



**Women's Giving Alliance Gives Nearly \$2 Million Dollars
in Seven Years to Improve Mental Health Services**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacksonville, FL—May 13, 2019—Nearly 9,000 women and girls in Northeast Florida have received mental health services in the last seven years, thanks to more than \$1.9 million in grants from the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. These outcomes are highlighted in WGA's Mental Health report and illustrate the power of strategic philanthropy and partnerships between agencies, donors, the media, lawmakers and the community. The report underscores WGA's belief that working together, we can achieve lasting change in the lives of women and girls, in Northeast Florida and beyond.

"WGA has seen several issues come from insufficient mental health funding and solutions," said Mary Pietan, President of WGA. "That is why we decided to concentrate all our philanthropic resources on a single strategic focus of improving access to mental health services for women and girls."

The report snapshot shows the following outcomes from those who received support from the WGA network of grantees:

- Grantees added at least 35 mental health professionals to their staffs
- An estimated 750 mental health professionals were trained, either through training sessions and/or hands-on experience working with nonprofits
- At least five new programs/ protocols were developed, cascading well beyond Northeast Florida
- Grantees developed advanced gender-based mental health support for women veterans and girls/young women impacted by the juvenile justice system

Additionally, WGA has influenced public policy through non-partisan activities. Related to mental health, WGA has advocated for issues including:

- **State Funding:** WGA members joined coalitions to advocate for an increase of \$53 million in the 2015-2016 state budget.
- **Sex Trafficking:** From 2016–2017, WGA rallied to support a program called "Open Doors" that places advocates and services for sexually exploited children in regional locations throughout Florida. Working with others, WGA successfully secured \$3 million in new funding in Florida.
- **Child Marriage:** In 2018, WGA turned its attention to the issue of ending child marriage. Lawmakers approved a bill to ban marriage for girls under age 17.

"While WGA's multi-year strategic focus demonstrates progress across a wide range of efforts, there is still much work to be done on this topic, and we look forward to continuing to partner to achieve even more impact," said Pietan.



To learn more about WGA's work improving mental health services for women and girls, please visit:
https://www.wganefl.org/file/2019/WGA-Mental-Health-Exec-Summary_Online.pdf

About Women's Giving Alliance (WGA)

WGA, 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 the region have become WGA members and each make an annual contribution of \$1,500. With these contributions, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$6 million to more than 50 non-profit organizations to support critical services for women and girls. WGA has also built an endowment in excess of \$3.7 million. For more information: www.wganefl.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (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 55th year, the Foundation has assets of \$384 million and has made grants of nearly \$500 million since 1964.

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For more information:

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