



For Immediate Release

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Foundation awards \$5,000 nonprofit service award to CEO with nearly 50 years in the industry

(COVINGTON, LA - November 15, 2017) The **Northshore Community Foundation** is pleased to announce that the recipient of the first annual **Dick Knight Award** for commitment to service in the nonprofit sector, is **Dianne Baham, Executive Director of STARC of Louisiana**. The award was given to Baham yesterday, Nov. 14, which was National Philanthropy Day.

The spirit of the award is to recognize and reward Northshore nonprofit staff who have significant tenure in service-based work and have a body of accomplishments that reflect success through diligence, commitment, resiliency, vision, and excellence, and Baham clearly exceeds those standards. She will receive \$5,000 as recognition of her commitment, service, and contribution to the nonprofit sector and to our region. The award is a gift to her personally, and cannot be given back to the nonprofit she serves.

In 1972, under Dianne's leadership, **STARC** began serving three children in St. Tammany Parish in a donated facility, with two staff members and a budget of \$2,500. Today, **STARC** serves more than 1,000 individuals and their families at any given time, throughout the Florida Parishes at 13 different sites with more than 330 staff members and a \$7.9 million dollar budget. **STARC's** mission is to provide a lifetime of Services, Training, Advocacy, Resources, and Community connections for individuals with disabilities. In addition to the program impact of Diane's work, she has also built a strong financial foundation for **STARC**, including private donations and a dedicated local millage to support **STARC's** work.

A selection committee, consisting of local community leaders, selected Baham out of a pool of 13 highly impressive nominees. It seemed no better way to commemorate National Philanthropy Day and the dedicated service of these individuals than by announcing the award.

"I have had the honor of knowing Diane and her work in our region for many years. And also knowing the character of my dear friend Dick Knight, I can't think of anyone more deserving of this first award in its name and memory. Our region is better because both Diane and Dick used their time and talent to serve, and we are all very grateful," said Chris Keller, CEO of Resource Bank.

The award is in honor of the late Richard F. "Dick" Knight, a founding and beloved board member whose quiet, steady leadership, authenticity and commitment to service were invaluable assets to our organization. The Foundation would like to thank **Resource Bank**, the **Prima Foundation** and the **Fund for Bogalusa** for their contributions to making this year's award possible.

The **Northshore Community Foundation** was started ten years ago as a way to leverage generosity by uniting human and financial resources to enhance the quality of life on the Northshore. Since inception, they have granted over \$13 million for the greater good. More at NorthshoreFoundation.org

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