

PHOTO RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Way Awards Grant to The Walls Project for STEAM Program Implementation in Ascension Parish

Baton Rouge, La. (January 14, 2020) – Capital Area United Way awarded The Walls Project with a \$15,000 grant to assist with their Futures Fund, which provides increased exposure and opportunities for youth. 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 The Walls Project with this grant to in implementing STEAM programs for our youth,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. “With an ever-changing world and job market, STEAM programs are vital to the training students will need for their future.”

The grant will be used to expand current STEAM class offerings to students. These plans will incorporate technology, workforce development, work study and internships while developing a strategic plan to bring programs to Ascension sites. It will include 40 to 60 students in the program, 25 corporate partnerships and 12 instructors identified to start programming.

“The Walls Project is excited and grateful for CAUW's support to research, assess, and plan the expansion of our youth program, The Futures Fund, to increase and improve educational opportunities and career pathways for Ascension Parish teens,” said Casey Phillips, Director of The Walls Project. “Our Saturday workforce development program provides teens with creative arts and technology training to attain the high-demand tech jobs of the future.”

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***

Caption: The Walls Project Photo 1: (L-R) John Hutson, Database Coordinator at Capital Area United Way; Casey Phillips, Director of The Walls Project; and Melanie Henderson, Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Engagement.

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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.

