

# PHOTO RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## United Way Awards Grant to Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center to Provide Dental Assistance in Ascension Parish

**Baton Rouge, La. (January 9, 2020)** – Capital Area United Way awarded Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center with a \$12,000 grant to assist with increasing access to mental, physical and/or dental health in Ascension Parish. 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 dental assistance for cancer patients in need throughout Ascension Parish,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. “We are happy to award Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center with this grant to ensure they can provide top-notch care to the area.”

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in partnership with the LSU Dental School will provide treatment plans for cancer patients in Ascension Parish. Care will primarily focus on those with head and neck cancer who need dental exams prior to treatment plan implementation. The grant funding will also provide for 240 teeth extractions for patients that are essential for those who will be under go radiation and/or chemotherapy. Projected outcomes will also include access to exams for 12 patients with treatment and case management plans as needed.

“With certain types of cancers, dental exams and procedures are required to evaluate patients in order to minimize possible side effects from treatment. However, these assessments can create a financial burden for patients who are unprepared or uninsured,” said Ryan Houston, Radiation Therapy Manager at Mary Bird Perkins in Gonzales. “This grant money will be put to good use to help provide dental examinations, combined with other medical consultations from our team of cancer-fighting experts, ensuring the best course of treatment and outcomes for patients. We appreciate these dollars, which will help improve survivorship and lessen the burden of cancer 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 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).

***\*Photo Attached***

**Caption: Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center Photo 1:** (L-R) Danielle Mac, Senior Director of Development for Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center; Ryan Houston, MBPCC Gonzales Center Director; and, Melanie Henderson, Community Impact Manager, Volunteer Engagement for Capital Area United Way.

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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).

