

Coins Can Make Change



Miles Perret Cancer Services launches community fund-raiser. Small change can make a big change in someone's life. That's the concept behind Change for Miles, a fund-raising program for Miles Perret Cancer Services which encourages residents to help the numerous Perret programs with a simple idea. "It's a grass-roots effort, and I think it's something that will be great for kids," said Hunter Perret. "It will help teach them to be philanthropic, and its' community based. All the monies raised stay here."

Several local banks will serve as distribution points for specially-labeled plastic bottles. Participants pick up the bottles, fill each with loose change and return to the bank to help Miles Perret Cancer Services. A filled bottle earns a "Change for Miles" bracelet.

Some 15,000 plastic bottles have been produced and labeled for the push.

Banks participating in the Change for Miles campaign include Gulf Coast Bank, First National Bank, FM Bank, MidSouth Bank, Rayne State Bank, Capital One Bank, Home Bank and Regions Bank.

Immaculate Heart of Mary began a two-week Change for Miles campaign on Monday, and other schools are expected to join the effort as public service projects.

"This idea started about a year ago," said Perret board member Mike Robicheaux. "The chairman's council wanted to have something to get the community involved, and one of us said, 'If we had a penny for every bottle of Tabasco sauce sold.' Tabasco sells 700,000 bottles a day. Then we thought of Pennies for Miles."

Further mathematics came up the with more lucrative idea of Change for Miles when it was discovered that a bottle of pennies would be worth \$7, while one filled with miscellaneous loose change could yield \$34. So the campaign quickly changed to Change for Miles.

"This has taken a lot of effort from a lot of people," Robicheaux said.

The campaign has already raised \$10,330.15, with funds raised going to help Perret Services assist cancer patients with expenses like utility bills, wigs, supplies, durable medical equipment and prescriptions.