

# PHOTO RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### United Way Awards Grant to City of Donaldsonville for FIRST Program and Community Center

**Baton Rouge, La. (February 7, 2020)** – Capital Area United Way awarded the City of Donaldsonville with a \$15,000 grant for the Donaldsonville FIRST Program and the City of Donaldsonville Community Center. 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.

“This grant will provide support to staff at the community center to provide activities for the residents of the area,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. “We are thrilled to partner with Donaldsonville to give people, especially young people, access to the programming they need to grow.”

Donaldsonville’s Community Center will have the ability to expand the Donaldsonville FIRST program offerings by adding an additional staff member to manage the activities and programs at the community center, providing a one-stop-shop for resources through the programming and events. Projected outcomes include programming for 100 families and 200 children with the help of 100 volunteers. Programs will include providing 200 people access to literacy skills, 30 program collaborations, 100 people exposed to workforce development and 50 youth served for college readiness.

“The Mayor Leroy Sullivan Donaldsonville FIRST (FAMILY, INNOVATION, RESOURCES, & SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER) Program will assist in building character and confidence through education, mentorship, and resource provision by providing solutions in the city’s community hub,” said Lee Melancon, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Donaldsonville.

“The grant will provide funds to administer the hub and meet program outcomes. Some of the outcomes will include increasing basic literacy skills, improving physical and mental health, prevention of a number of at-risk factors impacting the community, workforce readiness, innovation, youth thought leadership, and more,” said Donaldsonville Mayor Leroy Sullivan. “The program administrator will create networks of organizations who offer services to serve the entire family in Donaldsonville, collect needed resources such as gently used school uniforms, school supplies, food pantry items, and emergency rescue clothing for families in distress just to name a few. The City is appreciative of the United Way’s support in this program and hopes that businesses will join in the effort to provide better future Donaldsonville area citizens.”

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

#### *\*Photos Attached*

**Caption: City of Donaldsonville Photo 1:** (L-R) Donaldsonville Mayor Leroy Sullivan and Melanie Henderson, Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Engagement at United Way.



## **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).