

**Beaches Community Fund Grantmaking Tops \$350,000**  
*\$143,000 in 2017 Grants Support 11 Beaches-serving Agencies*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – June 1, 2017 — In just their second year of grantmaking, the Beaches Community Fund is investing nearly \$150,000 in nonprofit agencies along the First Coast to tackle issues that exist there. Combined with last year's giving, the Beaches Community Fund has invested more than \$350,000 to improve the lives of underserved citizens at the beach. Thirty three Beaches-area families now comprise The Beaches Community Fund, which is a giving circle based within The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).)

Grants include those agencies addressing issues that the Beaches Community Fund has prioritized as strategic objectives: early childhood education, access to transportation and strengthening Beaches nonprofit organizations.

- \$5,000 to Florida Institute for Education at UNF for feasibility study to investigate opportunities to improve early childhood education for Beaches children.
- Up to \$15,000 to Read USA to conduct book fair(s) to promote literacy among young Beaches-area children during the back-to-school timeframe.
- While the Beaches Community Fund works with the Beaches Action Team, Palms Presbyterian Church and JTA to address the Beaches' larger transportation issues, members awarded grants to three Beaches nonprofits to experiment with low-cost options (including Uber and JTA passes) to help clients access transportation for jobs, health care, and basic services. Data from these pilot grants will be shared with other Beaches-area nonprofits.
  - \$10,000 to BEAM
  - \$5,000 to Mission House
  - \$5,000 to Sulzbacher Clinic
- \$13,600 to Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida to continue the Eleanor Ashby Leadership Series in order to strengthen nonprofit leadership at the Beaches and to promote collaboration among nonprofit organizations through skills workshops, regular convenings, peer learning and an emerging leaders training program.

The Beaches Community Fund also held a competitive process this year for Beaches-area nonprofits to submit pressing needs for funding. The following grants were made in the open application process:

- \$25,000 to Child Guidance Center for start-up costs for a Beaches location
- \$10,000 to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church for its Emergency Assistance Ministry
- \$20,000 to We Care's Beaches Health & Wellness Collaboration to add a Community Health Worker for follow-up and home visits
- \$25,000 to Mission House to add a part-time housing director in its Rapid Re-Housing program
- \$10,000 to Girls Scouts of Gateway Council to create a Community Development Troop serving 100 girls from low income families at the Beaches



Member of the Grants Committee include: Martha Baker, Bill Buckingham, Kelly Buckingham, Nancy Chartrand, Mary Ellen Darretta, Allison Forsyth, Jan Healy, Renate Hixon, David Loeb, Katharine Loeb, Andy Sharkey, Debbie Sharkey, Helen Short, Glenn Ullmann, Lisa Ullmann, Tracey Westbrook and Ellen Wiss.

Anyone can contribute to the fund, but those donors who want to be directly involved with the Beaches Community Fund grantmaking decisions are asked for a multi-year commitment of \$10,000 per year, per family. Staff members from The Community Foundation work closely with the group to establish priorities, research grant opportunities, and manage the grantmaking functions. Grants are slated to be announced in May of each year.

### **About the Beaches Community Fund**

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is a collective giving circle of like-minded philanthropists who strive to address basic human service issues in the area east of the Intracoastal Waterway from Mayport to Guana. For more information, go to [www.jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund](http://www.jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund) or contact Joanne E. Cohen, Vice President, Philanthropic Services at [jcohen@jaxcf.org](mailto:jcohen@jaxcf.org) or (904) 356-4483.

### **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 53<sup>rd</sup> year, the Foundation has assets of \$343 million and has made nearly \$410 million in grants since 1964.

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### **Contact:**

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