



LGBTQ Community Fund Makes \$130,000 in Grants to Seven Local Agencies

Two major donors create an LGBTQ Endowment to secure the Fund's future

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – October 3, 2018 — At a five-year anniversary celebration of the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida last night, the Fund's leadership announced \$130,000 in 2018 grants to local agencies and rolled out a new vision for the future—a permanent fund to support LGBTQ issues in Northeast Florida, forever.

In just five short years, the LGBTQ Community Fund has granted approximately \$640,000 to local agencies that serve the LGBTQ community and focus on making Jacksonville more inclusive. LGBTQ Community Fund President Michael Meyers recounted some of the work that's been accomplished.

"We have supported JASMYN's work to address youth homelessness, the UNF LGBT Resource Center's work to help LGBT students move into the work force, ElderSource's and the Nonprofit Center's work to increase LGBTQ awareness among elderly caregivers and mainstream non-profits, PFLAG's work to broaden its appeal in our community, and the Women's Center's work to focus more on LGBTQ clients," he noted. "In all cases, our grants were designed to build the capacity of these organizations to better serve members of the LGBTQ community."

The 2018 grants include:

- **\$10,000 to ElderSource Institute** to continue the LGBT Elder Friendly Business Certification program which began last year. To date, eight businesses have been certified with more in the pipeline, as ElderSource makes progress towards its projected goal of 15 certified businesses.
- **\$52,000 to JASMYN** to continue its Opening Doors for Homeless Youth Project, an initiative that began last year. It provides strategies for families and communities that lead to greater acceptance, and includes support for the emotional and physical well-being of LGBTQ young people. To date, ten families have attended the 6-week cycle of cohort support meetings, as JASMYN continues to move towards its goal of supporting 25 families.
- **\$30,000 to UNF LGBT Resource Center** to assess its work and enhance its ability to measure and communicate campus and community impact, by evaluating student recruitment, retention, and success. The grant will also help the Center articulate its "bottom-line" value in strategic planning and other university wide decision-making activities, and to help transition the LGBT Employment Summit towards sustainability.
- **\$20,000 to PFLAG** to continue funding administrative support and community outreach. The grant will also support board training for marketing and donor development as well as the establishment of a Junior Advisory Board. In 2017 the LGBT Fund's grant supported hiring a part-time administrative assistant; resources to increase collaboration with community partners; and their fundraising event, The Frieda Awards.
- **\$13,000 to Women's Center of Jacksonville** to continue building the capacity of the mental health counseling department (6 clinicians) to provide services for LGBTQ+ women and girls ages 12+ at no charge, and to also increase its outreach efforts to this population. To date, 13 clients have been served, as Women's Center continues to work towards its goal of supporting 25 total clients.
- **\$3,500 to RIVER CITY PRIDE** to support its 40th Anniversary Parade and Festival.
- **\$1,500 to JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE** to support its annual event "Embracing Our Legacy 2018."

The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida has also invested another \$168,000 in research and convenings to become more informed, including a comprehensive scan of the LGBTQ community in NE Florida that was released earlier this year by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. Those research



findings will help inform future grantmaking, and are being provided to other interested groups to better advise their work.

The LGBTQ Community Fund also unveiled a new way to support LGBTQ issues in Northeast Florida—the LGBTQ Community Endowment. The Chartrand Family and Delores Barr Weaver each made a \$500,000 grant to originate the endowment—which will protect and preserve all incoming gifts, and once it is adequately funded, will use the investment earnings for grantmaking.

“The foresight of our LGBTQ Community Fund Advisory Board and the generosity of the Chartrands and Delores Barr Weaver in creating this endowment will mean that our families, neighbors, colleagues and friends can count on having resources to address LGBTQ issues from now on,” noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, which houses the LGBTQ Community Fund and the LGBTQ Community Endowment.

Jeff Chartrand, who prompted the creation of the original LGBTQ Fund, says the endowment is a natural and needed extension of the first five years of work.

“This endowment ensures that all the learning and investment we’ve done so far will be built on over time,” he noted. “The recent research validated many of the existing needs and reinforced the notion that there will be needs in this area for many years to come.”

Delores Barr Weaver agreed.

“Establishing an endowment for this ongoing work is an important signal to the community,” she noted. “We know that individuals who identify as LGBTQ and their families and friends will face issues and obstacles going forward, and this is a promise that we will always be there to support them. I am proud to be a part of this promise.”

For the near-term, the LGBTQ Community Fund will need annual gifts from supporters and allies to continue its level of grantmaking. For more information on the support opportunities, please visit www.jaxcf.org/lgbt-support.

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 54th year, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$398 million and has made nearly \$450 million in grants since 1964.

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