



LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida Adds Four to Advisory Board

The Fund Welcomes Mario DeCunto, Samir Gupte, Ellen Thrower and Jake Wolfburg

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – August 29, 2019 —The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida has added four individuals to serve on its Advisory Board. The LGBTQ Community Fund, housed at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, was created in 2014 to support and enhance the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning community in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau and Baker counties. Advisory Board members manage the Fund’s affairs, including recommending grants, developing relationships with potential donors and communicating the mission and impact of the Fund. New members of the LGBTQ Community Fund Advisory Board are:

- **Mario Decunto, Jacksonville, FL**—a licensed mental health counselor with Episcopal Children’s Services
- **Samir Gupte, Fernandina Beach, FL**—Chief Change Officer at Samiracles Consulting
- **Ellen Thrower, Jacksonville, FL**—Retired Executive Director and Professor (St. Johns University’s School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science, New York, NY)
- **Jake Wolfburg, Jacksonville, FL** – Policy Advocate for Community and Regional Affairs



“This is a pivotal time in the Fund’s work, as we are poised to make our 2019 grants to area nonprofits that are building greater togetherness within our LGBTQ community, and making Northeast Florida more welcoming to its LGBTQ population,” noted Dr. Joe Barton, chairman of the LGBTQ Community Fund Advisory Board. “Mario, Samir, Ellen and Jake will add a wealth of additional experience and perspective to the knowledge we have gained in our first five years of grantmaking.”

In addition to Dr. Barton, other members of the Advisory Board include Garry Bevel; Barbara Drake; Carter Elliott; Randy Kammer; Jesse Kraker; Michael Meyers; Glenn Miller; Sharòn Simmons; Carl Utter; and Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The LGBTQ Community Fund has awarded \$640,000 since it began making grants in 2014—including substantial grants to organizations representing LGBTQ Youth, LGBTQ elders and LGBTQ on-campus services which were areas identified by research as significant opportunities for assistance. The Fund has also invested \$168,000 in local research and convenings to improve the lives of those in the LGBTQ community. In 2019, the LGBTQ Community Fund added a Grassroots Grants Program—grants up to \$1,500 for organizations to improve their competence and/or capacity to serve the LGBTQ community.

Thanks to the Chartrand Family and Delores Barr Weaver, there is now a \$1 million LGBTQ endowment that has been established. This endowment will anchor the work of the LGBTQ Community Fund and—when fully developed—will ensure that our community’s support for our families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues will be here in perpetuity.

About the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida



The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida offers individuals and organizations a way to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning community in Duval, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns, and Baker counties. Gifts to the LGBTQ Community Fund are used to make grants that support community organizations and institutions, so they can better serve the local LGBTQ community. For more information, www.lgbtnefl.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and one of its largest community foundations, 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 55th year, the Foundation has assets of \$384 million and has made \$500 million in grants since 1964.

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Contact: Susan Datz Edelman
VP, Strategic Communications
904-356-4483
sedelman@jaxcf.org