



## Connie Acosta Lamke Evangeline Parish

Nominated by: Gwen Fontenot

Connie Acosta Lamke is the recipient of the 2021 Leaders In Philanthropy Award for Evangeline Parish.

Connie was born in Westwego, Louisiana, and grew up in the New Orleans area until she moved to Ville Platte in the early 1990s. Her love for helping others was gained by watching her single father help others in the community with very limited resources. For most of her life, Connie has been helping those in need. After her father's passing, Connie decided to create the Acosta Foundation in his name and, through that foundation, began to help non-profit organizations in Louisiana achieve their goals. She and her board accomplish this by hosting events, raising money, and telling others in the community about the great non-profit organizations in Evangeline Parish. Their mission is "Improving Lives, One Donation at a Time."

Connie and her board have raised funds for and/or directly assisted St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Heart Association, Evangeline Parish seniors in assisted living and nursing home facilities, Savoy Indigent Patient Support, Miles Perret Cancer Services, veterans, homeless individuals/families in need, and Christmas Cheer, providing necessities and gifts for less fortunate families.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Connie spearheaded food distributions for thousands in Evangeline Parish and gathered and delivered items for 2020 hurricane disaster victims in Lake Charles and surrounding areas.

Another long-term and ongoing effort finds Connie collaborating with the Evangeline Chamber of Commerce to obtain grants and raise funds to provide a fresh look to Ville Platte's Main Street buildings and landscape. You can often find Connie in the community painting and helping improve the Ville Platte historic district or planning the next event.

Connie is employed at the Ville Platte Police Department and serves as the Executive Secretary to the Chief of Police. She has previously served as Chairwoman for the Evangeline Parish Relay for Life, was a board member for the Evangeline Coalition and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Evangeline Parish Chamber of Commerce. Connie is the current leader of the Police Department's Cops for a Cure, and she is proud to serve on the St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Board.

Connie is married to Chris Lamke, and they have two adult children and are blessed with four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.