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PAGE 4B

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014
NEWS LEADER / FERNANDINA BEACH, FL

Unique alliance focused on helping women and girls

We are a community of giving people. There are many opportunities to give, volunteer time and make donations to our many valued nonprofits in need.

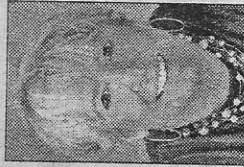
I recently became aware of a unique nonprofit organization active in Nassau County, the Women's Giving Alliance. WGA, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, was founded in 2001, and may be one of the best kept secrets for women committed to making a difference. To quote their mission, "To inspire the women of Northeast Florida to be strategic philanthropists and to improve the lives of women and girls through collective giving."

Fifteen years ago an article in People Magazine about a "collective giving circle" triggered Jacksonville resident Courtenay Wilson to network with five other women — including Delores Barr Weaver, a familiar philanthropist in Nassau

County — to explore and establish the Women's Giving Alliance. The organization enabled pooled charitable giving focused on making a lasting impact on women and girls in Northeast Florida.

The time was right. Today, WGA is a strong, vital organization with approximately 300 members, all making the same annual financial contribution. With these contributions, and income from an endowment that has grown to \$1.9 million, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$3.7 million.

The Women's Giving Alliance in Nassau County is looking to grow. Currently, 17 women in Nassau



**FROM
THE
PORCH**

*Dickie
Anderson*

County are committed to the Women's Giving Alliance. Members come from all walks of life, but share an interest and commitment to effective women's philanthropy involving issues impacting women and girls.

The group includes a young working mother who recently moved to the island from Texas and wants to meet like-minded women in the community. Another member is a retired executive from a major international corporation who believes in local philanthropy but also wanted to focus on issues impacting women and girls and wasn't sure which local organizations to support. Another, a retired

WGA meeting

The Women's Giving Alliance will host an informational meeting March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. on Amelia Island. For information, contact Nassau County WGA member Christine Meehan at 310-6325 or pcmeehan@comcast.net. Visit www.womensgivingalliance.org.

grandmother of five who helped found a women's giving circle in Wisconsin, strongly believes in collective giving as an effective form of philanthropy. Another woman is originally from Jacksonville and now lives on Amelia Island, has two sons, but is passionate about the issues affecting women and girls.

How does this group impact Nassau County? Dramatically. Since 2012 the strategic philanthropy focus for WGA has been mental health. The state of Florida is ranked 50th in mental health funding and Northeast Florida receives the least amount of funding in the state.

Untreated mental health issues in

women and girls frequently impact entire families. WGA recently awarded a sizeable grant to Nassau County's Starting Point (formerly known as Sutton Place Behavioral Health) for a two-year collaboration with Barnabas and Micah's Place that will allow women who seek crisis assistance to receive ongoing behavioral health prevention and intervention services.

Want to learn more? WGA will host an informational meeting March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. on Amelia Island. For further information, contact Nassau County WGA member Christine Meehan at 310-6325 or pcmeehan@comcast.net. Additional information on the organization can also be found on WGA's website at www.womensgivingalliance.org.

To receive her weekly newsletter or get information about her books including her four From the Porch books contact Dickie at dickie.anderson@gmail.com