



Women's Giving Alliance Kicks Off 20th Anniversary Celebration By Granting More Than \$580,000

Collective giving circle has awarded more than \$7 million since 2001 to transform lives of women and girls in NE Florida

Jacksonville, Florida — May 20, 2021 - The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, today kicked off its 20th Anniversary celebration at its annual Member Forum with the announcement of \$587,500 in grants to 10 Northeast Florida nonprofits.

"Harnessing the power of collective giving, the Women's Giving Alliance has awarded more than \$7.6 million in grants to 68 non-profit community partners since its founding to improve the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida," said Jan Healy, president of WGA and Founder and President of Renewing Dignity. "We are a dynamic and diverse group of more than 400 women committed to our mission, which includes grantmaking to improve the lives of the most marginalized women and girls in our community."

The programs receiving two-year grants for 2021 to 2023 are:

- **Ability Housing: The Northeast Villages Program, \$60,000 (Duval County)**

The Northeast Villages Program has 332 quality, affordable rental units in Duval County. It also offers comprehensive case management services, on-site recovery support, trauma-informed care, financial education services, employment training and job placement, and access to primary and behavioral healthcare. With this grant, 52 women will receive the comprehensive care this program provides.

- **Family Promise of Jacksonville: Promise of Home, \$50,000 (Duval County)**

Family Promise of Jacksonville changes outcomes for low-income mothers at risk of or experiencing homelessness by providing temporary shelter using partnerships with local congregations. Family Promise provides holistic, individualized case management that helps mothers transition into affordable housing. The WGA grant will support 40-50 families through the A Promise of Home program.

- **Generation USA: Information Technology and Administrative Medical Assistant Programs, \$75,000 (Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker and Nassau Counties)**

Generation USA is a bootcamp-style training program that focuses on the technical and soft skills employers say are most needed in the workforce. Generation USA partners with local employers to provide full-time jobs or paid internships upon successful completion of the training. This grant will provide a stipend to 70 women in training and 24 in internships so they can afford to participate full-time in the IT and Administrative Medical Assistant programs.

- **Generation W: Generation WOW, \$75,000 (Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau, Putnam Counties)**

The Generation WOW program provides girls in middle and high school with mentorship, guidance, and specific tools to better navigate post-secondary education and potential careers. This grant will allow 75 girls to participate in Generation WOW clubs designed specifically for girls who are at or near the poverty level, including those in rural areas, by providing tablets and accessibility resources so they may participate in remote learning activities.



- **Lutheran Social Services: Steps to Success, \$60,000 (Duval County)**

Lutheran Social Services provides struggling families with the services and support they need to overcome hardship and regain self-sufficiency. The Steps to Success program bundles financial counseling, career coaching, and benefits assistance into one comprehensive support system. This grant will allow Lutheran Social Services to serve 60 women over the two-year grant period.

- **Micah's Place: Breaking the Barriers, \$60,000 (Nassau County)**

Micah's Place provides prevention and intervention services to victims of domestic violence. The Breaking the Barriers program helps to cover essential costs many survivors encounter, particularly related to financial instability. This grant will allow 15 to 25 women to access this program.

- **R.E.S.T.O.R.E.: Optimism to the Future, \$75,000 (Duval County)**

R.E.S.T.O.R.E. is dedicated to reducing the rate of recidivism by providing services and resources to formerly incarcerated women to successfully transition into mainstream society. Optimism to the Future provides safe housing and addresses the trauma the women have endured before, during, and after incarceration through educational support and mental health, substance abuse, and resiliency programs and treatment to promote stable emotional health, sober living, and enhanced individual resiliency. This grant will allow 18 to 24 women to access this program.

- **Sanctuary of Northeast Florida: Girls on 8th, \$19,000 (Duval County)**

Sanctuary's mission is to encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families to become strong and independent by offering afterschool programs and summer camp for at-home youth in Springfield and surrounding neighborhoods. The Girls on 8th initiative focuses on the unique needs of female youth to help them reach their potential and rise out of poverty. This grant will provide for 20 girls during the school year and 30 girls in summer camp.

- **UF Health Jacksonville: Community Health Worker Institute, \$100,000 (Duval County)**

Through its Urban Health Alliance program, UF Health focuses on leveraging social services, education, research and policy resources, and activities to improve the lives of fellow Jacksonville residents. This grant will allow the Community Health Worker program to train 20 lay members who share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, and life experiences with the community members they serve, providing frontline agents of change to build community healthcare capacity and self-sufficiency.

- **Empowerment Resources, Inc.: general operating support, \$13,500 (Duval, St. Johns, and Nassau Counties)**

Empowerment Resources, Inc. serves at-risk youth and families by providing programs and services that positively impact the whole family.

"Four years and \$2.5 million into our current focus on breaking the cycle of female poverty, our 25 grantees have reported nearly 8,000 women and girls have received support," said Linda Simmons, co-chair of the Grants Leadership Team and Principal at GrantWise. "This past year has shown us that our mission has never been more important, and it will take all of us working together to move the needle on the issues affecting women and girls in Northeast Florida."



At the meeting, WGA shared priorities from its new strategic plan, which include simplifying grantmaking processes to reduce administrative burdens on grant applicants; analyzing new approaches to grantmaking such as through trust-based philanthropy; and strengthening the organization's operating budget to support growth. WGA has also formalized its ongoing focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), both in its membership and in the women and girls supported by WGA grants.

"From the beginning, WGA has sought to be inclusive and bring women with a diversity of opinions, experiences, ideas and passions—in addition to demographic diversity—into the fold," said Ann-Marie Knight, chair of the WGA DEI Committee and Vice President, Community Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer, UF Health Jacksonville. "Now, we are being more deliberate about how we structure our recruiting of new members and our grantmaking to address the different experiences of women and girls of color."

WGA will celebrate its 20th Anniversary throughout 2021 and 2022 with activities for members, grantees and the broader Northeast Florida community. Stay tuned to www.wganeff.org for more information about the Anniversary Celebrations and to learn more about WGA.

About the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA)

WGA, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a non-partisan 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 \$7.6 million to 68 non-profit organizations to support critical services for women and girls. WGA has also built an endowment of more than \$4.9 million. For more information: www.wganeff.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. Now in its 57th year, the Foundation has assets of \$548 million and has made \$600 million in grants since 1964. For more information: www.jaxcf.org.

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