

# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Capital Area United Way Announces 2019 Brotherhood Sisterhood Award Recipients

**BATON ROUGE, LA (January 22, 2020)** – Capital Area United Way’s Brotherhood Sisterhood Committee will honor two members of the community – Gerri Hobdy and Bobby Thompson. In addition to Hobdy and Thompson, the Brotherhood Sisterhood Committee also selected a recipient for its Pass the Torch Award – Myra Richardson. This award aims to honor individuals between the ages of 18 – 24 who are advancing the mission of Brotherhood Sisterhood as well.

“We are honored to continue the legacy of Brotherhood Sisterhood in our community year after year,” said George Bell, President and CEO of Capital Area United Way. “Gerri, Bobby and Myra are truly deserving of this honor and continue to exemplify the spirit of these awards and the advancement of the mission of Brotherhood Sisterhood. We are also so thankful to ExxonMobil for sponsoring this important effort.”

Since 1963, the Brotherhood Sisterhood Awards – generously sponsored by ExxonMobil – aim to honor individuals in our community who have, throughout their lives, worked toward the elimination of bias, bigotry and racism across ethnic, gender and religious lines.

Hobdy currently serves as Director of Community Relations with Baton Rouge Community College where she works with non-profits and business industry leaders to create partnerships for the college. She previously served as Director of Community Relations for the Baton Rouge Area Foundation overseeing grants made by the foundation and worked closely with non-profits. She also serves on the boards of Capital Area Human Services District, Better Business Bureau, Mid City Merchants and is Board Chairman of Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Thompson, a Marine Corps veteran, is retired from the postal service and dedicates his time working throughout the community. He is a long-time facilitator for Dialogue on Race, current board member for Humanities Amped, and member of the Unitarian Church. He also served on the Together Baton Rouge Executive Committee and volunteered for Volunteers in Schools (VIPS). He continues to work toward social justice in Baton Rouge and serves as a research mentor for student groups, guiding young people in public schools to identify problems and solutions in their community.

The Pass the Torch recipient Myra Richardson, a civil servant of Baton Rouge, has impacted the community in several ways. She is locally and nationally recognized as a leader, strategist and advocate for the community. She served as Louisiana’s Ambassador for the Women’s March on Washington and served as the youngest elected board member to the East Baton Rouge Democratic Parish Executive Committee. Her passion has led to the creation of a local youth group – The Wave, and co-creation of Justice X.

The recipients will be honored at an awards breakfast on Friday, February 14th at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library at 8:00 a.m. Tickets are available now at [cauw.org/BHSHawards](http://cauw.org/BHSHawards).

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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](http://www.cauw.org).