

PHOTO RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United Way Awards Grant to Ascension Parish School Board to assist with Books for Babes at Sorrento Primary School

Baton Rouge, La. (January 28, 2020) – Capital Area United Way awarded the Ascension Parish School Board with a \$1,529.50 grant to assist with Books for Babes at Sorrento Primary School. 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.

“Increasing literacy outcomes for children up to five-years-old is vital to their success later in life,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. “With this grant, Sorrento Primary will be able to purchase new books that are level appropriate for the children.”

Sorrento Primary’s kindergarten has 41 percent of students reading below grade level. The school plans to purchase over 1,100 books that are level appropriate to help the children gain valuable reading skills. The goal is for as many as 72 students to read the books, which will in turn increase their love for reading and increase the number of students reading at grade level.

“We are so thankful that this grant will provide high quality authentic books for our youngest readers in order to improve reading skills and foster a love for reading,” said Sorrento Primary Principal Honey Lundin. Through their engagement with these books, our hope is to achieve a higher level of students reading at or above grade level at Sorrento Primary School by the end of the school year.”

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: Sorrento Primary School Photo 1: (L-R) Ascension Public Schools Public Information Officer and CAUW Ascension Advisory Council Member Jackie Tisdell; Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at Capital Area United Way; Sorrento Primary Principal Honey Lundin; Ascension Public Schools Director of Primary Schools Elizabeth Stafford; and Sorrento Primary School Master Teacher Laura Freeman.

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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.