

# PHOTO RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Montagnino  
Capital Area United Way  
700 Laurel Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

P: 225-382-3502  
F: 225-382-3523  
E: [ashleym@cauw.org](mailto:ashleym@cauw.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## United Way Awards Grant to Volunteer Ascension for Samaritan's Feet

**Baton Rouge, La. (January 8, 2020)** – Capital Area United Way awarded Volunteer Ascension with a \$9,300 grant to assist in funding Samaritan's Feet—Giving Shoes Giving Hope, which will assist in providing basic need essentials for children to attend school each day 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.

"Volunteer Ascension's program Samaritan's Feet will provide children with the ability to have clean socks and shoes to go to school each day," said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives at United Way. "We are happy to award Volunteer Ascension with this grant to ensure they can complete ongoing projects in the Donaldsonville area."

Throughout the Ascension Parish community, Volunteer Ascension is dedicated to the recruitment and training of volunteers to provide a network of assistance to the less fortunate. The grant will allow for an event at Donaldsonville Primary for 479 students to receive new shoes and socks over a four hour timeframe with 75 volunteers. To volunteer at the upcoming distribution, please visit [www.samaritansfeet.org/Donaldsonville](http://www.samaritansfeet.org/Donaldsonville). For more information on Volunteer Ascension, please visit <https://www.volunteerascension.org/>

"We are delighted to be awarded funding through Capital Area United Way's Ascension Parish Project-Based Grant Opportunity. These funds make it possible for us to offer a 2020 MLK Service Project that brings the great work of Samaritan's Feet to Ascension Parish," said Sherry Denig, Executive Director of Volunteer Ascension. "A few years ago we volunteered with Samaritan's Feet in EBR. It was a life-changing kind of experience, and since that time, it has been our mission to bring this program to our community. Capital Area United Way has helped to make that vision a reality. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be sharing love and encouragement as we provide new socks and shoes to every student at Donaldsonville Primary School. United Way has been a great partner that continues to help us reach farther and deeper into our community in order to help those who are in need."

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: Volunteer Ascension Photo 1:** (1-r) George Bell, President/CEO of Capital Area United Way; Board of Directors for Volunteer Ascension: Joseph Sergio, Tiffany St. Pierre, Gwen Price, Sherry Denig, Monika Arnold and Willie Robinson.

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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).

