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## ***United Way distributes funds to local non-profits for oil spill assistance***

United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area (UWGNOA) has distributed grants to twelve (12) local non-profits to assist those impacted by the oil spill. The grants, totaling \$400,000, are being used to support case management, mental health and emergency assistance services needed in Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes.

United Way established its Oil Spill Assistance Fund at the request of Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser and St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro following the oil spill disaster in the gulf. Since then, UWGNOA has hosted multiple fundraisers and community outreach programs to generate funding, and now the money is being distributed to residents who need it most.

- **Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans**, in collaboration with Catholic Charities Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, has received \$70,000 to provide emergency assistance, such as gift cards, food vouchers, baby supplies, and counseling, to residents in St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes.
- **The St. Bernard Project** has received \$65,000 for their Oil Spill Response and Center for Wellness and Mental Health, which will have increased hours of operation and will attempt to hire local shrimpers and/or their spouses as community outreach workers and peer counselors.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana** received \$50,000 for their Emergency Food Distribution Program in Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and Jefferson Parish, specifically Grand Isle and Lafitte.
- The **Community Center of St. Bernard** received \$20,000 to address residents' utilities, food and clothing needs through their Mustard Seed Food Pantry and Clothing Bank.
- **VIA LINK, Inc.** received \$50,000 for the 2-1-1 Information and Referral line, which also provides crisis and suicide intervention, and a single point of entry for disaster related case management.
- **Just the Right Attitude** received \$30,000 for their food bank and direct assistance in New Orleans East.
- **Urban League of Greater New Orleans** received \$30,000 for their Gulf Coast Coalition for Economic and Social Justice.
- **Plaquemines Community CARE Centers** have received \$25,000 for their immediate assistance program, which offers information about services available in Plaquemines and counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, families, couples, and groups.
- **Mary Queen of Vietnam (MQVN) Community Development Corporation** received \$20,000 for linguistically- and culturally competent case management, community networking, small business technical assistance and affordable housing development through the interpretation of government programs.
- **Healing Hearts for Community Development** received \$20,000 for their Trauma Counseling Program in St. Bernard Parish, which provides faith and community-based outpatient mental health services for individuals and families
- **St. Bernard Battered Women's Program** received \$10,000 for its emergency shelter for women and children whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence. They also offer ancillary services to assist victims with achieving self identified goals, such as legal advocacy, court accompaniment, safety planning, individual and group counseling, advocacy, and referrals.
- **Santa on the Bayou, Inc.**, received a \$5,000 grant from United Way for direct assistance to residents of St. Bernard in the form of groceries, clothes, and OTC pharmaceutical items.

"We are very proud to be able to partner with such vital community agencies," said Gary Ostroske, President and Chief Executive Officer of UWGNOA. "United Way is providing the necessary funding for these agencies that already have boots on the ground, and are making a huge impact for our residents affected by the oil crisis."