



Nine Putnam County Agencies Receive a Total of \$76,000

Grants from the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – August 14, 2015–Nine deserving Putnam County nonprofit organizations are receiving a total of \$76,000 from the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Mr. Oliver’s endowment was created to improve the lives of Putnam County residents and is one of seven funds he established at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida as a way to continue his charitable giving after his death. In 2015, the fund’s grant-making was focused specifically on the problems of poverty and hunger, veterans’ concerns and educational support.

While earlier distributions from the fund were made in direct negotiations with individual nonprofits, today’s announcement reflects the first year in which competitive grants were considered by a group of Putnam County volunteers under the auspices of The Community Foundation.

“We had widespread interest in this first round of competitive grants, and nearly three dozen agencies applied,” said Program Director Mark LeMaire. “It was certainly a validation of Mr. Oliver’s deep knowledge of the needs that exist in his community, and we are deeply grateful that we were able to help bring his vision to reality for these nine agencies.”

The 2015 grantees include:

EDUCATION

- COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS \$10,000 to hire a part-time Project Coordinator. CISNEF is expanding its integrated student services model, which connects community resources to students in a school where they can most easily be served, to Mellon Elementary School.
- DIGNITY U WEAR \$10,000 to support the procurement, shipping, sorting, selecting and boxing of new clothing, which will be distributed to schoolchildren in Putnam County. This is a partnership with the Putnam County Public Schools.
- KELLEY SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL \$10,000 to purchase musical instruments needed for more than 300 students in 3-5th grade. Nearly ¾’s of the students at this Title 1 school receive free or reduced lunches because of financial need. A music teacher was added two years ago, and this grant will help purchase instruments and materials for the students.
- PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOLS – CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION \$10,000 to purchase equipment to benefit the Culinary Art programs for Interlachen and Palatka High Schools. The program serves approximately 170 students, and is in need of enhanced kitchen equipment in order to be able to elevate their catering service.



VETERANS

- PUTNAM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY \$7,000 to help with home repairs and wheelchair ramps for 15-20 veterans living in Putnam County in order to eliminate substandard housing conditions.

HUNGER

- SOUTH PUTNAM CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER \$10,000 challenge grant to help purchase a replacement truck to retrieve donated food and supplies from outside Putnam County, so that they can be distributed to local residents in south Putnam County.
- ST VINCENT DE PAUL \$7,000 to help them expand their capacity to serve more fresh food to the poor and suffering in western Putnam County. The grant will allow them to purchase two commercial refrigerators, and they can take advantage of the increased availability of Florida produce.
- MT CARMEL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER \$7,000 to help purchase two refrigerators and one freezer to serve needy Putnam County residents from San Mateo to Hwy 17. Because of increased need in the community as well as a greater amount of food supply, their goal is to expand their refrigeration capability.

HEALTH

- PUTNAM FIRST CANCER FUND \$10,000 will help target those Putnam County residents who have a high probability of a cancer diagnosis but whose economic situation is such that they are unable to make ends meet and pay for the necessary testing to establish a diagnosis.

In addition to Mr. Oliver's endowment fund, which is able to make variable grants annually to different agencies, his legacy gifts also include designated endowments to individual agencies: Putnam County Bread of Life, Putnam County Gator Club, Putnam County Humane Society, Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, St. Johns River State College, and Putnam County Elfs for Kids.

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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