

## Success Story

**Featured Story:**

**Company:** SU Ag Center for Rural and Small Business Development

**Place:** Disciple Baptist Church

**Contact:** Mr. Herman Alfred

**Participant Since:** Ville Platte, LA

**Date of Success:** May 13, 2008

**Outline of Needs:** In November of 2007, Mr. Herman Alfred contacted Mrs. Gloria London and Mr. Eual Hall about helping the Ville Platte Community out with a number of needs that he and the community leader had outlined as ongoing concerns. The Business people in the area had a concern with business training and accounting practices to keep up with state and federal taxes along with gaining knowledge to keep up with expenses, payroll, and profitability. The school board administration along with the teachers expressed a concern about high unemployment and lack of methods for the youth to apply for jobs because of lack of computers in residents' homes. They also want to post assignments on the internet but between 35- 55 percent of students did not have access to computers or internet.

**How CRSBD Helped:** Mrs. Gloria London along with Mr. Eual Hall gathered up resources and had a Developmental Business & Training Meeting with local residents and community leaders.

On December 9, 2007, William Augustine and Wilbert Harris, Jr. setup a 10 unit computer lab in the Disciple Baptist Church Activity Center. The Center for Rural and Small Business Development equipped the computers with software to help everyone in the community. QuickBooks, Business plan pro, Microsoft office Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, and Microsoft Encarta to name a few.

On February 16, 2008, Wilber Harris, Jr. along with William Augustine had a computer training class with Ville Platte teachers and students.

On May 13, 2008, The Center for Rural and Small Business Development along with the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives had a "free" QuickBooks training class with area businesses but anyone could attend.

**Results:** The Disciple Baptist Church and Ville Platte community thanked the Center for Rural and Small Business Development with two articles that appeared in the Ville Platte Gazette, on December 16, 2007 and February 17, 2008. The Disciple Baptist Church noted in the articles its sincere thanks to CRSBD because the lab would enable the community to get business training and have a place for area youth to apply for jobs or have assistance to start and own small businesses. Area leaders loaned their voice to commend the CRSBD for helping the community with such a desperate need.

Pastor: Leroy Jack, Jr.

Attorney: Hellean Jackson

Master of Cermonies: Herman Alfred

District Attorney: Brent Corcil

School Board Member: Gervis Lafleur

Sheriff: Eddie Soileau

City Councilman: Lorenzo Arrie

Judge: Thomas Fuselier