

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NELA Ovation Weekend Features: Our Culture, Our Community, Our Children**

Community Partners are coming together to showcase the people, cuisine, art and quality of life in northeast Louisiana the weekend of Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9. In the first event of this kind, area arts organizations, non-profits and businesses, are joining forces to present an exciting weekend called NELA Ovation that will appeal to all family members and pocket books. Community Trust Bank is the title sponsor with funding from the Monroe/West Monroe Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana is organizing the weekend as a fundraiser to support its multiple efforts in the community.

This weekend will have a little something for everyone. There will be three signature food and wine events, a fashion show, along with other art showings, activities, and features that will include the whole family.

The primary partners for this weekend include: Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, Ouachita Medical Society Alliance, Vieux Carre' Gourmet, Twin City Art Foundation, Masur Museum of Art, Monroe Symphony Orchestra, Downtown Art Alliance, Northeast Louisiana Arts Council, Restaurant Sage, Debbie Bourg Dancers, Children's Museum of Northeast Louisiana.

*Food and Wine events include*

- **Thursday night:** Seated dinner at Vieux Carre' Gourmet with James Beard award winning chef, Allison Vines-Rushing showcasing her culinary talents. Wine pairings will be provided by Vieux Carre' Gourmet.
- **Friday night:** Chef Cory Bahr will be opening the doors of Restaurant Sage "For the Love of Art" wine tasting dinner with a presentation by the Brunner Gallery on collecting art. Champagne and chocolate will follow downtown with the Downtown Art Alliance.
- **Saturday night:** The Ouachita Medical Society Alliance and the Children's Coalition will be hosting a wine tasting with the Old World Winery and the Wine Appreciation Society at the historic, newly renovated old Country Club, home of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Napoli.

Other activities include Fashion Fusion in West Monroe on Friday night with the Debbie Bourg Dancers, Chocolate Frolic with the Downtown Art Alliance, Art show opening at WP Grill, Code Blue and the Flatliners at CODA . On Saturday there will be a drop-in at Masur Museum of Art, educational fun with the Children's Museum and the Pops Concert "Proud to be an American" with the Monroe Symphony Orchestra. Please see attached for details of events and ticket information.

Leading sponsors for the weekend are: St. Francis Medical Center, P & S Surgical Hospital, Dr. and Mrs. Mark Napoli, Pediatric Associates, Hopkins Dermatology and Haik Humble Eye Center.

**For ticket information, visit [www.nelaovation.com](http://www.nelaovation.com), or call the Children's Coalition at 318-323-8775.**

The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana is a regional non-profit organization committed to creating communities where children and families thrive.

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