It has often been said that the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, and the second-best time is today.

The same holds true for building our LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund.

www.lgbtnefl.org
WHAT IS 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.

Anyone can give to the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida, which is a component fund of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Grantmaking recommendations are made by an Advisory Board of the Fund’s investors and overseen by The Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Established in 2014, the Fund has made grants to local nonprofit organizations, commissioned local research to improve the lives of those in the LGBTQ community and conducted one of the first community-wide surveys of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adults in Northeast Florida.

In 2018, the LGBTQ Community Fund unveiled a new way to support LGBTQ issues in Northeast Florida – the LGBTQ Community Endowment. The Chartrand Family and Delores Barr Weaver each made a $500,000 grant to establish the endowment, which will ensure the future of LGBTQ philanthropy in Northeast Florida.

OUR HISTORY

In 2014, at the request of a small group of committed donors, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida established the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida to focus on philanthropy that would enhance the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning community in Northeast Florida. Led by an Advisory Board, the Fund develops strategy and guides the grantmaking of the Fund to enhance the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning community in Northeast Florida.

The Fund’s success has earned national recognition:

Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a national organization that tracks LGBTQ philanthropy, ranked The Community Foundation fourth in the nation among its peers for funding of LGBTQ issues in 2016, and seventh in the nation in 2017.

OUR MISSION

The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida works to build a community that welcomes and supports all people by:

1. Cultivating and nurturing collaborative philanthropy
2. Investing in organizations that benefit Northeast Florida’s LGBTQ Residents

OUR VALUES

• We value the investment of each donor and work to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
• We respect the courage and vision of all those who seek to bridge differences and create positive change where they live.
• We practice research-based philanthropy.
• We honor those individuals and organizations that work collaboratively with us and with each other to accomplish mutual goals.
• We celebrate communities that treat all people with dignity and recognize the humanity of each individual.

www.lgbtnefl.org
WHO BENEFITS from the LGBTQ Community Fund?

WHY LGBTQ PHILANTHROPY?

The needs are great. The funding sources are few.

For every $100 awarded by U.S. foundations, only $0.28 goes to LGBTQ issues.

In the South, the call for support is even more urgent. We have the largest cohort of LGBTQ residents, the most precarious legal structures and a disturbingly large proportion of LGBTQ Southerners who are under-served and medically at risk.

The Vulnerability of the South

- More than 3 in 10 LGBTQ adults live in the South, making it home to more LGBTQ adults than any other region in the country, but the region only received 3-4% of domestic LGBTQ funding.
- No southern state has statewide non-discrimination policies.¹
- 71% of anti-LGBTQ laws introduced in statehouses across the country in 2017 were introduced in the South.³
- LGBTQ Southerners are disproportionately poor and suffer alarming health disparities.³

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Three quarters—74.5%—of respondents reported that they had experienced everyday discrimination, such as being treated with less courtesy or respect, threatened or harassed in the past 12 months.

Many LGBTQ respondents reported lifetime experiences of major discrimination related to employment:

- One in five respondents—16.8%—reported being denied a job promotion.
- One in five respondents—19.5%—reported being fired unfairly from a job.
- More than one-third—35.9%—reported being passed over for a job for which they were qualified.

LGBTQ respondents also reported major discrimination over their lifetimes in other areas:

- 5.8% reported being unfairly prevented from moving into or buying a house or apartment.
- 10.2% reported being unfairly denied a loan.
- 13.7% reported being unfairly stopped, searched, questioned, physically threatened, or abused by the police.

WHY GIVE NOW?

First, a massive intergenerational transfer of wealth is taking place in the United States, during which trillions of dollars will be distributed through estates. According to Accenture, “Right now more than $12 trillion in financial and non-financial assets is in the process of being shifted from the Greatest Generation—those born in the 1920s and 1930s—to Baby Boomers born between 1946 and 1964. Over the next 30 to 40 years an additional $30 trillion in financial and non-financial assets will pass from Boomers to their heirs in North America alone. At the peak, between 2031 and 2045, 10 percent of total wealth in the United States will be changing hands every five years.”

Second, while the rates of parenthood in the LGBTQ community are growing, most LGBTQ individuals do not have children.¹ We have other people and causes dear to us, but not having children opens up substantially wider charitable gift opportunities.⁴

Third and finally, the first LGBTQ “Stonewall” and “post-Stonewall” generations—many of whose lives have been profoundly shaped by the movement—are reaching the time when they will determine the disposition of their estates. Members of this community will be proud to act in order to preserve and strengthen a community they did so much to create.

Here in Northeast Florida, research commissioned by the LGBTQ Community Fund in 2017 revealed the issues and obstacles faced by nearly 700 LGBTI adults who live, work, pray, play or receive services in our area. The Jacksonville Area Community Assessment was conducted by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law in partnership with a local Community Advisory Board.
WHY GIVE to the LGBTQ Community Fund?

Chances are you already support one or more individual organizations serving the LGBTQ community, and we hope you continue to do so. However, the LGBTQ Community Fund is currently the region’s sole LGBTQ fund dedicated to supporting the whole LGBTQ community. This data-driven Fund plays a pivotal and unique role, and can look more holistically at the issues in Northeast Florida and respond accordingly. Through regular interaction with local LGBTQ organizations and assessment of the evolving needs of the greater LGBTQ community, the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida can direct resources to the LGBTQ individuals, so that they may respond capably and equally to the needs of all constituents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Three Ways To Support the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida

1. Gifts To Support Annual Grantmaking—ANSWERING TODAY’S NEEDS

Thanks to generous donors who contribute annually, the LGBTQ Community Fund is able to make substantial grants each year to LGBTQ-focused agencies like JASMYN, UNF LGBT Center and PFLAG, and mainstream service organizations like ElderSource and the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. We also have a Grassroots Grants Program of up to $1,500 to build capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of small scale efforts within organizations serving the LGBTQ community. In addition, our annual grantmaking extends to supporting selected LGBTQ community events throughout our region.

The annual campaign will continue to be crucial until the LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund generates sufficient earnings to support what we know our nonprofit community needs. So we hope that you will consider making an outright gift to the annual campaign, which will fund our yearly grantmaking for agencies serving our LGBTQ friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.

2. Gifts To The LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund—SECURING OUR FUTURE

Because our LGBTQ community needs a more stable form of long-term funding, the LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund was established. Endowments, by definition, protect the invested principal and only distribute grants from the earnings, thereby ensuring the fund’s existence in perpetuity. Your gift today to the LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund will help to ensure permanent funding for annual grantmaking in Northeast Florida’s LGBTQ community.

Whether you choose to give for annual grantmaking and/or the endowment, we welcome your check, credit card, or shares of appreciated stock in a publicly-traded company, or bonds. We can often accept more complicated gifts, like private stock, real estate, IRA Rollovers, or certain other personal property. Donors are also eligible to become active with the Advisory Board.

3. PLANNED GIFTS

The greatest philanthropic potential—by far—lies in estate gifts, primarily simple bequests included in people’s wills and trusts. Most people’s capacity to give from wealth accumulated over a lifetime far exceeds their capacity to give from current income. A very rewarding and easy way to support the LGBTQ Community Endowment Fund is to leave a planned gift as part of your estate plans. Your gift to the Endowment is a promise to the community that support for the LGBTQ community will be here—forever.

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4. LGBT Family Building Survey www.familyequality.org/fbs

OUR MANDATE IS CLEAR

A window now stands open for us to build the permanent resources we, and those who follow us, will need. This window will not stay open forever, which is why we must act now.

We must plan and provide for our long-term future to ensure the ongoing care and support our community members need and deserve. And we have an unprecedented opportunity to do that now.

Thanks to the Chartrand Family and Delores Barr Weaver, a $1 million LGBTQ endowment 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.

Now it’s up to all of us—members and allies of the LGBTQ Community—to build this endowment so that we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we hold dear, forever.

For more information about the LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida, go to www.lgbtnefl.org or contact Nina Waters at nwaters@jaxcf.org or 904-356-4483.