



## Eleven Putnam County Nonprofit Organizations Receive Grants Totaling \$146,900 in 2020

*The Community Foundation has granted \$1+ Million From Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Since 2012*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – July 9, 2020 — Eleven Putnam County nonprofit organizations were awarded grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 from the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Endowment for Putnam County at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. A total of \$146,900 was granted in 2020, most of it through a competitive application process open to all Putnam County nonprofits who assist residents in the areas of hunger, education, and veteran’s issues. These areas of need were recommended by Mr. Oliver in his desire to help improve the quality of life in Putnam County with a focus on hunger, education, veterans and helping move individuals and families out of poverty. The 2020 grants include:

- A **\$10,000** grant to **Baby Brain Builders** to purchase materials for its Brain Bag program and to add a part-time bookkeeper.
- A 2-year **\$20,000** grant to **Community Hospice & Palliative Care** to provide end-of-life care for veterans and their caregivers and families in Putnam County.
- A 2-year **\$20,000** grant to **Foundation for Rural Education Excellence** to support the Bridge to Bachelors (B2B) program that provides tuition assistance to Putnam County classroom-based paraprofessionals interested in obtaining a teaching degree.
- A **\$10,000** grant to **Heart of Putnam Food Pantry Inc.** to purchase high protein foods to help feed families in Palatka out of their facility.
- A **\$15,000** grant to **Lift Putnam** to sponsor a “full day / full year” Pre-K enrollment for needy four (4) year old children in Putnam County.
- A **\$10,000** grant to **Putnam County Bread of Life** to purchase kitchen and food storage equipment to enhance their meal delivery and storage capacity.
- A 2-year **\$20,000** grant to **Putnam Habitat for Humanity** to support the construction of two homes in the Veteran’s Village in Palatka.
- A **\$10,000** grant to **Rodeheaver Boys Ranch** for a new RBR Jobs Program to provide training in “applying, interviewing, training, and holding a part-time job in preparation for gainful employment as an adult.”
- A **\$10,000** grant to **South Putnam Christian Service Center** to provide high protein foods and serve young children specifically in South Putnam.
- A **\$6,000** grant to **St John River State College** to support a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of tuition for three returning 1<sup>st</sup> year FVO Scholarship students.



- A 2-year **\$15,900** grant to **UNF C.A.M.P. Osprey** to expand a mentoring program that pairs collegiate leaders from the University of North Florida (UNF) with at-risk K12 students to increase leadership, college and career readiness skills.

Mr. Oliver also established separate funds at The Community Foundation to benefit specific agencies, including Putnam County Bread of Life, Putnam County Elfs for Kids, Putnam County Gator Club, Putnam County Humane Society, Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, and St. Johns River State College. Together, Mr. Oliver's philanthropic legacy carries on with nearly \$200,000 in total grants for Putnam County in 2020, and a cumulative investment of more than \$1 million since the fund began making grants in 2012.

"This year, in particular, we are so grateful to be able to respond to the very real and pressing needs of Putnam County with sizeable grants that will make a difference," said Joyce Oliver, the donor's widow. "Frank's foresight in creating both flexible grant funding and continuous resources for the benefit of Putnam County citizens is especially appreciated in this tumultuous year."

#### **About Frank V. Oliver, Jr.**

A longtime Palatka businessman and quiet philanthropist, Mr. Oliver established a number of charitable giving vehicles when he died in 2010, including designated endowments for several beloved organizations. But his vision also created a more flexible field of interest fund for Putnam County, so that other deserving programs that might need assistance in the future would benefit.

#### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://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 56<sup>th</sup> year, the Foundation has assets of \$483 million and has made \$550 million in grants since 1964.

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