



WOMEN'S GIVING  
A L L I A N C E  
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Women together... changing lives*

MAY 2023



WOMEN'S GIVING  
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THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# Member Forum 2023

Thursday, May 18th

→ Moving Forward: Stronger Together ←

## Letter From the President

Dear Members,

I truly hope that you have Thursday, May 18th on your calendar, for this is the day of our annual Member Forum!

Member Forum is one of the premier events for the Women's Giving Alliance. This is the meeting where we will learn the Grant Decision Team's recommendations for our 2023 grants. Then we use our votes to ratify how our contributions will be used to improve the lives of women and girls. We are also excited about our keynote speaker, Debbie Buckland. Debbie, long-time member and supporter of WGA, was honored in the fall as the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals! She will share with us the importance of women being strategic philanthropists.

The program for Member Forum will provide a thorough update about all that our giving circle is doing. We will also be celebrating our newest members and honoring our Friendraisers!!

The room is sure to be filled with over 200 community-minded, dynamic and diverse women for you to network with. It's a great opportunity to invite friends! I encourage you to come learn more about WGA and experience the energy we share in supporting our community. Please [register today](#). I hope to see you on May 18th.

Warmly,



*Sheila*

**Sheila Collier**  
President, Women's Giving Alliance  
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## WGA IMPACT



## IMPACT Spotlight: Sanctuary on 8th Street

Sanctuary on 8th Street, one of WGA's recent grantees, offers an afterschool program and six-week summer camp for "at-hope" youth in and around the Springfield neighborhood in Duval County. Students in grades K-8 are offered a safe haven when they are not in school. Services include: homework help, one-on-one tutoring, enrichment activities, physical activities, healthy snacks, and field trips. Perhaps the Sanctuary's most important work is in building relationships with the youth and their families and helping the kids with their social and emotional development. Over 90% of the students live in poverty; relationship building is a key factor in helping these students realize their potential to break the cycle of generational poverty.

For academic support, the Sanctuary uses the Great Leaps reading and math program. Enrichment activities include the Coding Girls program and a new Robotics program led by a student at Bolles. Social/emotional support is provided by The Florida Children's Institute, which offers counseling services, staff coaching, and a Sharing Circle program each week, where the girls can discuss issues, build bonds and discuss how to recover from mistakes (restorative justice). In addition, the Delores Barr Weaver Program, "See the Girl", provides lessons about bullying and problem solving and offers an emphasis on healthy relationships. Physical/exercise programs include gymnastics classes on weekends, Junior League volunteers providing Kids in the Kitchen and Fresh Minds

activities, and volunteers joining with the kids in motivational play activities.

There is always a need for more [volunteers](#)! Learn more about the [Sanctuary on 8th Street](#).



## Looking Back: Impact Report on Mental Health

Members of WGA are always looking ahead to see what impact we can have on the community, and how we can improve the lives of women and girls. Sometimes it's also good to look back, and see what we have accomplished.

The national awareness issue for the month of May is Mental Health, the initiative WGA focused on from 2012 to 2018. Not only did our gifts directly impact the lives of over 8,800 women and girls, but we also generated awareness, press coverage, advocacy and mental health initiatives by other organizations in the community.

To review what WGA accomplished in the area of Mental Health, check out the [Impact Summary](#) and [Executive Summary](#).

### WGA EVENT NEWS

**Member  
Forum  
2023**

**Thursday, May 18th**  
**Moving Forward:  
Stronger Together**

# Upcoming Member Forum May 18th!

## Moving Forward: Stronger Together

MAY 18 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Adam W. Herbert University Center at UNF

Join this year's Member Forum on May 18th, themed 'Moving Forward: Stronger Together!' Members and guests can expect an energetic program where we'll hear from guest speakers Debbie Buckland, Nina Waters with TCF, updates from the WGA Grants Team and more! Following these exciting presenters, we'll then ratify WGA's proposed 2023 Agency Workforce Support and Basic Needs Support grants.

Members - exercise your membership with your vote while spending time with WGA friends and guests.

Don't forget - Invite friends and women eager to learn more about strategic philanthropy and collective giving!

Register TODAY!



## Jacksonville Candidate Forum



## Event Recap: Jacksonville Candidate Forum

April 24 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

The Women's Giving Alliance and Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center joined forces to host a nonpartisan 2023 Jacksonville Post-Primary Candidate Forum last month. More than 80 guests were in attendance, including members of the Policy Center's Girls' Leadership Council who asked the candidates questions about affordable housing, childcare, safety, mental health and other related topics.

As a reminder to Duval County residents, early voting is open now through May 14. The General Election will be held on May 16, 2023.

## Plan Now: Attend Philanos PowerUP! Conference in Baltimore

Early bird registration is now open for the Philanos Conference to be held Nov. 5-7 in Baltimore.

Our own Mary Peitan will participate in a panel on Legacy Giving.

This gathering of women from giving circles all over the country offers something for every interest whether its membership, leadership, communications or technology. You are able to choose the sessions you attend and the keynote speakers are always inspirational and informative.

Learn more and [register today!](#)



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Peggy Blount (FRIENDraised by Pam Fox) | Makayla Buchanan | Valerie De la Torre (FRIENDraised by Claire Berry) | Karen Farrell (FRIENDraised by Bobbie Fost) | Natasa Glisic (FRIENDraised by Lauren Purdy) | Peggy Greco-Ridge (FRIENDraised by Margaret Barton) | Lisa James (FRIENDraised by Barb Wenger) | Chantelle Kammerdiener (FRIENDraised by Susan Hughes) | Carmen Kasper (FRIENDraised by Susan Hughes) | Laura Langton (FRIENDraised by Joan Altes) | Dawn Lemasters (FRIENDraised by Susan Hughes) | Shirley Perry (FRIENDraised by Sheila Collier) | Franci Robertson (FRIENDraised by Sheila Collier) | Caitlin Sharp (FRIENDraised by Nikki Sabol) | Tammy Spriggs (FRIENDraised by Sheila Collier) | Kit Thomas (FRIENDraised by Sheila Collier) | Susannah Williams (FRIENDraised by Anne Baker) | Colleen "Kelly" Wielgus (FRIENDraised by Sheila Collier) and Barbara Wolf (FRIENDraised by Pam Fox)

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