



LGBT Community Fund Awards More than \$150,000 to Six Local Nonprofit Agencies

The Fund's 2017 grants support LGBT youth, elders, families, workforce and women in crisis

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – October 5, 2017 — The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida voted to award a record \$158,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations at its annual meeting this week—continuing its mission to invest in organizations that benefit Northeast Florida's LGBT residents. An initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the LGBT Community Fund was created in 2014, and has made a total of nearly \$475,000 in grants since inception.

"I'm especially pleased with the grants this year, as the grantees continue their important work making Northeast Florida a more inclusive place for all while evolving their grant focus and showing increasing self-funding for their programs," said Michael Meyers, president of the LGBT Community Fund. "A great example is the UNF LGBT Center, which is taking over staff funding costs for the Club-Do mentoring program, while adding an LGBT Employment Conference."

The 2017 grants include:

ElderSource \$30,000

To develop an LGBT Elder Friendly Business Certification for LGBT elders to find referrals to LGBT safe and friendly businesses. Businesses will need to fulfill criteria to be certified and included in the database. ElderSource Institute's LGBT Advisory Committee will play an active role in the development of the LGBT Elder Friendly Business Certification program.

JASMYN \$50,000

To continue its work with Opening Doors for Homeless Youth. JASMYN has developed partnerships with several community organizations to bring a community solution to the homelessness problem including Youth Crisis Center, Changing Homelessness, Daniel and PFLAG.

Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida \$26,000

To support a program of reflective practice, where groups of people learn and improve their work together. The goal would be to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for LGBTQ individuals working and being served by nonprofit organizations. They plan a 2018 fall summit for employees, board members of the expert and participant organizations, Employee Resource Group participants, and nonprofit organizations throughout the sector in Northeast Florida.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) \$17,000

To support elements of PFLAG's strategic plan, including hiring a part-time administrative staff person to improve current member retention and attract new members; collaboration with enROUGE to grow PFLAG's member base among LGBT individuals of color; and launching a first-time fundraising event.

UNF LGBT Resource Center \$25,000

To support three connected projects that sustain LGBT college students, including procuring materials that enhance the Club Can-Do program, as well as funding to present about the program and best practices for supporting LGBT college students at a conference for LGBT services for higher education; support for an LGBT Employment Conference to take place in Spring 2018; and plans for a lecture and series of strategic meetings with an expert in the area of LGBT people and faith communities.

Women's Center of Jacksonville \$10,000

To provide mental health counseling to LGBTQ+ women/girls, ages 12 and up, at no charge, and also to increase its outreach efforts to this population. The Women's Center anticipates 25 individuals will be served through this grant.

Unforeseen Opportunities \$10,000

Additionally, members of the Steering Committee chose to reserve \$10,000 of the available grantmaking pool to provide outreach, fund research and be able to respond to emerging small grant requests throughout the year.

About The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida

The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida, a giving circle of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, was founded in 2014 and pools the collective resources of its Members to benefit the LGBT community in Northeast Florida. A steering committee representing Members works to develop the grantmaking strategy and guides the work of the Fund. Any member making an annual gift of \$2,500 or more can serve on the Steering Committee. To become a member or donate to the Fund, or for more information, visit www.lgbtnefl.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, 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 has assets of \$343 million and has made nearly \$410 million in grants since 1964. For more information: www.jaxcf.org.

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