

RAINTREE CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

“These children have gone through more struggles than most of us will see in a lifetime. My goal is to inspire them to overcome these obstacles and to help them dream of leading a full and productive life—and I am living proof that it can be done.”

Lana Duke, Ruth’s Chris Steak House Owner



Raintree Children & Family Services is a multiservice, non-profit organization assisting the Greater New Orleans Area since 1926, beginning as a home for orphaned infants and toddlers. In the 1930's, the organization provided care to over 400 children while arranging adoptions for more than 150. Eventually services expanded to include maternity care for young women during the 1950's and 60's. During the 1970's and 80's, additional programs were established. *Raintree House*, a group home for teenaged foster girls began. *Raintree Family Foster Care* began providing services to therapeutic and private foster children while establishing foster parent homes in the community. The *After School Program* was created to reach children enrolled in the Greater New Orleans community who were deemed at risk for academic and social challenges. In the 1990's, *Family Service Coordination*, an *EarlySteps* service, was established to service children aged 0-3 with developmental delays. In this decade, a new program, *Attendant Care Services*, provides in home services to persons in the community with disabilities that would otherwise require institutional settings of care. This program assists with their daily care, allowing them to remain in their own homes. *Raintree* continues to grow and fulfill our mission "to provide an array of services to vulnerable persons in our community, encouraging hope and creating opportunities for independent lives." *Raintree's* rich history of providing services to children and families has stood the test of time in its dedication and commitment to helping children and families thrive.

Raintree is nationally accredited through the *Council on Accreditation*, is a member of the *Child Welfare League of America* and is a *United Way* partner agency. Although partially funded by the State of Louisiana, *Raintree* relies on community support to provide our important services. *Raintree* programs reach more than 550 children and families in the Greater New Orleans Area:

- ***Raintree House*** - a community-based group home providing therapeutic and nurturing care for teenage girls who have been abused or neglected by their families of origin;
- ***Raintree Family Foster Care*** - a program providing guidance and loving homes to boys and girls of all ages who have been abused and neglected by their families of origin;
- ***Raintree Afterschool and Educational Support Services*** - a program with a goal to assist children at-risk of disciplinary action, suspension or expulsion by helping them acquire skills needed to remain in school and reduce behavioral incidents;
- ***Raintree Family Service Coordination*** - a program providing case management services to families with infants or toddlers who have developmental disabilities.
- ***Raintree Attendant Care Services*** – offers at-home care by professionally trained attendants. Offers opportunities for independence to children and adults with physical limitations.

Once a foster child herself, Lana believes strongly in being involved in the efforts of charities whose mission is to protect children and strengthen families and communities through partnerships with businesses, individuals and other charitable groups, and proudly serves on the *Raintree Board of Directors*.