

metro

TOUGH UPBRINGING
In Everglades, birds sacrifice young
for protection of gators **Story, B-6**



MAJOR LIFE SAVERS
Blood donors thanked for their
many, many gallons **Story, B-3**

Report identifies barriers for Florida women

Women's Giving Alliance also outlines
four ways to help break them down

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The Women's Giving Alliance said Wednesday it has identified major barriers that hold back many women and girls in Northeast Florida. The Alliance took it a step further, identifying at least three approaches or organiza-

tions tackling each of those problems.

The group's report, "Voices of Hope: Cracking the code on some complex issues," was released after more than six months of research at the Alliance's member forum at the University of North Florida. In it, the four "critical, achievable goals" are offered for

bettering the lives of local women and girls:

- Breaking the cycle of female poverty, which includes job skills, budgeting, health and childcare.
- Educating girls for economic success, which means encouraging girls to pursue high-demand STEM careers.
- Providing trauma-informed addiction therapy, by treating both the addiction and the underlying trauma.
- Addressing girls' re-

productive health by preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Women's Giving Alliance President Paula Liang gave a preview of the research, that includes recent national rankings that place Florida as tied for 47th-worst state for women and 37th for girls.

"The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off," Liang said, quoting Gloria Steinem.

"See for yourself what

it means to be 47th for women and 37th for girls," Liang said, referring to the research. "Be prepared to be angry."

For example, one-third of local teens who gave birth in 2014 live in the 11 ZIP codes with the highest poverty rate, and the rates of STDs among teen girls in Northeast Florida exceeds the state and national averages.

But Liang said the committee behind the research was intentional in teasing

out not just areas of great need, but also of opportunity, models for success and where positive impact can be made in the lives of women and girls locally.

Liang said maintaining a singular focus, as it has on mental health for several years, has "had a ton of value." Now the Alliance begins to turn its focus toward one of the four goals identified in "Voices of Hope."

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Water for lead-stricken city



terry dickson

Volleyballers
take one for
a sister team

