

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way distributes funds to local nonprofits to help achieve results

United Way serving Washington recently distributed Mini-Grants to local nonprofits. These Capacity Building Mini-Grants, totaling \$10,500, are designed to enhance each agency's ability to work towards its mission and ultimately create successful, measureable results in the Washington Parish community. **Recipient organizations include Bogalusa Help Center, Neighborhood Housing Services - Northshore, Northshore Technical College - Youth Build Bogalusa, Y of Bogalusa, Youth Service Bureau - Northshore and YWCA of Bogalusa.**

During the last allocation cycle, many traditional United Way agencies did not receive funding because they lacked the necessary documentation or organizational structure to make them compliant with accountability policy. United Way intends for these Mini-Grants to provide a framework to help some agencies gain compliance, and help others to become more self sufficient. This funding will also assist smaller agencies to compete, not only in United Way's upcoming 2011 allocation process, but for additional funding from other sources.

Although the Mini-Grants fall outside of United Way's normal funding cycle, the process still provides oversight, accountability, and restrictions. Agencies are required to use this money for staff training, improvements to financial management, program development, or legal and regulatory enhancements. United Way will continue to provide assistance to agencies who desire to create successful change in our community. "We hope these mini-grants will enable Washington Parish to grow and prosper by creating a system of quality agencies providing quality services to the entire community," said President and CEO of United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, Gary Ostroske.

United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area serves the residents of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes, helping to gather resources, provide volunteers, and deliver needed services. In 2009, the local board in Washington Parish decided to be a part of the United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area umbrella, just as United Way serving Tangipahoa did over ten years ago. "Because of that support, the residents of Washington Parish have the opportunity to catapult our community service system to become even better than before," said April Bruns, Executive Director of United Way serving Washington.

United Way is a good steward of every donor dollar and we take donor trust seriously. All money raised by United Way in Washington Parish, stays IN Washington Parish. Dollars donated to United Way agencies, regardless of their headquarters, remain HERE.

United Way's work is focused on four impact areas: Education, Income, Health, and a Safety Net for people in crisis. United Way develops initiatives, supports collaborations, funds programs, convenes experts and fosters new and needed community services. As the needs of Washington Parish residents evolve, so will United Way. "United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area serving Washington is committed to this community and together we can make our parish a better place to live, work and raise our families," Bruns concluded.

United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area serving Washington is advancing the common good. By partnering with donors, employers, nonprofits, faith groups and government, United Way brings a coordinated approach to solving community problems. For more information, please call 985-732-2305 or visit www.unitedwaynola.org.