



**Women's Giving Alliance Announces More Than \$500,000 in Grants
Aimed at Breaking the Cycle of Female Poverty**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacksonville, FL—May 16, 2019—The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, this week announced \$505,949 in grants across seven nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida to help lift women from poverty. More than 250 WGA members attended this week's annual meeting and voted overwhelmingly to ratify the 2019 grants, which represent the third round of annual funding since WGA began its focus on 'Breaking the Cycle of Female Poverty: Intervention & Prevention.'

"We have channeled more than \$1.5 million toward our poverty focus in under three years," said Mary Pietan, president of WGA.

WGA's grant process is research-based and designed to create sustainable and impactful programs. All WGA members contribute to the grantmaking pool of funds, and nearly one quarter of WGA's membership participated in the decision process for awarding grants.

The 2019 grantees include:

Catholic Charities St. Augustine Regional Office: Project Forward Families, \$120,000 (St. Johns County)

Education is critical to escape chronic poverty and prevent the transmission of poverty between generations. Project Forward Families enables low-income, single heads of households to pursue educational goals and achieve greater self-sufficiency by providing comprehensive case management and reducing childcare and other barriers. This program will allow participants to obtain job skills training, a certificate, and economic empowerment in less than two years, thanks to a strategic connection with First Coast Technical College. The program will also provide comprehensive case management and ongoing, personalized support that will work with each woman to achieve her goals.

Center for Children's Rights: Hope Pipeline Project, \$50,000 (Duval County)

With these grant funds from WGA, the Hope Pipeline Project will work to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by using wraparound legal advocacy for girls who are at risk of involvement or who are involved with the juvenile justice system. This program will empower the girl and parent to identify and speak up about the girl's educational needs as well as create trauma responsive environments at school, home, and within the juvenile justice system.

First Coast No More Homeless Pets: Veterinary Technician Education and Employment Program, \$78,614 (Duval County)

A pilot program of First Coast No More Homeless Pets, the Vet Tech Education & Employment Program will offer a 6-month vocational training program providing unemployed and underemployed women in



low-income areas paid job-skills training as veterinary techs in hospital and clinical settings. The program provides significant career opportunities for women in at-risk populations and underserved communities through Vet Tech training, education, mentorship, & employment. Upon completion, successful students will be fully qualified and ready for employment as a Vet Tech with this agency or other area veterinary practices.

Gateway Community Services, Inc.: Women in Transition, \$100,000 (Duval County)

With this grant, Gateway Community Services will create its Women in Transition program that will bridge the gap for homeless women who have been treated for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder. This program will provide wraparound services and rental assistance in Transitional Recovery Housing as these women work to recover financially and emotionally following treatment and prepare for independent and sober living within the community.

Helping WIN, Inc.: Grants with Dignity, \$45,243 (All Northeast Florida Counties)

Helping WIN's Grants with Dignity program delivers emergency cash assistance for women battling poverty in Northeast Florida, preventing a small crisis from developing into a larger issue. Helping WIN partners with local small agencies who have established ongoing relationships with women breaking the cycle of poverty. The referring agency asks for the assistance on behalf of the woman in crisis and when all is settled, the grantee repays the grant by providing service hours to the referring agency. With this grant, Helping WIN will be able to help women avoid life-altering crisis.

St. Gerard Campus: Homeless Maternity Students Residential/Dormitory Program, \$40,000 (Duval, St. Johns, & Clay Counties)

The critical needs of homeless and pregnant teens are met with a comprehensive array of programs at the St. Gerard Campus to prepare them mentally, socially, and physically to succeed in achieving a high school diploma. St Gerard provides housing to these young women and their infants in addition to a unique curriculum including classes in childbirth, parenting, child development, and nutrition. The critical needs of transportation to doctors and court is provided, as well as help in finding jobs, enrolling in college, and finding housing at graduation.

Volunteers in Medicine: Women's Health and Wellness Program, \$72,092 (All Northeast Florida Counties)

This program provides free health care and screenings to employed women who earn too much to qualify for public assistance, yet struggle to afford basic cost of living needs. This grant will help to support breast exams, PAP smears, HPV, and pregnancy tests, reproductive counseling and contraception, if desired, screenings for high cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension, as well as screenings for depression and domestic violence. The Women's Health and Wellness Program provides a "medical home" for these women that helps them remain healthy, employed, out of expensive hospital emergency rooms, and home with their families.



WGA President Mary Pietan presided over the meeting, noting that WGA's commissioned research from The Institute of Women's Policy Research (IWPR) has guided WGA grantmaking since 2016 when they shifted to the new focus area, and has been "shared with our grant partners, policy makers, and the public to help drive positive impact in policy change, population outcomes, and all sector coalition building around a common agenda that is structured to help move the needle farther and faster." Pietan added that growth in membership is key toward increasing impact in the WGA focus area.

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.

###

For more information:

Media

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
Susan Datz Edelman, VP
sedelman@jaxcf.org
(904) 356-4483

Women's Giving Alliance

Mary Pietan, President
mfpietan@gmail.com
(904) 234-4915