

Executive Summary
The Women's Giving Alliance Impact Team Interim Report
September 2016

The Impact Team, a new part of the Grants Committee in 2015, reports progress on all its objectives.

- **Objective #1: Assess the impact of WGA's focus on mental health for women and girls in Northeast Florida.**

Results: WGA has brought attention to women's and girls' mental health needs and increased their access to services.

- Member awareness of mental health issues increased through 45 events on the subject plus members' in-depth committee work.
- Community awareness increased through greater news coverage and more attention from other community stakeholders.
- Two-year grants have been made to 14 agencies totaling \$1.5 million. When 2016 grants are ratified in October, the total will be \$1.94 million. WGA grants have:
 - Expanded access. Completed grants have provided mental health services to more than 2,250 women and girls.
 - Provided training to increase the number of mental health professionals and to increase evidence-based, gender-specific practices.
 - Supported development of two unique models of service that are being replicated by other local, regional and national organizations.
 - Supported research to develop a gender-specific system of care for women veterans.
- WGA convened mental health grantees annually to learn about gaps in services and to adapt grant making as appropriate to achieve greater impact.
- Advocacy to improve mental health services for women and girls has included:
 - WGA as an organization successfully advocating for a \$3 million state program, Open Doors, to help sexually exploited children.
 - WGA members individually joining coalitions to advocate successfully for an increase of \$53 million in the 2016 state budget.

- **Objective #2: Update WGA research on the status of women and girls in Northeast Florida.**

Results: The research identified four key issues and potential effective steps forward.

- After extensive research, the team produced a summary report In March 2016, *Voices of Hope: Cracking the code on some complex issues*, that

identified four issues, each a potential future focus area, along with best practices locally and nationally.

- To broaden accessibility, the new research was added to the WGA website (www.wganefl.org/research), offering layers of increasing detail and links to original sources.

- **Objective #3: Pursue a transparent process for shifting WGA's focus area based on research.**

Results: The process integrated research findings with member involvement.

- Members discussed the transition process at Connector meetings.
- Research findings around four key issues were presented in March at the 2016 Member Forum.
- Focus groups gave members the opportunity to provide feedback on the four topics.
- The Impact Team used the research and member feedback to make a recommendation for the next focus area.
- The Impact Team developed a timeline to integrate future research projects and transitions of focus area.

- **Objective #4: Develop a blueprint for future impact studies.**

Results: WGA will assess its work using all aspects of its philanthropic capital – social, moral, intellectual, reputational and financial.

- The ad hoc Impact Team has become a permanent part of the Grants Committee.
- To better understand the impact of its grants, the Grants Committee will identify in advance what its goals and objectives are for its focus area, reflect them in RFPs and measure progress against them.
- Other committees will participate in identifying how WGA has impact using all aspects of its philanthropic capital through educating members, forging partnerships, building community awareness and supporting advocacy.
- The Impact Team will collect impact reports from each WGA committee and synthesize them periodically into organization-wide impact reports.

The complete Impact Interim Report, to be available on the WGA website (<https://www.wganefl.org/focus-impact/what-we-do>), is a comprehensive look at the work of the Impact Team to date. WGA's final two-year grants in the mental health focus area are expected to be ratified in October 2016. They include a capstone grant to fund a pilot project to support building evaluation capacity within the agencies that received WGA's mental health grants. A final report on the impact of WGA's mental health focus will follow their conclusion.