

BACKGROUNDER:

There are over 20,000 people in the United States that are living with hemophilia and without proper treatment, many die before they reach adulthood. Hemophilia is a life-long disease that has no cure and is the most expensive chronic condition that someone can have. When a young lawyer, Robert Lee Henry's son, was born with the terrifying diagnosis of hemophilia, Lee knew he had to affect change. He then founded the National Hemophilia Foundation.

In 1976, Huey and Angelina Wilson, brought the organization to Louisiana and pathed a way for Hemophilia patients to have access to their medication for decades to come. The Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation (LHF) is a non-profit organization that helps serve and support Louisiana residents with the inherited disorder.

"We just want to help them live the best life they possibly can with the unfortunate circumstances they were given," said, Outreach Director, Sharon Doucet.

The mission of the LHF is to improve the quality of life and assist persons effected by inherited bleeding disorders by providing education, advocacy, support services, and by promoting research. The LHF brings together the hemophilia community by putting on fun events such as a golf tournament, Family Day in the Park, and the Halloween Bash. Volunteering is the #1 way to make a difference in our community and give hope to those who need it most.

The funding for this non-profit comes from a variety of fundraising events, donations, and sponsored events. Eighty percent of the foundation's revenue comes from program funds that are recycled back through in order to produce educational resources for the hemophilia community. Ten percent of the revenue comes from donations and the last ten percent comes from fundraising.

"Fundraising is hard, because the community we serve is not well-known to the public—or at least the severity of it. When people are educated and find out that this disease is not curable and only worsens with time, they are more willing to donate to the cause," Erica Simpson, Executive Director of the foundation said.