Athletic Club in Cut Off. Ashley is part of the Praise and Worship Team and is a Kings Kid's Teacher at Victory Life Church in Lockport. She says that being a Young Hero, "gave me a foundation to build strength and courage in the midst of the adversity I faced in my childhood, and it still encourages me today hearing all the current Young Heroes' stories."



**Toni Chimento** (2005) is continuing to work at being independent. She is employed as a receptionist. About being named a Louisiana Young Hero, Toni said, "I appreciated the award. It made me feel like a very special individual."



**Morgan Gautreau** (2014) is currently a Junior at East Ascension High School in Gonzales. She plans to become a doctor and work in the pediatrics field. Morgan said, "Being a Louisiana Young Hero has been one of the greatest honors in my life. Being a Young Hero has made me want to push myself more because I know I am capable of completing anything that I want to do despite all the difficulties that life may bring."

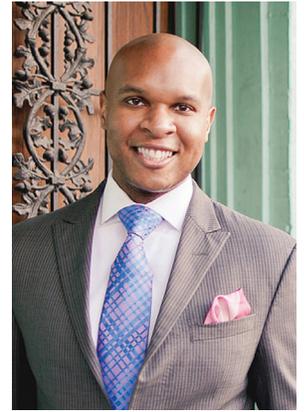
**Matthew Burroughs** (2002) is currently in his second year of a Master of Divinity degree at Perkins School of Theology at SMU in Dallas, Texas. He will graduate in 2018. He graduated from Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University in 2006 and from LSU Law School in 2009. Matthew's greatest challenge since being named a Young Hero has been, "surviving law school, completing the rigorous requirements of Scholar's College, and living totally on my own."



**Peyton Cudd** (2016) is a full-time college student, who hopes to graduate with a 4.0 GPA and find a job in the business world. She says that, "being a Young Hero has taught me to always look for the good in people."



**Olivia Castelluccio** (2015) is a freshman at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge. She is on the softball team, Liturgy Committee, and Spanish Club at St. Joseph's, and altar server for Most Blessed Sacrament Church. In the future, Olivia plans to, "pursue medical school to become an oncologist. My dream is to become a doctor at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital."



**Travis Torrence** (1998) is Vice-President – Legal for Jiffy Lube International, Inc., and Senior Legal Counsel for Shell Oil Company in Houston.



**Thomas Veade** (1998), who earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering/Astronautics focus from the U.S. Naval Academy, plans to pursue leadership positions within Naval Air Systems Command. Thomas states that his greatest challenge since being named a Young Hero is being a father. "Being a parent changes everything in life. In the past, decisions were made only having myself to have to think about; but now every decision, action and thought has become about my children and their future." Thomas added, "Thanks to Louisiana Public Broadcasting for doing something unique with the Young Heroes program, recognizing the efforts of others and strengthening communities."

**Nikki Armand Brignac** (1997) is a proud graduate of Charity Nursing School. She has been a home health RN for 4 years now and loves it. She has 3 beautiful children and her life revolves around them. "Being a Young Hero meant everything to me," said Nikki. "People who help others rarely do it for recognition. I definitely didn't. Rather, this award gave me a way to connect with other children who had the same mindset of service that I always felt called to. This award was the first of many I ended up receiving and each award was another step to making epilepsy a household word as well as networking with other families who, otherwise, I would have never met." Her future plans include eventually getting her Doctorate of Nursing and becoming a nursing professor.

**Charlton Boyd** (2011) is a junior at Wagner College in New York City. He is captain of the school's Division 1 Tennis Team, President of Wagner Republicans, and Chairman of New York City Republicans. Charlton plans to attend law school and eventually entering public service. He says, "My greatest challenge since becoming a Young Hero has been making sure I focus on the good in life. I sometimes used to let myself worry about the negative things going on, or the people that have a negative impact on my life. Since becoming a Young Hero, I have been able to overcome this as I focus on the positives and do not let things out of my control get in the way of my life."



**Elizabeth Kasongo** (2014) is a sophomore at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. She is a member of the women's rugby team, a Springhillian Ambassador, as well as other activities. She plans to graduate from college with the possibility of joining the FBI or attending law school to study public international law. "My greatest challenge is trying to become the best role model for the younger children. The pressure of always trying to stay positive in any negative situations."



**William Dunckelman, Jr.** (2004) is a Research Attorney at Louisiana Court of Appeal First Circuit. He and his wife Kristi are expecting their first child in October.

**Katie LeBlanc** (2016) is a freshman at Baton Rouge Community College. Her interests include wheelchair tennis, church activities, lots of volunteering, and learning to drive with hand controls. Katie wants to become a Child-Life Specialist and work at a children's hospital.



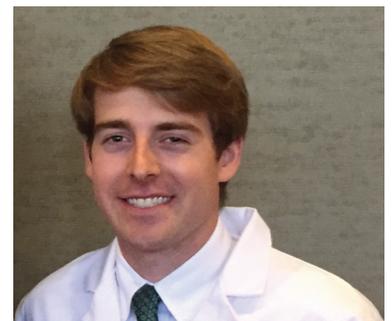
**Madison Frugé** (2016) is a student at Avoyelles High School. In BETA Club, she holds the title of Louisiana District 3 BETA Governor 2016-2017 and Avoyelles High School BETA Club President 2016-2017. Her charity, "Maddie's Gifts of Hope," is still very active! She plans to attend the University of Louisiana at Monroe in pursuit of a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology, then attend graduate school in pursuit of a law degree. Madison wants, "to thank everyone involved in this organization for giving myself and so many others such an amazing opportunity to share our stories and inspire others to do the same. This was such an amazing and humbling experience for me and it one of my greatest achievements. My family and I will always be grateful for this experience and cherish the Young Heroes Day as a family memory for the rest of our lives."

**Jordan Prince** (2007) competes in swimming in Special Olympics. Her greatest challenge has been continuing to get better and overcome the disabilities that brain cancer and the treatment has left her with, especially hearing loss and loss of short term memory. About receiving the Louisiana Young Heroes award, Jordan says, It was a special time in my life to be called a hero when everything around me was such an obstacle. It did help me to better overcome life's challenges."

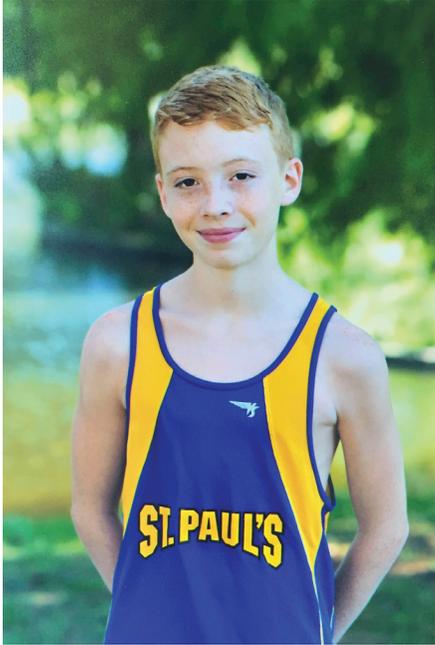
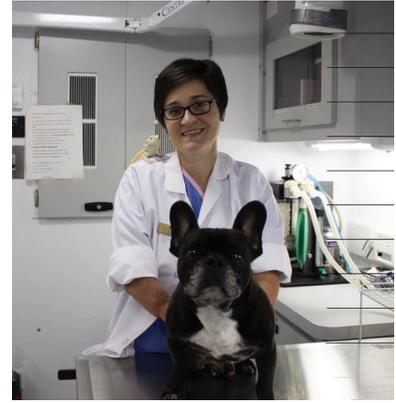


**Rachel Patteson** (2013) is a graduating senior at the University of Missouri in Environmental and Geological Sciences. She plans to attend graduate school at Oxford, Seoul National, or University of Toronto for a master's degree and PhD in Climatology/Paleoclimatology, Earth System, and Climate System sciences. Rachel stated, "Being a Young Hero has given me the strength to become an inspiring leader in my community, college, and across my clubs. I have learned to show passion, empathy, patience, and accountability in my everyday life. I look back on the opportunity the Young Hero's program has presented me, and it was the stepping-stone for my future passion in showing those that are underserved, that anything is possible."

**Carter Boyd** (2009) is a first year MD/MBA student at University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine with hopes of becoming a surgeon. Carter notes, "As I have moved and lived in two different places, finding like-minded people who care about giving back in an integral way to the community has been challenging."



**Brandy Duhon** (1999) is a veterinarian and teaches at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. She also works as a shelter medicine clinician and surgeon for LSU Veterinary School. Brandy says, "I am very proud to have been a Young Hero; it's an accomplishment that I hold dear."



**Sean Noel** (2015) is a freshman at St. Paul's School in Covington. Sean is still extremely busy. "In addition to my foundation, 'Sean's Factor,' my veteran's recognition and appreciation program, 'St. Tammany Remembers,' my statewide blanket and clothing collection, 'Warm Hearts,' and my anti-bullying campaign, 'Stand Up and Stop It,' I participate in AFROTC, I am the Senior Patrol Leader for my Boy Scout troop, and my Cross-Country team won the State Championship! I've been the guest speaker at over 20 veteran's events, including Angola Penitentiary and Rayburn Correctional to advocate for incarcerated veterans as well as the featured speaker for the Louisiana Veterans Festival." Sean adds, "Of course, it is wonderful to be recognized for my efforts, but if that recognition can inspire just one more person to lead or to turn their misfortune into a 'plus' – then the Young Heroes program is doing what it was created to do: to motivate and reward youth who have overcome challenges to make a difference in their community. I am so thankful."

**Tara Hinds** is a counselor in private practice in Chicago. She is married to a Chicago policeman, has a stepson, and is expecting a baby in June. About being a Young Hero, Tara relates that, "It was (and is!) such an honor and great memory from my high school years. I remember that special day and just being humbled by the other Heroes I met – and wondered how I ended up being chosen for that group."



To find out more about the Louisiana Young Heroes awards and the recipients, go to **[lpb.org/heroes](http://lpb.org/heroes)**.

We hope you will also join us on the Louisiana Young Heroes Facebook page: **[lpb.org/heroesfb](http://lpb.org/heroesfb)**.