

## Jacksonville & Northeast Florida / PHILANTHROPY

### Give, Receive, Repeat.

"Give and ye shall receive." It's a central tenet of countless faiths, philosophies and cultures. And it's a proven proverb in community and economic development.

According to the Florida Nonprofit Alliance, Northeast Florida has an estimated 1,832 nonprofits, with total revenue of \$14 billion, employing more than 48,000 people and paying a total of \$2.7 billion in annual wages. That's critical when it comes to attracting new businesses to the area, experts say.

"Philanthropy and business have a symbiotic relationship," says Isaiah Oliver, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Businesses are the source of wealth that powers philanthropy. Philanthropy, meanwhile, supports the critical work of nonprofits to enhance a community's quality of life, which helps businesses attract and retain both employees and customers. When donors care about an issue and support it on the local level, they translate their passion into supporting community assets that build the local economy and provide benefits for all to enjoy."

Among the top causes supported by philanthropy-minded organizations and individuals in Northeast Florida are:

**Affordable housing:** The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida itself



invested \$2.5 million to support projects like redeveloping Lake Forest Elementary School into affordable housing and rehabilitating properties for veterans experiencing homelessness. One of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund's prominent contributions is the creation of an affordable housing loan fund aimed at alleviating the chronic shortage of affordable housing by offering low-interest loans to developers, thereby enabling the construction of much-needed multifamily rental units.

**Equity and inclusion initiatives:** The A.L. Lewis Black Opportunity & Impact Fund carries on the legacy of A.L. Lewis, Florida's first Black millionaire, and focuses on improving education, health care and economic development. In addition

to larger grants, the fund also provides smaller grants to local organizations working on neighborhood revitalization and community building.

**Historic preservation:** Protecting historic landmarks, museums and cultural traditions fosters a sense of community pride and continuity, helping residents connect with their roots and local identity. That contributes to economic development by encouraging neighborhood revitalization and attracting tourism, both of which in turn support local businesses, restaurants and services.

**Support for aging adults and early childhood development:** ElderSource provides services and resources to support aging adults in Northeast Florida. They offer programs such as caregiver support, meal services, transportation, and in-home care, helping seniors live independently and with dignity. And the United Way of Northeast Florida's "Success By 6" program partners with early learning centers to provide scholarships for hardworking families who may not qualify for state subsidies, helping ensure children access to high-quality early education.

Nonprofits underpin many of the hallmarks of quality of life in a community that help make it attractive for people to live, work and locate businesses. Whether large organizations like health systems or small groups that work to better their causes on shoestring budgets, they employ people, purchase goods and services, own real estate and pay rent, and in these ways contribute to the economy just as for-profit businesses do. They rely on the support of philanthropists, whose personal interests and passions fuel their desire to support these institutions for the greater good. Everyone benefits!



"The Women's Giving Alliance funds, educates and advocates for women and girls to strengthen our families, communities and future. It takes just one small action to create a powerful ripple effect of change. When you invest in a woman, you invest in her children and generations to follow."

**Sabeen Perwaiz**  
President, Women's Giving Alliance

Since 2002, the Women's Giving Alliance has awarded more than \$9.6 million to 74 nonprofit organizations supporting women in Northeast Florida. Notably, about 70% of giving circles nationwide are majority female, demonstrating the power of women-led philanthropy in driving social and economic progress.