Big nonprofits mean big paychecks for CEOs
Supporters cite need to compete with private industry

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CEOs compensation has become a hotly debated topic, especially in this tough economy, in which one in five Americans is jobless. While chief executives of major corporations are frequently blasted for their massive salaries, a 2010 report shows that the heads of large nonprofits are taking home similar paychecks.

The top executives of several of Lafayette’s larger nonprofits earned more than $500,000 in 2010, about the same as City-Parche President Gary Drel and his chief administrative officer Lee Breaux.

Is that too much to pay the head of a ‘charity’?

The nonprofit industry comprises images of valiant volunteers and altruistic workers who forgo private-sector payrolls to give back to society. The reality, though, is that many nonprofits are large, multi-service organizations that pay well to lure executives who might otherwise move to for-profit companies.

‘A multi-million dollar business’

Sandra Puryear, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Acadiana, earned $132,825.

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NONPROFIT SALARIES

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF ACADIANA
SAMORA PURYEAR, CEO $132,825

CHARLES PURBY, vice president, business services $90,796

ROBERT COLL, vice president, administrative officer $90,796

JOEL VINCENT, chief operating officer $90,796

OTHERS

RAYMOND HERBST, executive director, Community Foundation of Acadiana $72,953

VALERIE KELLER, former CEO, Acadiana Outreach Center $91,750

MARGARET TRAMAN, president, United Way of Acadiana $89,100

GLENN WEBB, executive director, Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens $80,200

MARIA PLACER, Southwestern Louisiana Education and Resource Center $80,200

Sandra Puryear is the founder and chief executive officer of Goodwill Industries of Acadiana. She is the highest paid executive among Lafayette nonprofits. (claire@theadvocate.com)

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