



THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

FALL 2021

Giving Forward

A report for donors, friends and the Northeast Florida community



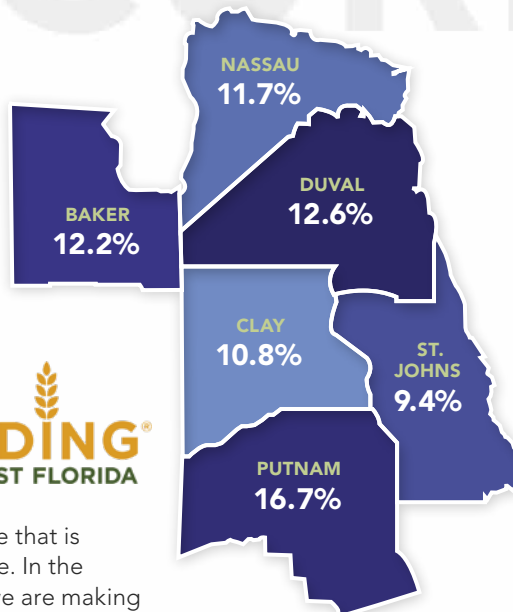
BEYOND GRANTMAKING: Relieving Hunger, & So Much More...

INSECURITY

There is no question that tens of thousands of our neighbors are going hungry this year. Feeding Northeast Florida, the area's largest food bank, estimates that nearly **200,000** people in our six-county service area are **'food insecure'—unsure about their ability to access or acquire sufficient food**. These include children, the elderly, the unemployed and the underemployed in Florida's wealthiest county (St. Johns), its poorest county (Putnam) and everywhere in between.

We, like many area funders, are keenly focused on this issue. We are using a variety of tools—funding sources, community connections and other relationships—to help find solutions to this issue that is so fundamental to our community's health and welfare. In the following pages, you'll see some of the investments we are making this year, as well as some real heroes on the front lines.

FEEDING[®]
NORTHEAST FLORIDA



Percentage of Food Insecure
Populations by County

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Grants made for

FOOD INSECURITY

Nearly **\$635,000** in grants to alleviate hunger made by and through The Community Foundation in 2021.



THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

2021 TCF
Discretionary Grants
\$236,000

These grants are possible because generous donors created unrestricted or field of interest funding with instructions to put their money to work for good in a certain area.

Barnabas Center – \$25,000

to expand its Food for Families mobile pantry distribution to serve an additional 1500 families, mostly Hispanic and African-American individuals.

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) – \$25,000

to support expanded services in its food assistance programs

Blessing Others All the Time, Inc. – \$2,000

to support the expansion of the Back To School Backpack program providing food, schools supplies, and other basic items for underserved children

Bridge The Gap, Inc. – \$2,000

to support a neighborhood community garden in the Brentwood neighborhood in Jacksonville. The garden will expand healthy food options at their weekly food distributions and will engage both seniors and children in the neighborhood.

Center for Sustainable Agricultural Excellence and Conservation (CSAEC) – \$20,000

(See feature on pg. 4)
to expand the storage space available for fresh produce at their farm in Putnam County.

Daily Manna Serving Center – \$2,000

to purchase food items for distribution to the community through its food pantry

The Empowered Kitchen – \$5,000

(See feature on pg. 5)
to support “Launch Kits” for women completing the Empowered Kitchen program, a training and mentoring program for women entrepreneurs in the food industry.

Epic-Cure Inc. – \$12,000

to purchase two walk-in freezer units to expand the number of families they provide fresh food to in Putnam County

Lutheran Social Services of NEFL – \$25,000

to purchase a new Hunger Relief Vehicle to help with LSS's food insecurity programs

Muslim American Social Services – \$25,000

to pilot a Food as Medicine Program combining proper medical strategies and nutrition education and counseling to help patients achieve better health outcomes.

Overflow Health Alliance – \$10,000

to support the purchase of food to supply OHA's recently opened client choice food pantry: Making Ends Meat

Pie in the Sky – \$18,000

to expand its current senior produce program – to provide its current seniors more food and serve an additional 100 – by purchasing two commercial freezers and two commercial refrigerators plus shelving and storage equipment

Putnam County Bread of Life – \$13,700

to expand their feeding program safely outdoors and to complete their facility with a new generator, picnic tables and outdoor canopy

SEA Community Center – \$8,000

to purchase food and safety net items for Elkton, Spud and Armstrong residents who are living in poverty in Putnam County

UF Health Jacksonville (Shands Jacksonville Medical Center) – \$18,300

to support a National Health Corps (NHC) position for one year. The staff person will be assigned to UF Health's new Food Pharmacy, as part of its Urban Health Alliance initiative

Volunteers in Medicine – \$25,000

to support its program expanding treatment for the number patients suffering with chronic conditions (diabetes and hypertension), incorporating food as medicine



Who makes discretionary grantmaking decisions

AT THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION?

The Community Foundation has discretionary grantmaking authority over more than **\$1 million each year**, thanks to the generous individuals, families and organizations who entrusted us with unrestricted or field of interest funds.

Our grantmaking process begins with a seasoned staff who review competitive applications and also recommend negotiated grants to eligible nonprofits in our six-county service area. Grants over a certain size are then reviewed and approved by the **Program & Initiatives Committee**, which is made up of current members of our Board of Trustees as well as select community members.

Finally, the full Board of Trustees ratifies the approved grants at its quarterly meeting.



2021 Grants by
The Beaches
Community Fund
at The Community
Foundation
\$167,500

These grants are made possible by the generosity of those who want to improve the lives of individuals and families who have banded together to help make their neighbors' lives more livable. More than 30 families are currently involved with our Beaches Community Fund.

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) – \$50,000
for general operating support. Providing food is a core support program.

Feeding Northeast Florida – \$50,000
to support distribution of food via Beaches nonprofit and faith partners

First Coast Blessings in a Backpack – \$15,000
to provide weekend food for low-income Beaches students

Safe Future Foundation – \$2,500
for mobile food pantries at Portside Mobile Home Community and in Mayport

United Service Organizations, Inc. (the USO) – \$30,000
to enhance the Healthy Military Families Initiative at Mayport USO

We Care Jacksonville, Inc. – \$20,000
to fund a Community Health Worker to complement the Beaches Health & Wellness Collaboration

Our Fundholders used
their Advised Funds
to invest more than
\$228,000
in agencies dedicated
to alleviating hunger



SPOTLIGHT



Opening Our Eyes – a Donor's Perspective

Lauren and Ted Rueger eagerly participated in the 2015 class of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative (WPI), The Community Foundation's incubator for emerging philanthropists. Having not grown up here, the Rueger's embraced the chance to get to know the landscape of giving in Northeast Florida and to explore their philanthropic aspirations.

With three young children, Lauren and Ted want to include them in their philanthropic journey where appropriate. But it's not always easy. They jumped at the chance to participate in a WPI Alumni Family Day at Feeding Northeast Florida a couple of years ago—it opened the door for their kids. And earlier this year, when they were able to be hands-on at the Max Block Food Pantry at Jewish Family and Community Services, the lessons started to hit home.

“

It was hard to try and explain to our kids what it means to give charitably and its importance without something tangible. We are really thankful to The Community Foundation and these organizations that cooperate and coordinate for the work they do and for their willingness to provide the exposure to these issues for our family.

– Ted Rueger

”

At the Max Block Food Pantry, the Rueger children (ages 12, 10 and 7) jumped in to help create and stuff 50 Sacks for Success with food and supplies for students at George Washington Carver Elementary who are struggling with food insecurity.

“It gave us a way to illustrate that some children can't just go to their kitchen and choose a snack,” Lauren said. “They now understand that for some children, it's not about getting their favorite snack—it's about whether they get a snack at all.”

After seeing the work firsthand and the outstanding need, Lauren and Ted made a grant to the Max Block Food Pantry from their Advised Fund—not only to support the vital service it provides, but in appreciation for the memorable afternoon they experienced.



Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Excellence & Conservation – \$20,000



STEP ONE: Getting Food from the Fields into the Hands of the Hungry



Deep in East Palatka, the nonprofit **Center for Sustainable Agriculture Excellence & Conservation (CSAEC)** works out of a packhouse—a facility where they bring in fresh produce, keep it viable, organize/sort it for distribution, and move it to the ‘champions’ they deploy to get to those into the hands of the hungry. This small but mighty organization has successfully partnered with other organizations to fight food insecurity, support small, local farmers, create jobs, and support better health outcomes in communities. CSAEC has a program—‘Florida Blue, Farmers and You’—that has been able to distribute two million pounds of fresh produce to food insecure families across the First Coast since the pandemic began. The food, sourced through small, local farms, was not only critical to recipients, but was also vitally important to small farmers as restaurant and distributor orders dried up during COVID.

We were able to support CSAEC’s multi-faceted impact with a \$20,000 grant to expand their refrigerated storage capacity at their Putnam County packhouse from 200 to 1500 square feet. The improvements mean CSAEC can purchase more produce from small farms, prolong the viability of the incoming food, and increase their distributions to food insecure families.

For more information: csaec.org



“

The \$20k allowed us to add more produce as it gave more secured and cooled storage space. The enclosed and more secure pack house also allowed us to pack for longer, which means we can take in more produce from our fellow farmers. – Angela TenBroeck, CSAEC’s Executive Director (right)

”





Chef Chriss Brown

The Empowered Kitchen – \$5,000



Turning Women's Kitchen Skills into A BETTER LIFE



“

That's what we're looking to do—give opportunities to women that may be out there, but they may not know how to find it.

– Chef Chriss Brown, Founder, The Empowered Kitchen

”



Sweet Soul Catering flourished from The Empowered Kitchen's help.

When you see a stove, a refrigerator and a sink, you may think: Dinner. When Chriss Brown sees them, she thinks: Opportunity.

For more than 15 years, Chriss has been envisioning how to turn women's kitchen skills into a better life.

Following a successful corporate career in restaurants and her own commercial food businesses, she launched **The Empowered Kitchen**, a nonprofit that provides a few determined women with training and mentorship in all aspects of having their own culinary business. Together with her seasoned and well-connected Advisory Board, Chriss walks the mentees through business operations, finance, kitchen operations, technology and marketing over a six-month period. As part of her vision, Chriss wanted her graduates to have some essential tools to enter the business world, and she applied to The Community Foundation for a grant.

The result was The Empowered Kitchen Launch Kit – a backpack with a set of knives, an iPad pre-loaded with financial software, a Square credit card reader and some customized printed items like business cards, a menu and/or an imprinted table cover for events.

“We wanted to give them help financially with the things they're going to need to be successful,” Chriss notes. “And things like business cards and menus let them put something in someone's hand so they remember who you are.”

Women like Tawny Fitzpatrick, who is just starting her Empowered Kitchen journey, have great ideas and skills, but need the support of seasoned professionals.

“I think The Empowered Kitchen will give me a long term, sustaining kind of business model so that I can be independent and successful,” she said.

Graduate Yvette Corbitt loved baking authentic Southern desserts for her family and friends, and got enough positive feedback to think about starting Sweet Soul Catering. With The Empowered Kitchen's help, she learned the ropes and got access to a commercial kitchen.

“My journey really began with The Empowered Kitchen—from getting my license, to working in a commercial kitchen and becoming legitimate,” she said. In May, she launched her business at The Makers Market and sold out of her mouthwatering cakes and cookies on her first day.

Chriss Brown is thrilled to be able to provide the Launch Backpacks to these hard-working women, so they can have a strong start as entrepreneurs.

She is also committed to the change it can bring to her community, noting that 32209, where she is based, is a food desert.

“The nearest grocery store is two bus rides away,” she observes.

“

If we bring these businesses into our community, we're changing lives beyond the women we're helping.

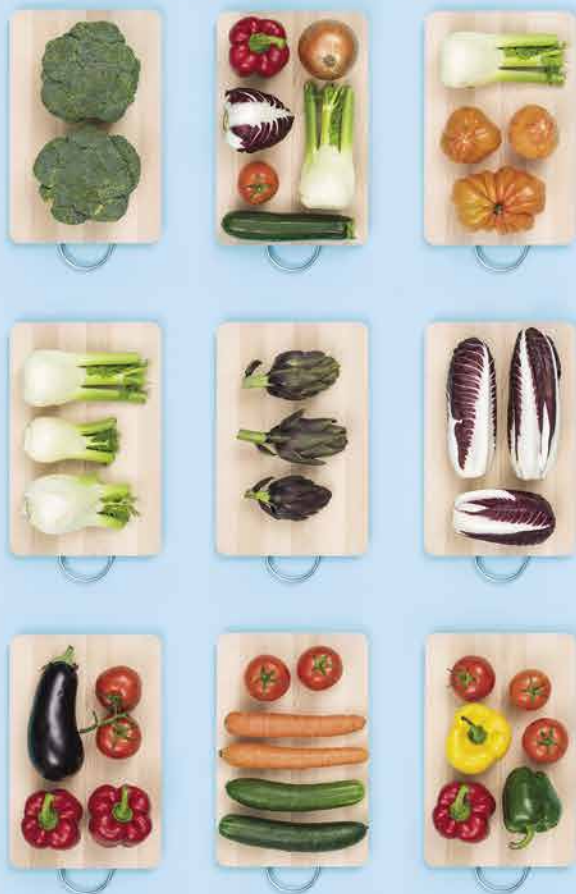
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For more information: theempoweredkitchen.org



FOOD AS MEDICINE

Healthful Eating
Saves Lives



LACK OF FOOD IS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM CONFRONTING MANY OF THOSE WITH LIMITED RESOURCES OR ACCESS.

Often, it's the lack of nutritious food that compromises their health and contributes to chronic disease and death. Obesity, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers are all health risks when proper nutrition is unavailable.

For instance,
one out of every 10 Americans has diagnosed DIABETES,



and **one in three Americans has PREDIABETES,**
although many are unaware they have it.



Good nutrition can counter many of these problems, and patients need help to understand the importance of food and nutrition in managing their illnesses.

This year, we have made grants supporting three different health facilities incorporating food selection and nutritional counseling as part of their treatment of chronic diseases, specifically hypertension and diabetes. Each health organization is at a different stage of their development and our grants will support each in different ways. We are particularly heartened by the fact that they are learning and sharing their approaches and results with one another—which may lead to more collaborative solutions in the future.

1

**Volunteers
in Medicine**

\$25,000



Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) is a free clinic serving the working uninsured (250% of the Federal poverty level.) VIM uses volunteer physicians, specialists, nurses and lay persons to provide patient care and services, and has recently expanded by opening a new satellite clinic on the Westside of Jacksonville. Thirty percent of the residents there have incomes below \$20,000 and they have the highest emergency room utilization rates. Our grant will help offset increased costs for equipment and medical treatment.

VIM has noted an increase in the number of patients with chronic conditions (diabetes/hypertension) and has integrated nutritional and counseling services into their medical approach, providing food, and nutritional and counseling services. VIM is actively engaged with community partners to help their mission – they utilize UNF graduate students for nutrition counseling via tele-health and prescriptions for healthy food and exercise, and work with Feeding Northeast Florida to provide mobile corner markets twice a month.



**GOAL: nutrition counseling and mobile
corner markets 2x/month**



2

Muslim American Social Services (MASS Clinic)

\$25,000

The Muslim American Social Services (MASS Clinic) is a free clinic serving uninsured working poor in Arlington. In conjunction with UNF's Brooks College of Health, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, the MASS Clinic is piloting a new program to incorporate nutrition education and counseling with traditional medical approaches to help individuals achieve better health outcomes through self-management.

Using volunteer physicians, nurses, volunteers and student interns, the program will provide a support system and dietary blueprint for incorporating healthy food with traditional medical approaches. Healthy food will be provided and there will be support groups and incentives for participation and to address barriers to patient participation, similar to a program that was successfully used at UF Health. The MASS Clinic hopes to serve 160 patients over a two-year period and will be doing surveys and medical analysis to evaluate impact.



GOAL: serve 160 patients over 2 years



3

UF Health's Food Pharmacy

\$18,300

Earlier this year, UF Health launched its Food Pharmacy program to provide fresh, wholesome food as a part of a curative approach to chronic disease. Medical professionals there had discovered that many patients didn't have access to healthy foods even though their diets were critical to managing their chronic conditions, like diabetes and hypertension. Now, as part of UF's Urban Health Alliance, the Food Pharmacy is part of certain patients' clinical diagnosis, along with nutrition counseling and food selection. They receive a prescription, and can 'shop' in the Food Pharmacy on site, thanks to a generous three-year grant from Florida Blue Foundation, and gifts from several anonymous donors.

The program is already showing promise: **early results of nutrition counseling showed decreases in sugar levels in 100% of participants.** And the program is projected to serve 320 patients annually.

The Community Foundation stepped in this fall with its own grant to fund an AmeriCorps Fellow who will serve as the 'quarterback' among physicians, dieticians, social service providers and patients. Having an AmeriCorps fellow will provide operational support and continuity to the program, as well as a way to encourage the Fellow's future exploration and interest in public health programming.

GOAL: serve 320 patients annually





THE COMMUNITY
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FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

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A LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

This newsletter highlights a sampling of grants The Community Foundation made to nonprofit organizations helping to address an urgent need in our community: Hunger. But as you read, access to food not only is a primary need necessary to address hunger, but can be used as a medical approach to address chronic health conditions. The health clinics understand this and are forging strong connections with other agencies to better treat their patients. Through our Discretionary grantmaking, we are able to learn more about our community needs and the nonprofit organizations working in important areas and then connect our fundholders for a larger impact to move community solutions forward. With the \$236,000 in grants we made from our Discretionary funds, the \$165,000 from our Beaches Community Fund, and more than \$225,000 contributed by our advised fundholders, The Community Foundation has invested nearly \$635,000 this year to combat hunger and food insecurity.

We often hear from our grantees that the grants we made were great—but the connections we helped to make to other organizations and donors were even more valuable. Grantmaking is more than investing dollars, it's building relationships that will remain important for years to come.

Kathleen Shaw, M.Ed., Vice President, Programs

Giving Back. Giving Forward.



632
FUNDS

\$550.3
MILLION IN ASSETS

\$48.3 MILLION
GRANTS IN 2020

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