

Program Summary:

This unique facility provides a tranquil respite for people of all ages, to better cope with grief and loss beyond traditional clinical counseling.

Program Statement:

The facility was purposefully designed to support both traditional and holistic approaches to grief and bereavement care. It offers a range of services, including individual counseling and grief support groups, while also embracing flexible, alternative therapies such as art and music therapy, pet therapy, guided spiritual practices, grief yoga, and meditative movement. These diverse offerings recognize that healing is deeply personal and often extends beyond clinical models.

Creating a peaceful, reflective environment was central to the mission — a challenge given the site's location directly adjacent to a major interstate overpass. In response, the architects employed a thoughtful design strategy, arranging the buildings in a protective inward-facing configuration that “circles the wagons.” This orientation turns the backs of the buildings to the highway, shielding interior spaces from noise and distraction. Pitched roofs help deflect sound while also drawing natural light into the interiors, enhancing their sense of openness and calm. Landscaping and parking zones act as additional buffers, reinforcing the sense of tranquility.

At the heart of the campus lies a central fountain and butterfly garden — a symbolic and spiritual anchor. In nearly every culture, the butterfly represents transformation, hope, and the lasting presence of those we have lost. Just as the butterfly evolves, so too will this campus. Designed with adaptability in mind, the facility allows for future expansion and evolving programming, ensuring that it remains a place of healing, growth, and transformation for generations to come.

Building Area:

12,600 SF under roof

Cost per Square Foot:

\$497.26

Construction Cost:

\$6,265,468

Date of Completion:

November 14, 2024

A60.02

The site plan centers all buildings around a central fountain and butterfly garden, serving as the symbolic heart of the entire complex.

Butterflies are revered across cultures as powerful symbols of transformation, hope, and the enduring presence of loved ones who have passed.

At the core of the site lies an open green space designed for gathering and community activities. This versatile area hosts summer camps, concerts, outdoor exercise sessions, and peaceful meditation.

Surrounding the central green, mature specimen live oak trees have been carefully preserved and protected, enhancing the natural beauty and serenity of the campus while providing shade and a lasting link to the land's heritage.





A welcoming front entrance gently transitions visitors from the hustle and bustle of daily life into the quiet, contemplative space within.

This generous covered entry provides an elegant, sheltered area for registration, information, and informal meetings — setting a tone of calm and care from the moment visitors arrive.

When the facility is closed, an unobtrusive gate secures the grounds, maintaining privacy and safety without disrupting the peaceful atmosphere.



The simple shapes and natural materials used throughout the campus create a relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere that harmonizes with the surrounding landscape.

The buildings include a versatile multi-purpose assembly space with a commercial kitchen accommodating up to 250 people, two classrooms designed for 30 participants each, offices, a resource room, and a small meeting area—providing flexible spaces to support a wide range of activities and programs.



Generous, sheltered porches connect the buildings, serving as the unifying element that links all spaces together.

This arrangement provides visitors and staff with a direct, seamless connection to nature as they move throughout the campus, fostering a sense of calm and continuity during their stay.



One of the organization's most successful programs is "Camp Conquer," a summer camp designed to help children and teens navigate their grief with support and understanding.

The nearby pavilion serves as a versatile, sheltered space for activities and sports, a sound stage for concerts, and a charming area for outdoor dining and gatherings.

Adjacent to the pavilion stands a picturesque Chapel, offering a serene place for reflection and remembrance.



The material palette of the non-denominational Chapel is intentionally restrained, limited to natural wood and flat white finishes.

This simplicity shifts the focus outward, highlighting the beauty of the surrounding natural landscape.

This intimate space is versatile, comfortably accommodating weddings, funerals, lectures, and serving as an additional meeting area for the community.



Continuing the theme of flexibility, the multi-purpose conference center accommodates up to 250 people and can be arranged in several different configurations.

The space is oriented to focus on the butterfly garden, adjacent green space, and the Chapel beyond, creating a serene and inspiring atmosphere..

Fully self-contained, the conference center includes an adjacent commercial kitchen, advanced AV capabilities, ample storage, and restrooms, making it ideal for both internal programming and external rentals.

Both this space and the Chapel offer opportunities for rental income, providing sustainable support to help the organization further develop and expand its mission.



Easily reconfigurable rooms accommodate a wide range of programming — from training sessions and counseling services to summer camps and community gatherings.

A special installation features artwork created by children who have participated in previous Camp Conquer sessions. This display honors their journeys and reinforces the healing power of creative expression.

As in every room throughout the facility, the classrooms are filled with natural daylight — a conscious design choice that draws on light's restorative qualities. This abundance of sunlight supports emotional well-being, enhances focus, and fosters a calming environment.



Deep, sheltering porches link the multipurpose building with the classroom and office spaces, creating an inviting, transitional zone that can flexibly support classes, meetings, receptions, or quiet conversations. These porches extend the functionality of the buildings while fostering a sense of openness and connection to the landscape.

As night falls, the campus gently transforms. Soft, ambient lighting casts a peaceful glow across the buildings and grounds, reinforcing the atmosphere of calm and reflection.

A network of thoughtfully designed walkways connects every structure. Each path is wide enough to allow two people to walk side by side — encouraging shared moments of connection, conversation, and healing.



As evening descends, the Chapel transforms into a softly glowing lantern, casting gentle light across the grounds.

Its warm illumination serves as both a visual anchor and a symbol of comfort — quietly guiding visitors toward hope, healing, and remembrance.

In this moment, the Chapel becomes more than a space for reflection; it stands as a beacon of resilience, honoring the journey through grief and the light that endures beyond loss.



The first phase of development was carefully designed to “capture” the site — establishing a strong foundation while embracing the natural surroundings and creating a sense of place. This initial footprint defines the heart of the campus and sets the tone for future growth.

Significant areas of the site remain open and purposefully undeveloped, reserved for future projects that will further enrich the healing experience.

Planned additions include an outdoor demonstration kitchen, children’s play areas, a designated pet interaction zone, a fishing dock, and a gardening space. Each element is intended to support wellness, connection, and reflection — expanding the campus’s ability to meet the diverse needs of those who seek comfort and transformation here.

Project Name:

The Retreat at Quarters Lake

Project Location:

**8890 Quarters Lake Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

Owner/Client:

The Hospice of Baton Rouge

Architect(s) of Record:

**RHH Architects, APAC
200 Government St, Suite 100
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

Project Team:

Structural: **Wardlaw Lasseigne LeBouef**

Mechanical: **ADG Engineering**

Electrical: **ADG Engineering**

Civil: **Stantec**

Landscape: **McKnight Landscape
Architects**

GM Design Studio

General Contractor:

Arkel Constructors

Photographer:

**Slides 4, 7, 8, 9, and 12 – John Crifasi
All others – RHH Architects, APAC**

A60.13