



Women's Giving Alliance Announces 2017 Grants Aimed at Breaking the Cycle of Female Poverty

JACKSONVILLE, FL – October 25, 2017 – The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, has announced \$450,000 in grants designed to lift women from poverty. This is the new WGA focus that was announced in 2016 when WGA completed a five-year cycle of grants totaling nearly \$2 million to support mental health programs at 17 NE Florida agencies that helped 2,250 women and girls. The 2017 grants were ratified by more than 200 members in attendance at the WGA Annual Meeting.

WGA's grant process is research-based and designed to create sustainable and impactful programs. Three teams review grants: the Decision Team investigates all proposals and recommends which to support. Ongoing grants are also reviewed by the WGA Evaluation Team, and the Impact Team assesses overall impact and provides new research.

The six 2017 grants, some spanning two-year periods, are:

- **Barnabas Center** (\$112,000) of Nassau County through *"Hope Builders for Women Initiative"* offers tools to help women examine their situation, assess resources and build a plan to earn a living wage and stable housing and savings. This is WGA's third Barnabas grant.
- **Catholic Charities** (\$105,000) Duval pilot program *"Neighborhood Self-Sufficiency Program in Northwest Jacksonville"* is designed to provide women with education and training services to improve their budgeting, parenting, job search and readiness skills. It will focus on two neighborhoods where 50 percent of female households live in poverty.
- **Girl Scouts of Gateway Council** (\$50,000) Duval's *"Girl Scouts Community Development Troops"* will provide K-7th grade girls in low-income, high risk communities with support programs that improve the sense of self and promote better school attendance and reversal of negative behavior.
- **Learn to Read** (\$43,000) *"Literacy for Stability,"* primarily in Duval, will provide reading, language and math instruction for women reading below the 9th grade level in the area's poorest neighborhoods and will partner with the Jacksonville's Sheriff's Office to serve women inmates. It will also provide age-appropriate books for mothers and grandmothers to encourage childhood reading and language development.
- **Women's Center of Jacksonville** (\$120,000) *"Expanded Horizons Family Literacy Program"* addresses unique educational needs of women, including after incarceration, and needs of children, to improve chances of breaking the cycle of female poverty. It will incorporate the Learning for Leadership curriculum developed under a 2006 WGA grant.

- **Rapid Response Emergency Fund** (\$17,000 plus a \$3,000 matching grant from The Community Foundation) will go in equal allocations to domestic violence shelters **Quigley House** (Clay), **Hubbard House** (Duval), **Micah's Place** (Nassau), and **Betty Griffin House** (St. Johns) for Hurricane Irma relief efforts and to provide services for research documented spikes in domestic violence after disasters.

President Ellen Wiss presided over the meeting and noted that over the past year, WGA has reached out to increase membership of women 40 and younger through the Delores Barr Weaver "4Sight" initiative. "4Sight" is a word play on the word "foresight," which means care and provision for the future.

"Our goal is to energize our organization today and sustain it going forward," she said.

As part of the "4Sight" plan, women 40 and younger can join WGA for a reduced first year annual membership. This facilitates the ability of young women to experience the impact of WGA philanthropy and connect with a vibrant community of caring women throughout NE Florida, according to Wiss.

About Women's Giving Alliance

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 makes an annual contribution of \$1,500. With these contributions, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$5 million to more than 45 non-profit organizations to support critical services for women and girls. WGA has also built an endowment in excess of \$3.2 million. For more information: www.womensgivingalliance.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), 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 53rd year, the Foundation administers assets of \$343 million and has made grants of \$410 million since 1964.

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Women's Giving Alliance

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