



Generous Donors Come Together to Help Their Neighbors at the Beach

Beaches Community Fund Initially Grants \$75,000 to BEAM and \$10,000 to the Nonprofit Center

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – December 15, 2015 — Two dozen concerned Beaches-area families are pooling their charitable dollars so that they can make a significant impact in the lives of their neighbors who struggle. The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, was created to harness the power of collective giving for the specific purpose of learning about and addressing basic human services needs in this very high-profile area.

“There is a perception that everyone who lives at the beach is well off, when in fact, there are very clear pockets of need east of the intracoastal from Mayport to Guana,” noted Community Foundation Trustees Tracey Westbrook and Martha Baker, who were initial proponents of looking deeper into human service needs at the Beach. “While the rates of impoverishment are lower than those in metropolitan Jacksonville, the situation at the Beach is exacerbated by multiple governments, a lack of transportation and an often overburdened system of providers.”

While the Beaches Community Fund is just entering its first full grant cycle in 2016, it made two initial grants this fall, including \$75,000 to Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) which is partnering with Feeding Northeast Florida to open a satellite food distribution center at 7North. The Beaches Community Fund grant will go toward development of The Beaches Community Food Bank, part of a new “hub and spoke” model of food distribution where recovered food from grocery stores is collected and stored locally. This innovative model gives area agencies that have direct contact to those in need, access to food without the heavy burden of time, travel and expense to collect food.

The Fund also made a \$10,000 grant to the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida to create the Eleanor Ashby Leadership series—social and skill-based events to connect and strengthen the nonprofit sector at the Beaches.

“It’s so rewarding to partner with thoughtful donors who recognize that a need exists, and who are committed to working with us to explore, address, and fund opportunities to meet those needs,” noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “We’ve been listening to donors, faith leaders and service providers at the beach for more than two years now, and we have learned a great deal about how we might move forward on the issues that confront those in need of services.”

Anyone can contribute to the fund, but those donors who want to be directly involved with the Beaches Community Fund grantmaking decisions are asked for a multi-year commitment of \$10,000 per year, per family. Staff members from The Community Foundation work closely with the group to establish priorities, research grant opportunities, and manage the grantmaking functions. Grants are slated to be announced in May of each year.

About the Beaches Community Fund

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a collective giving circle of like-minded philanthropists who strive to address basic human service issues in the area east of the intracoastal from Mayport to Guana. For more information, go



to www.jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund or contact Joanne E. Cohen, Vice President, Philanthropic Services at jcohen@jaxcf.org or (904) 356-4483.

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 more than \$313 million and has made grants in excess of \$332 million since 1964.

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