



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 9, 2015**

### JUNE CHARITY EVENT FEATURES BARBIE COLLECTION AND GIVING

**Kenner, LA.** – A collection of 300 vintage Barbie dolls was at the center of a press conference Tuesday in Kenner to announce the details of a weekend of fund-raising for local groups that make a difference in the lives of kids.

The “Everybody Loves Barbie Pink Carpet Gala & Weekend of Giving” takes place from June 26 to 28 in Kenner. Along the way, four influential local residents – Sally-Ann Roberts of Channel 4, Peggy Scott Laborde of WYES, Rev. Patricia Watson and longtime dance teacher Debbie Dillehay – will be honored for their roles in working with and mentoring kids.

“I can remember growing up being taught that silence is golden,” said The Rev. Patricia Watson. “As we hide behind the beautiful clothes, the beautiful attire, the makeup and all, there is usually something deeper on the inside that’s bothering us that quite often we don’t talk about. I believe the launching of this movement is an excellent one. It’s time to see the essence of the real woman take her place in our society.” Watson, one of the award nominees, is director of the Family Center of Hope.

The weekend is the brainchild of Havilah Malone, a best-selling author and success coach who built up the vintage Barbie collection as a way to cope with low self-worth. Malone said she was molested as a child and has been determined to help other kids to “live life on their own terms and be all that they can be despite their experiences.”

Malone and local personality Jeff Crouere will co-host the weekend of events, which starts June 26 with a Pink Carpet Gala from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport Hotel, 2829 Williams Blvd., Kenner. An auction will feature not only the Barbies, with an estimated value of more than \$50,000, but other great prizes such as acting lessons from Denzel Washington.

Malone announced that the location for the June 27 Community Service project in Kenner has changed. It will take place at LaSalle’s Landing, at Williams Boulevard and the Mississippi River, and continue into Rivertown, from 9 a.m. to noon. The cleanup of the area will include a DJ, drinks and snacks and a visit from Mrs. Louisiana.

All proceeds from this “Weekend of Giving” will benefit the North Rampart community Center, Ms. Hillary’s Kids, Back 2 Basics Sports Foundation and the Napoleon Hill Foundation.

Tickets and sponsorships are still available. For additional information, go to [www.everybodylovesbarbie.com](http://www.everybodylovesbarbie.com) or call (504) 782-5633.