Shell Norco Adds Hand Sanitizer to Classroom Supplies

If there are 1,900 classrooms in the St. Charles Parish Public School System, how long does it take to make and deliver 2,000 gallons of hand sanitizer if you are traveling from Canada to Louisiana with stops in Michigan and Texas along the way?

Don’t worry, parents. You will not be asked to help your children figure out one of those complicated and frustrating math word problems this school year. But here’s the answer, in case you were tempted to solve the problem – a little less than two weeks with teamwork and coordination from Shell Norco.

Norco General Manager Tammy Little presented 2,000 gallons of Shell-manufactured hand sanitizer, packaged in gallon pump bottles, to St. Charles Parish Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Oertling the day before the first day of school in August.

“The hand sanitizer will be extremely beneficial for our students and staff as we navigate through these times in the educational setting. This donation has a direct impact on all of our students, faculty, and staff as it will assist in healthy hand hygiene to combat COVID-19. We are all very appreciative of the donation from Shell, but even more appreciative of the partnership that continues to grow stronger each and every year. Shell is ensuring our motto of ‘Every student matters and Every moment counts’ with this very thoughtful donation.”

Kade Rogers
SCPPS Administrator of Safety, Security, and Athletics

“Norco is excited to work with the school district. In addition to supporting our community, the delivery of hand sanitizer demonstrates how the chemical products Shell produces around the world are used to make a difference in our everyday lives.”

Tammy Little
Norco General Manager
“We are delighted to deliver hand sanitizer for every classroom in our parish school system,” Little said in making the donation, “These gallons of hand-sanitizer represent a journey that began in Canada with the production of isopropyl alcohol at Shell Sarnia, continued to a Shell Lubricants site in Michigan for blending and then on to Houston where it was bottled, packaged, labeled and shipped to St. Charles Parish.”

“Thank you for donating such a generous contribution to our school system,” Dr. Oertling stated. “We have many health and safety protocols in place for our teachers and students. With school starting tomorrow, the gift will directly help us accomplish those protocols. The gift could not have come at a better time as we know hand sanitizer is a commodity that is not easy to come by.”

The superintendent noted that hand sanitizer is a key component in making sure that students and teachers can keep coming into the classroom. “Keeping hands clean is one of the best ways to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 and other germs,” he said.

“This donation has a direct impact on our students’ well-being. We appreciate our association with Shell, not just for donations like this, but also for helping us continue to offer the many educational opportunities we have for our children.”

DR. KEN OERTLING
St. Charles Parish Public Schools Superintendent

Technical College Students Receive Learning Tools

Virtual learning is great, particularly if you’re a community college student holding down a full-time job while you work on a degree. It’s not so great if you don’t have access to the technology for on-line instruction.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way colleges function around the country and River Parishes Community College (RPCC) is no exception,” said RPCC Foundation Director Lillie Murphy when the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) announced, last spring, that campuses were closed, moving all classes to an online format. She noted that the campus closures included computer labs and libraries impacting a significant number of students who had no resources for online learning.

“Support for students pursuing degrees in process technology, instrument technology and other industrial fields is not only important to area industries but to the economic well-being of Louisiana,” notes Shell Norco External Relations Manager Rochelle Touchard. “And more importantly, we don’t want anyone to be denied an education because they lack the tools to learn.”

When Shell Norco, Convent, and Geismar learned that some LCTCS students did not have electronic devices to continue their studies, the sites made a collective $15,000 donation. Ten thousand dollars were allocated to RPCC, the regional campus of LCTCS that services all three of the Louisiana facilities, for the purchase of tablets to assist students in the new world of virtual learning. Five thousand dollars were directed to the LCTCS Emergency Fund to support emergency grants for faculty, staff and students who experienced financial hardships due to the COVID crisis.

“Thank you all so much for supporting the RPCC Foundation and the RPCC Student Body.”

LILLIE MURPHY
RPCC Foundation Director

Lillie Murphy presents tablets to students during a drive-through distribution this summer to appreciative students.
SHELL IS RECIPIENT OF Secretary of Defense Freedom Award

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DR. MARK T. ESPER NAMED SHELL OIL COMPANY ONE OF THE 15 RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD, IN RECOGNITION OF THE ORGANIZATION’S EXEMPLARY SUPPORT FOR ITS NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EMPLOYEES.

I am proud to recognize these 15 outstanding civilian employers,” said Esper. “The citizen warriors of the National Guard and Reserve have evolved from a strategic reserve to become an integral component of the operational force. Having employers who support their military service is critical to their success and the success of our National Defense Strategy. We salute these exemplary employers for their steadfast commitment to their Guard and Reserve employees, their patriotism, and their contributions to the defense and security of our great Nation.”

Shell Oil Company along with 14 other recipients were selected from 2,623 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists highlighting how their civilian employers went far beyond what the federal law requires to support them. The Freedom Award began in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional employer support, with 295 honorees to date.

Shell supports military employees by providing differential pay and benefits for 12 or more months when called upon to deploy, and Shell supervisors and managers regularly communicate with deployed employees during their absence. The company shares military updates and Service member recognition through their company website, on social media, and via Shell’s internal engagement and collaboration tool. In addition, Shell’s Military Network Employee Resource Group tracks deployed Service members, maintains contact with them and their families, and plans welcome home events.

“I appreciate all Shell does to foster an atmosphere of support and encouragement for those fulfilling a Reserve military commitment,” said U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Major William Foran, who nominated Shell for the award. “Shell has demonstrated an extraordinary level of care and support for those who served and are still serving their country. Shell values what we value and has provided an ideal situation for continued growth as both an employee and Service member. Before, during, and after my deployment, I was ‘wowed’ by Shell’s level of support, engagement, and encouragement. Ooh-rah!”

Shell’s Executive Vice President for Human Resources (North America) Scott Ballard, expressed appreciation for the honor and underscored how important National Guard and Reserve members are to their workforce. “At Shell, we value the qualities individuals with military service bring to our organization – professionalism, commitment to safety, a global perspective, and leadership,” said Ballard. “We are committed to military recruitment efforts of those that have and continue to serve our country. We employ Veterans, National Guardsmen and Reservists across all Shell businesses in the U.S. They make tremendous contributions and are respected for the many talents and abilities they bring to our organization. We believe it is critical to create a supportive work environment of care, inclusion and cultural values that enable everyone to contribute to their fullest potential. We are appreciative of the dedication and commitment Guardsman and Reservists continue to have for our country as military service members and for Shell as employees.”

“Weekly,壳 values what we value and has provided an ideal situation for continued growth as both an employee and Service member. Before, during, and after my deployment, I was ‘wowed’ by Shell’s level of support, engagement, and encouragement. Ooh-rah!”

MAJOR WILLIAM FORAN
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Applause, applause for the River Region Ballet. The curtains went up this summer for the organization’s Annual Camp and Intensive Workshop for area youth with just a few adjustments. Keeping COVID-19 precautions in mind, the camp limited registration, required social distancing and ended the week-long camp with a virtual Summer Dance Watch party featuring performance recordings.

Sponsored by Shell Norco, the sixth annual camp and workshop focused on the theme Christmas in July with crafts and activities designed to keep kids cool, occupied and nurture a love for the art of dance. A highlight of this year’s camp was the participation of guest artists Jonette Shurden of Mississippi State University and APEX Dance Company and Lisa Keller of the New Orleans Ballet and Theatre.

According to Camp Director DeAnn Sullivan, precautionary methods such as facial coverings for volunteers and faculty, parent drop off and pick up protocols, daily screenings and the availability of touchless hand sanitizers were a high priority to keep the campers safe and healthy.

The River Region Ballet, which traditionally stages a holiday production of The Nutcracker, is currently preparing for this year’s performance which will be recorded on stage at the Lafon Center for Performing Arts for online viewing.
Norco volunteers kicked off the site’s 2020 United Way/HERO campaign with the volunteer effort at the Matthew 25:35 Ministries Food Pantry in Destrehan, a United Way of St. Charles supported organization. The group packaged and distributed hundreds of food baskets for the non-profit organization’s clients from throughout St. Charles Parish.

“Our annual campaign is not just about giving money. It’s also about taking time and energy to show you care about the needs of the community. We are blessed to have an opportunity to help the Food Pantry and to reach out to those in need.”

JOE BOB LAFLEUR
Norco Campaign Chair

When Shell Norco General Manager TAMMY LITTLE volunteered to help pack groceries at a recent Matthew 25:35 Food Ministry distribution day, she knew she would be giving a gift of time to the community. “The impact of the need hit hard however, when I saw the large number of cars with individuals and families in line even before the food bank opened,” she said. “There was a long and steady stream of cars throughout the morning. As Shell employees, we recognize the benefits of having great jobs. It’s important to share our blessings in the community where we live and work.”

The event was part of Norco’s annual HERO/United Way Campaign emphasizing the gift of serving the community.

“I believe in the power of helping others, especially during the pandemic when so many people are in need.”

CLAUDELL HARRIS | Volunteer
“The need has doubled in the last several months,” said Food Pantry Coordinator Mary Anne Schindler. “Before COVID-19 we served 200 to 230 families each month. Now, we are providing food for 500 families with an additional 10 to 15 clients added every week. Imagine the need if you are suddenly no longer working. We are seeing many families who have never asked for assistance before this time.”

Schindler noted that while food supply resources have been a challenge during the pandemic, the generosity of the community and area industry as well as the support of the United Way of St. Charles has helped the food bank fill the need. “We have received gifts of food as well as financial donations,” she explained. “One area resident donated his entire stimulus check and many of our clients are returning as volunteers to help us fill food baskets.”

Norco volunteers helping with the food distribution effort included: Tammy Little, Denis Clavette, Martin Padilla, Rochelle Touchard, Joe Bob LaFleur, Jolene Page, Carmine Frangella, Smack McMurry, Jerry Flood, Angele Chauvin, Chris Schrock, Eric Roy, Kim Jackson, Dawn Viviano, Pat Beard, Shellie Portier, Claudell Harris, Nathan Poche, and Wilton Ledet.

To find out how you can help Matthew 25:35 and other United Way of St. Charles organizations go to www.uwaysc.org.
On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

» FAST FORWARD 100 YEARS to September 3, 2020, Shell and The Louisiana Community and Technical College System sponsored the 12th Annual Energize Your Destiny Forum empowering women to explore opportunities in the energy sector, once considered a non-traditional field for women. This year, Louisiana’s first virtual interactive forum included a welcoming address from Louisiana’s First Lady Donna Edwards, industry experts, women working in the field, and technical college representatives. According to Shell Workforce Development Advisor, Crafts & Operations David Esquibel, the Destiny forum supports the advancement of females throughout their education and training as they enter into sustainable careers in the workforce.

“...I went to Shell right after graduation,” Hewitt said. “I think I was the only female who graduated in my mechanical engineering class at LSU. And there were very few women in the oil and gas industry. I was used to being around men, but sometimes it’s a whole other level in the oil and gas industry, at least back in the eighties. It’s so different now. The Shell training program sent all new engineers offshore for the first year. I flew out on my very first day with my red coveralls with creases ironed right down the front, and a brand-spanking new hard hat and gloves and brand new boots. I looked like I had just walked out of an oil and gas magazine.”

“I introduced myself as the new Shell engineer to the man in charge. He kind of glared at me and he spit in his tobacco cup and put his hands in his pockets. He said, ‘There’s two problems with the oil business.’ And I’m thinking, ‘This is great. It’s my first day on the job and I’m going to get this great nugget of information.’ He said, ‘There’s two problems with the oil business. The first is O-rings.’ (the black elastomers like in your garden hose that keep it from leaking.) ‘That’s a big problem in the oil business,’ he continued, ‘and the second problem is women.’

“I thought, this was going to be a great career. And it was. I learned, as you do, in everything you do, and women understand this better probably than anybody, is you just have to prove yourself and have an opportunity to show that you belong, that you’re qualified, that you’re a team player, and that you can contribute. And of course, the first time that I saved that foreman when he made a mistake and I was able to kind of bail him out a little bit and not throw him under the bus, we were friends for life.”

“Over 20-years I had many, many different job assignments,” Hewitt continued. “And at the end of my Shell career, I was leading a big part of Shell’s Deepwater Gulf of Mexico business. Those guys that sort of gave me sort of a hard time at the beginning of my career, actually worked for me at the end. I think it’s a testament to what you can do when it’s something that you feel strongly about. There are opportunities available for women to do those things.”

“But I also understand the challenges of balancing work and family, and that ultimately prevailed in my case. I stepped down from a career that was pretty much like on a rocket ship and decided that the best thing for me to do was to come home and to be with our sons. Instead of building major oil and gas developments offshore, I began building playground equipment all over the city of Slidell, and technology labs, weather stations, broadcasting studios, and lots of technology-type projects that were really important to me.”

“When our sons graduated from college, I began thinking about, ‘Well, what’s next for me?’ What I decided about myself is that, the things that I enjoyed the most were those when I felt like I was making a difference. As corny as that sounds, that’s really true. It’s not about the money or the power. It’s really about feeling like you’re making a difference.”

“I decided to run for the State Senate and was elected by a pretty large margin against an incumbent,” she said. “I’m in my second term now. One of the things that I’ve really enjoyed and focused on and feel like is part of my responsibility is encouraging more work in the area of STEM - science, technology, engineering, and math - and created the STEM Advisory Council through legislation several years ago. This brings a statewide focus to STEM because, honestly, those are the high-paying, high-demand jobs that we have so many opportunities to do in our state because we’re blessed with industries. Even if you choose not to go into one of those careers, everybody needs a little technology in their lives. You have to have a little technology just to survive these days.”

“It’s not just about having careers in STEM. But I do think that, especially for women, it offers you tremendous opportunities to take care of your family. And it is also what’s going to help close the gender pay gap. Part of my message to you today is to say that for those of you who want to consider something different, the LCTCS system and many of the universities that are represented here today offer you unlimited opportunities for certifications, for associate degrees. There are many, many opportunities available to you and industries that want your help. It could be healthcare. It could be maritime. It could be aerospace, oil and gas, cybersecurity or agriculture. I think the sky’s the limit for you and for Louisiana.”
Shell has presented a $300,000 grant to the River Road African American Museum (RRAAM) in Donaldsonville, LA, to support the restoration of the museum’s historic Rosenwald School building. When completed, the structure will house the RRAAM Rosenwald School for Education, Culture and History, which will provide a modern space for museum visitors and school groups to explore the important role of African Americans in the region’s history. The facility will also enhance the museum’s ability to provide science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) programming, healthy eating/healthy living seminars, and culture and history events, in addition to serving as a center for genealogical research.

“Shell’s relationship with the River Road African American Museum goes back more than 20 years. The Rosenwald School will bring new resources and opportunity to our region while assisting the museum in advancing its mission; one we believe deeply in. This partnership echoes Shell’s commitment to diversity and inclusion both with our employees and in the communities in which we operate.”

RHomAn HarDy
Shell Vice President U.S. Gulf Coast

Visit www.shell.us/louisiana for more information about Shell and RRAAM.

The building is one of the few structures remaining of the 5,000 Rosenwald Schools built across 15 Southern states from Texas to Maryland in the early 1900s to provide educational opportunities for those with no access to public education. In Louisiana, there were 400 Rosenwald Schools built between 1913 and the early 1930s. The Rosenwald Schools, were funded in part by Julius Rosenwald, then the president of Sears Roebuck, in partnership with Booker T. Washington. “The building is a three-classroom building that was used to educate black students in the South during the 1930s,” explains RRAAM Director Daryl Hambrick.

The River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville presents a rare glimpse into the lives of the enslaved and free people of color who lived in the rural communities of in the River Parishes region. The museum’s collection of unique buildings is located in the downtown historic district of Donaldsonville. The museum’s archives are home to historical documents, books, rare photographs, and videos. The collection includes artifacts, newspaper ads for runaway slaves, obituaries, certificates of midwives and rural black doctors, photos and sketches of inventors, such as Leonard Julien and Madame C. J. Walker, in addition to politicians, soldiers, artisans, and entrepreneurs.

Take a drive to Donaldsonville and spend two and a half hours going back in history touring the museum and its adjacent Freedom Garden. For more information or to schedule a tour, go to www.africanamericannuseum.org or call 225-474-5553. Be sure to call ahead due to COVID-19 restrictions.
One of St. Charles Parish’s most anticipated, well-attended and important events is not on the calendar this year. United Way of St. Charles recently announced the cancellation of the 2020 Battle for the Paddle.

“It’s unfortunate that we can’t have Battle for the Paddle this year, not only because it’s just plain fun but because it’s a big part of promoting our campaign,” said Executive Director for United Way of St. Charles JOHN DIAS. “We worry that at a time where needs are up, our fundraising may be down.” The decision to cancel the event reflects the United Way’s concern for the safety and health of the community and encourages continued support for the organization through individual donations as well as business and industry giving campaigns.

Funds raised at Battle for the Paddle are used to support United Way of St. Charles’ 32 Partner Agencies and 100+ programs throughout the year. 2020 marks the first time the event has been canceled in its 19-year history. The date for the 2021 Battle for the Paddle is Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Battle for the Paddle, the world’s largest jambalaya and gumbo cook-off, is held annually on the first Thursday in October and serves as the official kick-off for the United Way of St. Charles fundraising campaign. Last year, over 150 teams participated in the cooking competition held at the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center in Luling. Over 8,000 attendees sampled unlimited tastings of jambalaya and gumbo while enjoying live music and supporting United Way of St. Charles.

For more information about United Way of St. Charles or its annual fundraising efforts, visit www.uwaysc.org or call 985-331-9063.

The date for the 2021 Battle for the Paddle is 10/7/2021.

You can treat Coronavirus Cabin Fever successfully and safely Venture out and see Louisiana for a day or short weekend. Take a staycation!

The Louisiana Department of Tourism and the Lt. Governor’s Office is sponsoring a Louisiana is a Trip campaign. You are encouraged to explore our great state – while wearing facial coverings and socially distancing as appropriate. You will not only eliminate cabin fever symptoms but also help the state’s economy as it recovers from the pandemic.

Visit the campaign’s website and consider taking a staycation to one of the many attractions that Louisiana has to offer. You could enjoy outdoor activities from hiking to canoeing, at one of the State Parks for example. How about boating through the swamps, fishing from the levee, or finding a neighborhood seafood restaurant? The possibilities are limitless, diverse and what a better time to get to know about the state you live in?

For more information about the campaign and itinerary ideas go to: staycation.louisianatravel.com.