



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Women's Giving Alliance Continues 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with 2021 Annual Meeting Highlighting Decades of Impact in Community**

*Organization announces revised grantmaking strategy for 2022*

Jacksonville, Florida — Oct. 20, 2021 — The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, proudly hosted its 2021 Annual Meeting for members, guests, and nonprofit partners to celebrate 20 years of investing in the lives of women and girls across Northeast Florida. During the meeting, WGA honored the work and successes of grantee partners, detailed enhancements to next year's grantmaking strategy to better aid our partners, and strengthened the organization's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in its statement of values.

"This year's annual meeting was a treasured opportunity for our WGA members and nonprofit grantees to reflect on our work supporting marginalized women and girls, and to celebrate our impact in this community over the last two decades," said Jan Healy, President of WGA. "To date, WGA has awarded more than \$7.7 million in grants to 68 nonprofits offering programs and services designed to help women and girls reach their full potential and live healthy, enriching lives. Through collective, strategic philanthropy, this dedicated group of women has touched the lives of more than 30,000 women and girls in the last 20 years, proving that we really are "*Stronger Together*."

Research is an important cornerstone of WGA's grantmaking process to ensure collective funding leads to real solutions for underserved women and girls. Most recently, WGA has been conducting research to incorporate best-practices, speaking to giving circle leaders around the country, and talking directly with grantees to assess how it can best support nonprofit partners as they continue to navigate pandemic-related challenges. During the annual meeting, WGA detailed its research findings and shared an action plan for a new, simplified grantmaking process focused on core mission funding in 2022. All grantees from 2002 through 2021 can apply for the 2022 grant [here](#) beginning Nov. 1.

"Nonprofits were hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic as they juggled increased demand for their services with declining revenues, staffing challenges and canceled fundraising events," said Linda Simmons, Co-Chair, WGA Grants Leadership Team. "After conducting extensive research and speaking directly with our grantees, WGA made the decision to streamline its 2022 Grant Strategy in order to better support nonprofits on the front lines. We believe that offering this one-year shift focused on core mission funding will help our grantees rebuild and recover from the pandemic's lasting effects."

WGA strengthened its statement of values with an enhanced position on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). As part of its work to strengthen DEI, WGA made the recently created DEI committee a permanent part of its organizational structure.

WGA will continue to celebrate its 20th Anniversary throughout 2021 and 2022 with activities for members, grantees and the broader Northeast Florida community. The next event will be a "Stronger Together" celebration taking place on March 24, 2022, at Rethreaded's new Delores Barr Weaver Campus of Hope facility in Historic Springfield. Please visit [www.wganefl.org](http://www.wganefl.org) for more information about upcoming events and to learn more about WGA.

Lastly, WGA proudly announced its 2022 Leadership Team: Jan Healy, President; Sheila Collier, President-Elect; Sabeen Perwaiz, Vice-President; Rachael Mueller, Vice-President; Susan Rodgers, Secretary; and Barbara Finke, Treasurer. WGA also announced 2022 Committee Chairs and At-Large Steering Committee Members, which can be found at [www.wganefl.org](http://www.wganefl.org).

### **About the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA)**

WGA, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a nonpartisan group of dynamic, diverse women who pool their philanthropic giving to make a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida. Since 2001, hundreds of women in the region have become WGA members and each makes an annual contribution of \$1,500. With these contributions, WGA has made grants totaling more than \$7.7 million to 68 nonprofit organizations to support critical services for women and girls. WGA has also built an endowment of more than \$5 million. For more information: [www.wganefl.org](http://www.wganefl.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 57<sup>th</sup> year, the Foundation has assets of \$550 million and has made \$600 million in grants since 1964. For more information: [www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).

###

For more information, contact:

#### **Media**

The Community Foundation  
for Northeast Florida  
Susan Datz Edelman, VP  
[sedelman@jaxcf.org](mailto:sedelman@jaxcf.org)  
(904) 356-4483

Women's Giving Alliance  
Jan Healy, President  
[Jan@CharlesDHyman.com](mailto:Jan@CharlesDHyman.com)