

For more information

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*Voices of Hope: Cracking the code on complex issues***

Jacksonville, Florida – March 2, 2016 – At its annual Member Forum today, the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA) unveiled the conclusions of its most recent research report, *Voices of Hope: Cracking the code on complex issues*. The report identifies four issues facing women and girls in Northeast Florida for which there are proven, actionable solutions locally and around the country. The challenge is scaling these solutions to match the community's needs. The four issue areas are: breaking the cycle of female poverty, educating girls for economic success, providing trauma-informed addiction therapy, and expanding girls' access to reproductive health care.

"In our 15th year, WGA is focused on bringing to Northeast Florida insights to drive innovative, evidence-based solutions to the issues most critical to the health and well-being of girls and women in our community," said Paula Liang, WGA president. "There are great needs, but also opportunities for our community to invest in women and girls. With this report, we are launching a conversation with our membership to determine our organization's next grantmaking focus, and we hope our partners and allies in the Northeast Florida community will also find value in the research conclusions."

Voices of Hope: Cracking the code on complex issues, WGA's third major research effort, was completed in partnership with Heather Downs, associate professor of sociology at Jacksonville University. Following dialogue with members over the next several months, WGA will choose one of these four areas as the focus of its grantmaking beginning in 2017.

The conclusions in this year's report build on WGA's previous research, *Stronger Voices...Better Lives* (2012) which directed the organization's five-year grantmaking focus on expanding mental health services and trained personnel in Northeast Florida.

To explore the conclusions of the WGA research, please visit www.wganefl.org/research.

About Women's Giving Alliance

The Women's Giving Alliance, 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 Northeast Florida have become WGA members, making an annual contribution of \$1,500 each. Through those contributions, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$4.5 million to more than 30 non-profit organizations to support critical community services for women and girls. It also has built an endowment exceeding \$2.5 million to ensure the future of its philanthropic work. 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 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 51st year, the Foundation has assets of nearly \$314 million and has made grants in excess of \$367 million since 1964. For more information: www.jaxcf.org.