

PHOTO RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Way Awards Grant to Teach For America for work in the Donaldsonville Area

Baton Rouge, La. (January 10, 2020) – Capital Area United Way awarded Teach For America with a \$15,000 grant to assist with teacher talent and retention in the Donaldsonville area. This funding is part of the Ascension Parish Grant Funding Opportunity that awarded \$100,188 dollars to ten nonprofits for impact work in Ascension Parish.

“We are happy to award Teach For America with this grant to assist with teacher retention,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. “Students need consistency when it comes to teachers in the classroom, and we know Teach For America will ensure the students in the Donaldsonville area are well served with this grant.”

Currently, there are 19 teachers and 22 alumni teachers participating in this program. The grant will assist with travel stipends, professional development and day of service events in Donaldsonville. Projected outcomes will include 18 stipends to offset transportation costs for participating teachers, up to three professional development events for 16 teachers, and assist with Donaldsonville’s Day of Service.

“Over the past decade, the Donaldsonville community has made strong progress in improving academic outcomes for students. Teach For America is proud to have partnered with the Ascension Parish School Board for the past 8 years to secure diverse, high-quality teacher talent for Donaldsonville schools, supporting the district’s work to recruit and retain educators. We’re excited to now partner with the Capital Area United Way in strengthening this effort, which supports Teach For America corps member and alumni teachers working to expand academic opportunities for Donaldsonville students and families.”

This grant complements the existing work of United Way in the areas of Health, Education, Income Stability and Basic Needs of Ascension Parish residents. In addition to these dollars, United Way is investing 3 million in more than 37 programs and organizations that are providing services in our 10-parish area. All of these organizations are addressing ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), of which 45 percent of the Capital Area residents are considered employed but still struggle every month to afford necessary expenses like transportation, food, childcare and healthcare. These programs along with all of United Way’s current investments can be found on their website: www.cauw.org/partners.

****Photos Attached***

Captions: Teach For America Photo 1: (L-R) With students at Lowery Middle School are Semecia Williams, Manager of Teacher Leadership Development at Teach For America; Betsy Adams, Manager of Foundations and Operations at Teach For America; Melanie Henderson, Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Engagement at Capital Area United Way; Laura Vinsant, Executive Director at Teach For America; and, Mr. Daryl Comery, Principal of Lowery Middle School.



Teach for America Photo 2: (L-R) With students at Lowery Middle School are Mr. Daryl Comery, Principal of Lowery Middle School; Semecia Williams, Manager of Teacher Leadership Development at Teach For America; Betsy Adams, Manager of Foundations and Operations at Teach For America; Melanie Henderson, Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Engagement at Capital Area United Way; and, Laura Vinsant, Executive Director at Teach For America.

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Capital Area United Way

For more than 95 years, Capital Area United Way has touched thousands of lives in our 10-parish area. We envision a community where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential. Our mission is to solve our community's toughest challenges by leveraging partnerships to advance the common good in education, income stability, and healthy living. To learn more visit www.cauw.org.

