



Women's Giving Alliance Celebrates Impact of Strategic Collective Giving During Annual Meeting

Organization reports significant growth in membership to 470 women and announces new grant cycle focused on fundamental needs of Northeast Florida's women and girls

Jacksonville, Fla. — Oct. 18, 2023 — Today, the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, hosted its Annual Meeting where more than 220 WGA members gathered at UNF's University Center. The meeting coincided with a 39 percent growth in membership to 470 women. This tremendous growth means more funding for women and girls in Northeast Florida.

"WGA is not only about pooling our dollars to have a strategic influence on our community, it's also about pooling our ideas, relationships, and other resources from our diverse members to magnify our impact," said Sheila Collier, president of WGA. "Our membership continues to grow every year – and we are nearly 500 strong now – because women who want to make a difference in our community recognize and embrace the power of strategic, collective giving."

During the meeting, WGA announced a new grant cycle focused on serving the fundamental needs of women and girls in Northeast Florida. In December, local nonprofit organizations serving women and girls will be able to apply for one-year grants for up to \$50,000 to meet the basic needs, such as food, shelter, childcare, health and safety, of women and girls living in the six-county area of Northeast Florida.

Since 2002, WGA has awarded more than \$8.9 million through 180 grants to more than 70 organizations in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties.

During the meeting, WGA hosted several guest speakers who addressed the importance and impact of strategic giving. Isaiah Oliver, the president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, spoke about the importance of supporting women and girls as the father of three daughters.

"Strategic philanthropy is all about how we leverage our time, treasure, talent, testimony and ties to make our community a better place," said Isaiah Oliver, President of The Community Foundation. "I congratulate the Women's Giving Alliance for using all of these forms of capital to grow support for women and girls in our region."

Ellen Wiss, past WGA president and current president and co-founder of READ USA, and David Garfunkel, president of LIFT JAX, led a discussion about how strategic philanthropy can manifest in unique ways to maximize community impact. Specifically, the duo addressed the origins of LIFT JAX, which began with WGA Members seeking to target

specific community needs.

“This organization stands as a remarkable example of an all-sector collective impact effort,” added Collier. “By conducting the necessary research and deeply evaluating what it revealed, LIFT JAX was able to identify specific needs in our community and initiate a movement of support. To see the impact this organization and others are having over time is a testament to the power of strategic, collective giving.”

WGA leadership also outlined several initiatives aimed at growing and supporting its membership and a new strategic focus that will launch in 2025.

WGA grants are generated from members' yearly contributions (\$1,500 a year or \$750 for the first year if they are 40 and under), a portion of WGA's endowment fund, and individual gifts.

Women interested in joining the Women's Giving Alliance and maximizing the impact of their philanthropy should visit www.wganefl.org/membership.

About the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA)

WGA, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a group of dynamic, diverse women who pool their philanthropic giving to make a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida. Since 2001, hundreds of women in the region have become WGA members and each makes an annual contribution of \$1,500. With these contributions, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$8.9 million to 70 non-profit organizations to support critical services for women and girls. WGA has also built an endowment of more than \$5 million. For more information: www.wganefl.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Founded in 1964, it has received more than \$1 billion in charitable gifts and made more than \$695 million in grants in its history. For more information: www.jaxcf.org.

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