



## **Women's Giving Alliance Awards \$750,000 to Nonprofits, the Largest Grant Distribution in Its 23-Year History, and Announces New Focus**

*Grants will support 18 Northeast Florida nonprofits to provide basic needs and supportive services that improve quality of life for women and girls*

Jacksonville, Fla. — May 23, 2024 — The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, announced \$750,000 in grants to 18 Northeast Florida nonprofit organizations – the largest grant pool in the alliance's 23-year history – and a new grantmaking focus at its annual Member Forum.

This historic grantmaking was assisted by a challenge grant which raised \$108,000 from members, as well as a focused emphasis during the last 18 months on growing the number of members, which now exceeds 445 women, who each contribute annually to the grants pool.

“WGA was founded with the critical mission of improving the lives of women and girls across Northeast Florida,” said Sheila Collier, president of WGA. “We have grown from a small group of committed individuals into a powerhouse grantmaker. Our recent growth in membership directly translates into increased support for women and girls across Northeast Florida.”

The grants were ratified by about 250 members during WGA's Member Forum held on May 23 at the University of North Florida's Adam W. Herbert University Center, which featured remarks by Mayor Donna Deegan, a WGA member and the city's first woman mayor.

Eighteen nonprofits will receive one-year grants for the 2024-2025 grant year to address client basic needs such as housing, health services, workforce support, and other areas:

- Barnabas Center: \$50,000 (Nassau County)
- Betty Griffin Center: \$50,000 (St. Johns County)
- Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center: \$10,000 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- Delta Research and Educational Foundation: \$5,000 (Duval County)
- Family Promise of Jacksonville: \$50,000 (Duval County)
- Feeding Northeast Florida: \$50,000 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- Hubbard House: \$50,000 (Baker and Duval counties)
- Lee Conlee House: \$50,000 (Putnam County)
- Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida: \$15,000 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida: \$50,000 (Duval County)
- Muslim American Social Services: \$50,000 (Clay, Duval, and St. Johns counties)
- Northside Community Involvement: \$50,000 (Duval County)
- Operation New Hope: \$40,377 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- Rebuilding Ex-offenders Successfully Through Opportunities Rehabilitation and Education (R.E.S.T.O.R.E.): \$50,000 (Duval County)
- ReThreaded: \$50,000 (Clay, Duval, and St. Johns counties)
- Sulzbacher: \$50,000 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville: \$49,554 (All Northeast Florida counties)
- We Care Jacksonville: \$30,000 (Duval County)

“For more than 20 years, the Women's Giving Alliance has led the way in leveraging the

power of collective giving in Northeast Florida,” said Isaiah M. Oliver, president of The Community Foundation. “This year’s grantmaking has set a new record for impact, and I wish to extend my congratulations to the strategic philanthropists of WGA on this tremendous achievement.”

WGA also announced its new grantmaking and community involvement focus for the 2025-2026 grant year and beyond: “Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls; Preventing, Surviving, Thriving.” The new focus area was selected following [rigorous research](#), discussion with community leaders, and a vote of members. The research found violence against women and girls includes child abuse and neglect, harassment and bullying, intimate partner and domestic violence, predatory social media, rape, and sex (human) trafficking. These categories also includes subsets such as elder abuse, violence while homeless, and cyberbullying.

“Our research and community feedback indicated that women and girls are experiencing violence at alarming rates across Northeast Florida,” added Collier. “We hope to have a significant impact through both our grantmaking and community efforts. We support traditional solutions to this insidious problem, as well as new and innovative approaches.”

WGA’s grants and community involvement will emphasize four key areas:

- 1) Help girls be safer and more empowered at home, school, and online
- 2) Educate the community about violence against women and girls
- 3) Broaden short-term services for female victims (& their children)
- 4) Expand long-term support enabling transition to self-sufficiency (and independence from abusers)

### **About the Women’s Giving Alliance (WGA)**

The Women’s Giving Alliance, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a dynamic group of 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 Northeast Florida have become WGA members, making an annual contribution of \$1,500 each. Through those contributions, WGA has awarded grants totaling more than \$9.6 million to 74 nonprofit organizations. It also has built an endowment of \$5.9 million to ensure the future of its philanthropic work. For more information: [www.wganefl.org](http://www.wganefl.org).

### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida’s oldest and one of its largest community foundations, 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. Now in its 60th year, the Foundation manages more than \$650 million in assets as of 12/31/2023 and has made more than \$750 million in grants since inception. For more information: [www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).

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For more information, contact:

### **Media**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida  
Stephanie Garry Garfunkel, VP, Strategic Communications, The Community Foundation  
[sgarfunkel@jaxcf.org](mailto:sgarfunkel@jaxcf.org) | (904) 356-4483

Sheila Collier, President, Women’s Giving Alliance  
[wga.sheilacollier@gmail.com](mailto:wga.sheilacollier@gmail.com)