

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Taylor Henry
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
United Way of Southwest Louisiana
P: 337-433-1088 ext. 226
E: thenry@unitedwayswla.org



**United Way
of Southwest Louisiana**

815 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601
P: 337-433-1088 | F: 337-433-3679
www.unitedwayswla.org

June 19, 2017

United Way of Southwest Louisiana Announces 2017-2018 Grant Awards

LAKE CHARLES, La. – Beginning July 1, 2017, United Way of Southwest Louisiana will allocate funds to a total of 63 programs and initiatives, spanning 35 local agencies.

Volunteers have completed the annual review process of evaluating proposals submitted by local agencies seeking funding from United Way of Southwest Louisiana. Upon completion, the Community Invest Councils submitted their recommendation to the United Way of Southwest Louisiana board of directors for final consideration.

The United Way of Southwest Louisiana board of directors is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Grant Award recipients: Abraham's Tent, ASSIST Agency, Beauregard ARC, Beauregard Community Concerns, Beauregard Council on Aging, BeauCARE, Big Brothers Big Sisters Southwest Louisiana, Boys Village, Boy Scouts of America– Louisiana Purchase Council, Boy Scouts of America – Calcasieu Area Council, Calcasieu Community Clinic, Calcasieu Council on Aging, Children's Museum of Lake Charles, Community Chest, Catholic Charities – Diocese of Lake Charles, Family & Youth Counseling Agency, Girlie Girls Mentoring Program, Girl Scouts of Louisiana Pines to the Gulf, Jeff Davis Council on Aging, Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse, Junior Achievement of Southwest Louisiana, Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana, Merryville Community Health Clinic, NAMI Southwest Louisiana, Oasis A Safe Haven, Project Build a Future, Salvation Army, School 2 U, Second Harvest Food Bank, St. Francis Cabrini Immigration Law Center, St. Nicholas Center for Children, SWLA Center for Health Services, Southwest Louisiana Law Center, and Volunteers of America.

“We are mindful of the evolving needs of our community and thanks to the continued support of our donors, we have the ability to be proactive about addressing them,” said Denise Durel, United Way of Southwest Louisiana President and CEO

New to this year's funded programs list are: Catholic Charities – Diocese of Lake Charles' senior/disabled home safety program, which assists with wheelchair ramps, minor home repairs and other home safety issues to allow for independent living; School 2 U's Summer Fluency Camp, a program that focuses on bridging math and reading deficits for children in grades 1-5; NAMI SWLA's Basics Education Program, designed to provide parents and other caregivers with critical information related to caring for a child with a disability; St. Frances Cabrini Immigration Law Center's citizenship class, which prepares students to take the U.S. Citizenship Test; SWLA Center for Health Services' Compassionate Care program, a program that helps uninsured patients by offsetting costs related to medical and dental healthcare; Volunteers of America's Prevention Services, which focuses on providing proper resources and information to those in need of mental

LIVE UNITED

Joanne Logston, Chairman of the Board • Paul Hutchens, Vice Chair • Karl Bruchhaus, Vice Chair
Kevin Lacy, Treasurer • Robyn Elias, Secretary • Barry Brown, Campaign Chair • Denise Durel, President/CEO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

health services; and Volunteers of America's Supervised Independent Living program, which provides short-term supervised housing and support services for adults living with mental illness.

In addition, United Way of Southwest Louisiana is focused on several Community Impact Initiatives. This year they include: Louisiana 2-1-1/UWSWLA, a 24 hour, 7 days a week helpline for those seeking services in a crisis; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) – a program that provides free tax preparation by IRS certified volunteers for moderate to low income families and individuals; Disaster Preparedness – United Way of Southwest Louisiana is a member of the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and participates in year round meetings in preparation for a variety of disasters; United Against Child Hunger – a program that provides Weekend Food Packs for children as part of the Summer Feeding Program; Dolly Parton Imagination Library – a resource that provides children ages 0-5 with age appropriate books each month to encourage and foster a love of reading; and the Shoe Box Project – an annual drive and donation that provides needed school supplies to struggling families as their children head back to school.

United Way of Southwest Louisiana fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person, in every community across the five-parish region. For more information on United Way of Southwest Louisiana and the programs it funds, visit <http://unitedwayswla.org/partnerwithus> or call 337-433-1088.

###

LIVE UNITED

Joanne Logston, Chairman of the Board • Paul Hutchens, Vice Chair • Karl Bruchhaus, Vice Chair
Kevin Lacy, Treasurer • Robyn Elias, Secretary • Barry Brown, Campaign Chair • Denise Durel, President/CEO