

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Way Announces Grant Recipients for Ascension Parish

BATON ROUGE, LA (December 23, 2019) –Capital Area United Way along with its Ascension Parish Vision Council (APVC) announced \$100,188 dollars to ten nonprofits for impact work in Ascension Parish.

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 Ascension Parish including: Boys & Girls Club, Cancer Services, Louisiana 4-H, St. Vincent de Paul and Tankproof. 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.

These one-time grants, selected and reviewed by community volunteers, were awarded to the following programs:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Program Name</u>
Ascension Parish School Board: Ascension Parish Head Start	Sensational Learning for Ascension Students
Ascension Parish School Board: Sorrento Primary	Books for Babes
City of Donaldsonville	Donaldsonville FIRST Program; City of Donaldsonville Community Center
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank	Mobile Food Distribution in Ascension Parish
Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center	Providing Dental Assistance for Ascension Cancer Patients In Need
The Arc of East Ascension	The Arc of East Ascension Dental Project
The Life of a Single Mom	Single Moms Across Ascension (SMAA)
The Walls Project	Futures Fund Ascension Parish Expansion
Teach for America	TFA: Increasing Teacher Talent & Retention in Donaldsonville
Volunteer Ascension	Samaritan's Feet -- Giving Shoes Giving Hope to Ascension Students

“The Ascension Parish Grant gives Capital Area United Way a new avenue to support local needs with local organizations,” said George Bell, President and CEO at Capital Area United Way. “By expanding our grant funding processes, companies and supporters based in Ascension and outside parishes are able to support their community in a new, innovative way through their existing partnership with United Way increasing the overall impact across the Capital Region.”

The solutions addressed through this grant were identified by the Ascension Parish Vision Council, launched in 2016, as a committee serving in an advisory capacity to provide guidance for United Way’s impact work in Ascension Parish. The Council, comprised of Ascension Parish-based community members, corporate partners, government entities and non-profits, utilized research and community outreach to set forth the priorities for Ascension including increasing literacy for 0-5 year-old children, increasing access to mental health, physical health and dental health and increasing

opportunities for youth around career development. Trained community volunteers reviewed, evaluated and prioritized grant applications that aligned with the Ascension Parish Vision Council priorities and focused on the Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) population in Ascension. United Way hopes to continue to provide geographic-specific funding opportunities in the future to continue supporting local needs.

“We are proud to be founding members of the Ascension Parish Vision Council, coming together with industry, community advocates, schools officials, and nonprofits to identify the ongoing challenges and solutions for our Parish,” says Jolen Stein, board member of Capital Area United Way and employee of BASF Corporation. “It is important that we invest in the organizations that are located in our Parish, and communicate the continued need for services that are accessible to our residents.”

For more information on the Ascension Parish Vision Council membership and funding priorities, review the previous press release [here](#).

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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.