



VOL.4 | 2018 - 2019

SOCIAL DATEBOOK  
& CHARITY REGISTER





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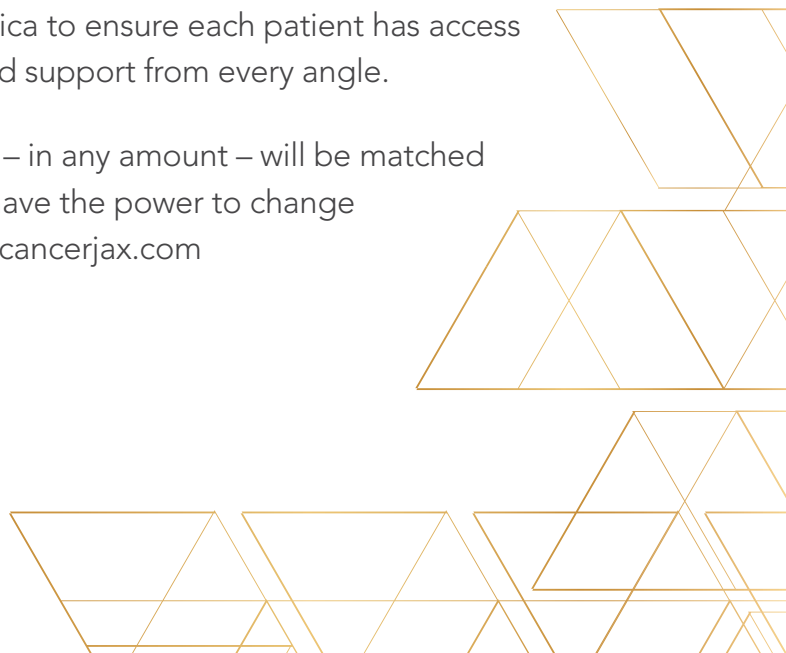


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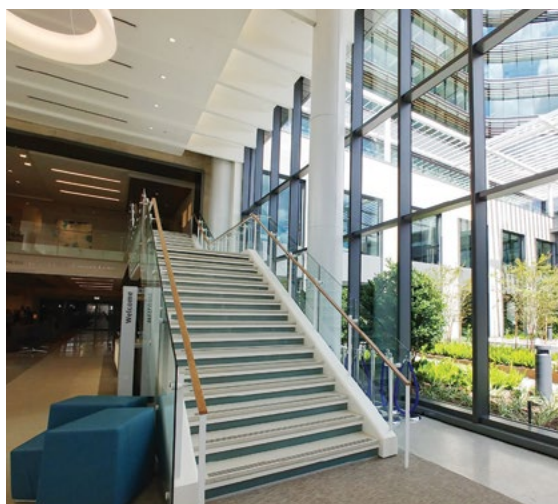




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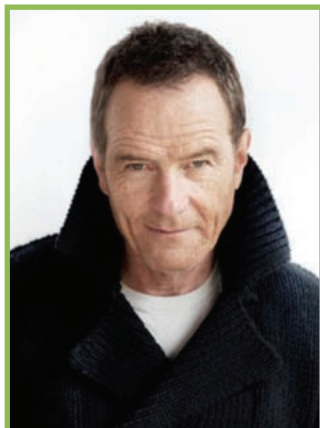
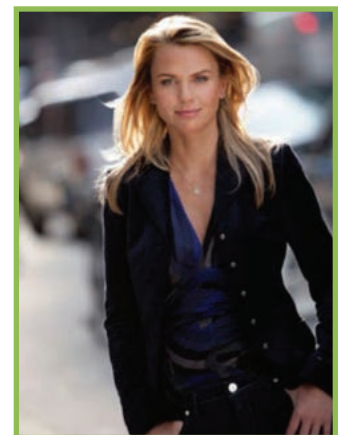
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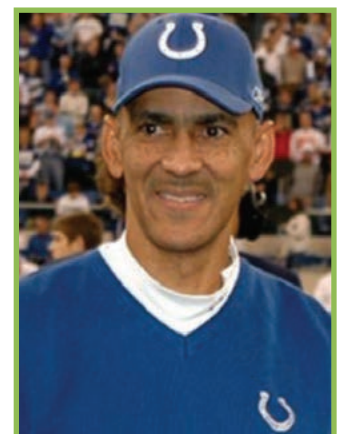
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Thursday, November 29



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Catlin Design and  
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Friday, November 30

Leta Austin Foster  
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# PUBLISHERS' NOTE

## *Inspired.*

It's one word that describes the impulse we feel in the moment when something moves us, the impetus which drives our desire to push harder – to accomplish – to put energy in motion. For some, it's solving problems. For others, contributing to a mission or building something special that didn't exist. All these inspired actions serve a higher purpose, and by nature, unleash creativity.

The first time we imagined the existence of *Circles* – *Social Datebook and Charity Register*, we were moved to deliver on our best intentions, not simply by our longing to achieve and accomplish, but with the goal of delivering a purpose-filled publication for North Florida. Our motivation was to showcase the power of the collective energy done by the nonprofits in our region, reflecting the infectious goodwill that is taking place every day. We know that by sharing these stories and related information, these good works will permeate throughout our community far beyond the printed page.

Reading our story “From Passion to Fruition” (on page 35), we hope you'll gain inspiration and a better understanding of how a few ideas got off the ground, filling voids in the community.

Also, in this issue, our entire staff and contributors drew inspiration from the mission of several nonprofits formed in honor of a lost loved one, as told in “Angels

Among Us” (on page 10). By choosing to memorialize their loved ones through an organization that supports others, family and friends were provided with a sense of calm, reassurance, and love, as well as the means to carry on.

As The Resident Community News Group rolls out the fourth edition of *Circles*, we feel in each of its four editions we have only scratched the surface of what's being done in our city, our region, and in some cases, internationally through missions abroad. Our intention is to deliver stories, create synergy, share ideas, grow campaigns, and broaden awareness about our shared goal to better the experiences of our neighbors in need.

In addition to reading this edition of *Circles*, we invite you to visit [circlescharityregister.com](http://circlescharityregister.com) and encourage you to share with us news of the good works done by your nonprofit organizations so we continue to tell your stories throughout the year. By creating a charity clearinghouse online, it is our hope to share the progress of our community with more frequency.

As always, we extend our sincere gratitude to our advertisers for their continued support of all our publishing endeavors, and we encourage you to be inspired to patronize their businesses, which make a difference in the community and help us deliver this impactful publication.

*Pamela & Seth Williams*





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# Circles

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*Jacksonville's guide to philanthropy  
— the events, people, companies, and  
places that define our charitable city.*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

I've read that when angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings or feel their feathery touch. Instead we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts.

Early in my journalism career, I met three such angels, which I fondly think back on as roadside sentinels. I came across the first on a mountainous Alaskan highway after I'd crashed my Honda into a rock wall while skidding on black ice. The area was desolate. At the time, cell phones didn't exist. The temperature was 35-below, and I shivered bareheaded, fingers numb, surveying the damage. But I wasn't there five minutes before a middle-aged woman in an expensive mink hat and gloves pulled up in a Range Rover. She rolled her window down, offered to drive 10 miles out of her way to find help, and insisted I take her hat and gloves. "How can I return these to you?" I yelled as she drove off. "Pass them along to someone who might need them," she said without looking back.

After that accident, while my Honda was in the shop, I met the second angel, an Anchorage glass store owner. My editor had loaned me his SUV to drive while he vacationed in Hawaii, and I inadvertently broke the back window while attempting to roll it down in sub-zero weather. At 5:25 p.m. Christmas Eve, five minutes before his shop was to close, the kind proprietor agreed to repair the damage. Two hours later, after the dear man was finished and it was time for me to pay, he shrugged his shoulders. "Merry Christmas," he said, refusing to take a dime.

It was nearly a year later, in Connecticut, when I met the third angel. Like the Alaskan lady in mink and the Anchorage storekeeper, she also came to my rescue in the dead of winter.

While heading to the dealership to trade my Honda for a new one, I'd unwisely decided not to fill up the gas tank before giving up the car. As I headed toward the dealership, my gas gauge was well below empty, and with five miles to go, I was forced to leave the highway, my car sputtering down a nearby exit ramp only to die at the bottom.

Almost immediately a salt-encrusted, black sedan pulled up behind me and a woman got out and quickly approached my car. "I saw you from the highway. You're out of gas, right? I have a gas can in my trunk. I'll be right back," she said before I could respond.

Less than 15 minutes passed before she returned. As she poured five gallons of fuel into my tank, I earnestly expressed my gratitude and whipped out my wallet, offering her its meager contents. "Oh, I don't want any money," was all she said. Dumbfounded, I stood watching as she returned to her car, made a U-turn, and drove off in the opposite direction from whence she'd come. It was only after she left that I realized, I hadn't even asked her name.

Clearly, angels walk among us. They visit us in the form of strangers doing random acts of kindness. They are examples of philanthropists at their finest.

In what is our fourth annual edition of *Circles*, we have highlighted eight angelic foundations within Jacksonville's nonprofit community, all born out of tragedy, which in their own way perform blessings to strangers in need. But they are not the only ones. In my mind, all the nonprofit organizations listed in our charity register can be considered angels, due to the generous work they do to uplift and serve our community each day. Although they don't wear wings or halos, the volunteers and donors, who work so tirelessly and generously support these organizations, fit the bill by giving their time, expertise, and treasure. They are truly heaven sent.

This year, as we again celebrate the nonprofit sector in all its forms, we would like to extend an extra special thank you to all our readers and loyal advertisers who make *Circles* and its sister publications possible. In our world, everyone one of you is an angel, too.

*Marcia Hodgson*

Managing Editor, Circles



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*Orsay*





# ANGELS AMONG US

BORN OUT OF TRAGEDY, THESE  
NONPROFITS SERVE AS LASTING  
MEMORIALS BY DOING GOOD

{ BY MARCIA HODGSON }



In the nonprofit world, they are the angels among us, foundations born out of tragedy that bring tremendous blessings to the community.

For many families, choosing to memorialize a deceased family member by establishing a living legacy for good in their name not only helps to assuage grief and rebuild faith, but also ensures their loved one will be forever remembered through good works.

The founders of each of the eight nonprofits profiled never envisioned they would establish lasting charitable organizations within their lifetimes, but after suffering the untimely death of a child, grandchild, parent, or spouse, they felt impelled – perhaps by a higher power – to do something wonderful to keep their loved one's spirit alive, while blessing countless others within the community.

Nick Nicholson, founder of the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation, said setting up the nonprofit was a God thing. “An angel may have been leading me at that time to get involved in something. There was an unfulfilled need here, and maybe the angel was saying, ‘Nick, we need you now.’”

When Gary and Terry Roberts started In River Or Ocean and the annual Clay Roberts Fishing Tournament to honor their son, they did it as a ministry and said they keep God in everything they do. “When we have the Florida fishing tournament, we always say a little prayer – a devotion,” said Gary.

Ryan Backmann, who set up Project: Cold Case after the senseless murder of his father, said his dad would be very proud of the fact his death sparked an organization that is helping other people. “He would be glad to know we were able to do something good out of something so tragic.”

Drew Haramis, who established the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation (Angels for Allison) with her husband and several friends after the death of her 15-year-old daughter said, “One of the greatest gifts we have is in giving to others because, in turn, everybody needs something.”

Losing a child is “brutal and painful,” said Blake Wilson, founder of the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation, whose daughter also was 15 when she died of a rare illness. “Creating the foundation has empowered my family. Our community has rallied around us with love and support and helped us grow the foundation to make an even bigger impact. The lives we’ve been able to touch – both locally and globally – it’s indescribable.”

Losing newborn granddaughter Abbie Martin was the spark that ignited Ellen Cavert to create The Women’s Board as a means of fundraising for Wolfson Children’s Hospital. But instead of being a memorial to Abbie, her deceased sister, Grace Martin Sarber said The Women’s Board celebrates not only her life but many others.



*“Sometimes in tragedy  
we find our life’s purpose  
– the eye sheds a tear to  
find its focus.”*

– ROBERT BRAULT

“Rather than a living memorial to her, I believe The Women’s Board is more of a celebration of the lives of children, the incredible gifts that they are, and the blessings they bring to our community and to the world.”

For Susan and David Caples, who created the Katie Caples Foundation after their 17-year-old daughter was killed in a car accident, the nonprofit is more than a living memorial. “I look at it as Katie gave us a job to do. It’s in her name, but I think of it more as organ awareness. We need to get the message out and keep it going. It’s one of the jobs God has for us. The foundation is one of our life purposes,” Susan said.

After Edward Burr’s wife, Monique, was killed in a tragic car wreck while on their second honeymoon trip, he knew he had to do something that would carry on her passion for protecting children from physical and sexual abuse. “The need to serve was a driving force in starting the foundation,” he said, while son Austin said having the foundation and being able to reach out and take care of all the kids to continue her legacy is really special to the whole family.

“The foundation keeps her spirit alive in our hearts and in our lives,” Austin said, adding he often feels his mother is watching over the foundation and its activities.

## OF ANGELS AND BUTTERFLIES

Just as angels are considered to be guardians, messengers or intermediaries, butterflies are also symbolic of many heavenly things.

In the traditional Chinese and ancient Greek cultures, the butterfly is said to be a symbol of immortality, while the Christian religion sees it as a symbol of resurrection. In the ancient Greek culture, it is also the symbol of the soul and, today, many believe it symbolizes the passing of a loved one. To the Native American, a butterfly is a symbol of change.

Writer, poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou once said, “We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”

While Angelou may have been speaking about personal trials, what she said rings true, too, for these and other foundations which must go through their own changes to evolve from a simple, yet heartfelt desire to memorialize a loved one to making a very real and significant impact in the lives of others.

For those reasons, the butterfly is a beautiful, fitting illustration for “Angels Among Us,” the theme of the 2018-2019 edition of Circles.





# ANGELS FOR ALLISON

BRINGING HOPE TO GRIEVING FAMILIES



If there is a place where angels reside – figuratively and literally – it is in the headquarters of the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, aka Angels for Allison, in the heart of historic Ortega.

Upon entering the small bungalow nestled near Allison's old stomping grounds of St. Mark's Episcopal School and Village Dance, visitors to the nonprofit are immediately uplifted by the joyful countenance of the place. Gabriel-like angels, complete with trumpets and trimmed with eye-catching ribbons, line the walls and dangle from the ceiling, many painted in Lilly Pulitzer pink and green, Allison's favorite colors. Somehow the angels bring Allison's laughing, dancing spirit to the place, a place where she never set foot in life.

"I feel that Allison is here with her joy and with her happiness, and with her kindheartedness," said Allison's mother, Drew Haramis, foundation president. "She is the heart and soul of this place. This is a happy place to be because it's her memory and her spirit here that keeps me going. People who didn't even know Allison can feel it. I just really sense that Allison is here."

Founded by Haramis and her husband, Lee, with the help of close friends Sandi White, Mary Lee Willetts, and Pamela Oates, the foundation is a living legacy to honor the 15-year-old Bolles School student, who was tragically killed in a car accident while coming home from school April 17, 2009.

Known throughout the First Coast as Angels for Allison, the nonprofit is literally regarded by many needy Northeast Florida families as an angel, because it brings them hope by assisting them with funeral expenses when they suffer the loss of a child.

"It's our mission to help others when they lose a child and can't afford it. Most people don't expect to bury a child," said Haramis, with tears in her eyes. "There are no words to describe the pain and the feelings you go through when you have that gift – your child, your gift from God – taken away."

Final expenses are covered by the foundation only after it has been notified through its official referring partners. Referring partners include Wolfson Children's Hospital, Baptist Health, St. Vincent's HealthCare, UF Health NICU and PICU, Orange Park Medical Center, Memorial Hospital PEDS Care, Nemours UF Health Medically Complex Office and the Northeast Florida Association of School Psychologists, according to the foundation's website.

Once a referral is made and accepted, benefits are paid directly to funeral homes, and for at least a year, bereaved families receive information about how to deal with grief as part of the foundation's "Angel Gram" project.

The foundation raises money to pay for funeral expenses through a community-based art program, which for many who have suffered the loss of a

loved one can serve as art therapy. Volunteers, church groups or people with special events, such as bridal showers or birthday parties, can come to the nonprofit to paint angel figures made of metal, which they can buy and take home or donate to the nonprofit to be sold.

"The painting of the angels is incredibly healing. It's like art therapy," said Oates, adding that when Episcopal Head of School Dale Regan was murdered on campus in March 2012, painting angels at the nonprofit provided solace for many Episcopal students.

"The kids were passionate about it. The foundation set aside 100 angels, which the kids painted in Episcopal colors with Dale's name on the wing to put in each classroom. It was then we realized the effects of this place go way beyond Allison's immediate family. It's a ripple effect. It's not just about raising money for families, it's about the people who are involved. People need to participate to heal their own hearts."

In addition to painting angels, supporters also purchase angel notecards designed by elementary school students, as well as hats, drink koozies and limited-edition Lilly Pulitzer scarves, which have been created especially for the foundation. In addition, supportive local businesses throughout Northeast Florida stock the angel wares.

The foundation sponsors 16 elementary school Halos Clubs and 19 Wings Clubs at middle and





high schools, which are overseen by its Student Leadership Council comprised of representatives from Wings schools. Council members organize fundraisers such as Halos dances, to support the foundation. "This organization is giving young people the chance at getting leadership experience in both nonprofit and board work," said Willetts. "I've not seen a model like it in any other organization."

The Festival of Flight, the nonprofit's major fundraiser, started as an Eagle Scout project and has expanded to put as much as \$100,000 into the foundation's coffers. At the beginning of the family-oriented festival, a memorial service is held and the names of every deceased "angel" who has been supported by the foundation, is read aloud. "We feel it is so important for the families to know that their child has been prayed for and remembered," said Haramis.

Since the nonprofit began in 2011, 369 families have been served.

News of Allison's death was devastating, not only to her immediate family but also to the greater Ortega community, said Willetts, noting more than 100 friends and neighbors flocked to the Haramis family's front lawn to provide their support.

In the months that followed, it seemed natural to find some way to give back to the community, and Angels for Allison was born a year later, said

Haramis. "We wanted to do something to keep our daughter's memory alive, and the greatest gift you can give is to help others. Allison loved to do things for other people. Having this foundation be something that reaches out to others in need truly was Allison's spirit, and I think she would be so proud of this foundation."

At first Willetts and Oates believed creating a dance scholarship might be more in keeping with Allison's bubbly personality, but it was Haramis' husband, Lee, who decided the foundation would assist parents coping with the death of a child.

Not long after Allison's death several Ed White High School students were killed in a car accident and their parents were forced to hold bake sales to pay for their funerals, a situation that "rocked" Lee's world, Haramis said. "My husband said, 'If a foundation becomes a reality, we are going to pay for the funerals of kids whose parents can't afford it.' He was adamant about it. He didn't want any parent to go through the pain we went through and then have to worry about paying for a funeral."

Ironically, the idea for Angels for Allison came from Oates, a social acquaintance of Drew, who had never met her daughter.

Formerly a resident of Richmond, Va., where she owned a decorative arts business and made money painting whimsical angel forms, Oates had kept a box of left-over unpainted angels in her Ortega garage after she moved. Although her

husband begged her to throw them away, Oates had hung onto the angels, feeling they were going to be used somehow for a higher purpose.

"I never met Allison; it was Drew who inspired me," recalled Oates, who said she was overwhelmed with compassion and empathy after spotting Haramis at a Christmas function. "I remember thinking 'there is no difference between her and me except that her baby is gone.' I just couldn't take the heartbreak and grief. It was more than a heart could handle," she said.

Having focused on the Book of Acts in a recent Bible study, Oates realized the angels might be part of "God's call" in her life.

"It kept coming to me 'this is what we can do with the angels. I can give them to Drew, and we can have the community paint them to raise money,'" she said. "I called Mary Lee, knowing she was a very close friend of Drew. I told her that when I used to sell the angels, they would fly out the door, no pun intended. I thought it would be a great way to gather the community together – kids, parents and grandparents. We could all come together, paint them, and use the money for whatever Drew wanted to do in Allison's name."

"Pam told me God came to her in a dream and said, 'Those angels are for Allison,' said Haramis. "We hope the funds they raise bring some type of ease to families in their darkest hour."





# IN RIVER OR OCEAN

CLAY ROBERTS' SPIRIT LIVES ON THROUGH  
FISHING TOURNAMENT, SCHOLARSHIPS

*"Years from now, I want everyone to easily remember me and think of good times and wish that they were with me that minute. An all-around good guy wanting to have a good time."*

When Clay Roberts penned these words, he meant to describe himself for a school assignment at Bishop Kenny High School, not to write something that would eventually adorn his gravestone.

Yet the words perfectly encapsulate the essential being of the happy-go-lucky high school senior and Ortega resident, who died March 21, 2007, as the result of a four-story fall sustained while trying to help his friends retrieve some house keys from a Jacksonville Beach condo, two days after his 18th birthday.

Clay's spirit and memory are what his father, Gary Roberts, is trying to preserve through In River or Ocean, a nonprofit named after a portion of Clay's former email address. Roberts set up the foundation as a living memorial, soon after his son's death 11 years ago, with the help of two close friends, Carl Ludwig and Rick Ryals.

"I'm one of those people, I had to do something positive. I think if I didn't, the depression would just destroy me," Roberts said, noting the nonprofit receives most of its funding through the fishing tournament, Fish With Clay, an annual angling event in Jacksonville. Money raised from the tournament helps provide a college scholarship at Bishop Kenny High School in Clay's name, as well as 10 Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute Summer Camp scholarships for children in financial need, and a yearly water-related outing for children and their mentors from the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida.

"The mission of our foundation is to provide education to young people in our community regarding the rational use of our waterways and surrounding habitat. We don't want to be Greenpeace or fish huggers, but we want to be conservationists and advocates for enjoying the waterways we have around us. We started with the fishing tournament to raise money. Clay loved to fish, and people identified him with fishing," Roberts said. "With the Boys & Girls Club events, we are helping kids who have never been on the water to see what Clay saw in it."

In the past, the Boys & Girls Club event was called Pier Pressure, where children were treated to a day of fishing on Jacksonville Beach Pier. During the first Pier Pressure event six years ago, a 5-year-old child took part, having never fished

before, Roberts recalled. "This little kid caught a fish this big," he said, indicating the length. "There he was, kissing the fish and loving it. And wouldn't you know his name was Clay?"

After the lengthy wharf sustained major damage during Hurricane Matthew, the Boys & Girls Club Pier Pressure event became an eco-tour on a river taxi in conjunction with the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "It was a lot of fun. A lot of the kids had never been on a boat before," said Casey Roberts, Clay's younger sister. The group also got to explore Exchange Island, a small island in the river that the city recently refurbished and opened for public use.

For the past 10 years, the foundation funded The Clay Robert's Scholarship at Bishop Kenny consisting of \$1,000 per year for four years. The







scholarship is described by Roberts as “an award of the human spirit.” It is given annually to a senior who has participated on a varsity athletic team, has at least a 2.0 grade-point average, and best reflects Clay’s personality traits and values. Coaches at Bishop Kenny nominate students and forward descriptions of their qualities to the foundation, which makes a blind selection. Names of the candidates are confidential, and the winner is announced at the school’s senior awards banquet.

“Each class at Bishop Kenny has a personality, and the principal told me Clay was the spirit stick of his class,” said Roberts, adding that his son played varsity football for the Crusaders as a running back, wide receiver, and defensive back. “Clay loved his family and his friends. He thought of his friends and others before himself. He had a respect for adults, himself, and his friends. Some would call him a class clown because he loved to make people laugh.

“He was very perceptive,” Roberts continued. “One of his classmates, who is now a coach at the school, described Clay as ‘somebody who had inner vision and the courage to say something about it.’ Clay could see what people were feeling on the inside. Yet, if they were having a great day he would want to be a part of that, too. A school counselor once told us a freshman was having trouble getting into his locker and no one would stop to help. But

Clay stopped, and he didn’t even know him. He was that kind of guy.”

Eventually the foundation would like to expand its reach, said Roberts, noting the nonprofit’s board has been discussing ways to serve handicapped children. “Our main mission is education. We want to impact as many lives as we can and keep growing,” he said, noting his plan is to have the foundation

*“Our main mission is education. We want to impact as many lives as we can and keep growing. Clay was cut short in life, but through the foundation he still has a life. He still has an impact here.”*

— GARY ROBERTS

that celebrates Clay’s spirit continue in perpetuity long after he and his family are gone.

“Clay was cut short in life, but through the foundation he still has a life. He still has an impact here,” said Roberts. “Perhaps it seems somewhat self-serving to be so concerned about his legacy and keeping his memory alive in the community, but then again, his name has been associated with so much good.”





# THE JUDY NICHOLSON KIDNEY CANCER FOUNDATION



PROVIDING A LIFELINE TO KIDNEY  
CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

For patients diagnosed with kidney cancer, becoming acquainted with the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation can be like getting guidance from an angel.

Named for Judy Nicholson, a Watson Realty realtor who died of kidney cancer in October 2009, the foundation was started by Nicholson's family and friends to provide a lifeline to patients, family members and caregivers dealing with the sudden onset of kidney cancer.

The foundation offers kidney cancer patients and their loved ones contact with a network of others suffering from the disease as well as education on medications and treatments, support

groups, and information on clinical trials. It also hosts one-day, free symposiums where prominent oncologists, therapists, and other cancer professionals bring awareness to the community about kidney cancer research, treatments, and trends.

"Some people who come to the hospitals for treatment don't have the foggiest idea of what's going on, and we want to be a resource for them," said Nick Nicholson, Judy Nicholson's widower, noting the foundation is the only one of its kind in the United States.

"We use Judy's name because I love her memory and will never stop loving her, but the foundation is more about helping people that suddenly contract this disease and are dealing with it, because it's a terrible thing. Going through it is beyond words," he said, noting he was married to the love of his life for 47 years. "My gratification is helping people deal with kidney cancer and offering them education and whatever support we can."

Judy, an award-winning realtor with Watson Realty in Ponte Vedra Beach, had no notion she was seriously ill until she experienced a fainting spell in February 2008. The incident frightened her, causing her to head to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, where a CAT scan detected a large tumor in her right kidney.

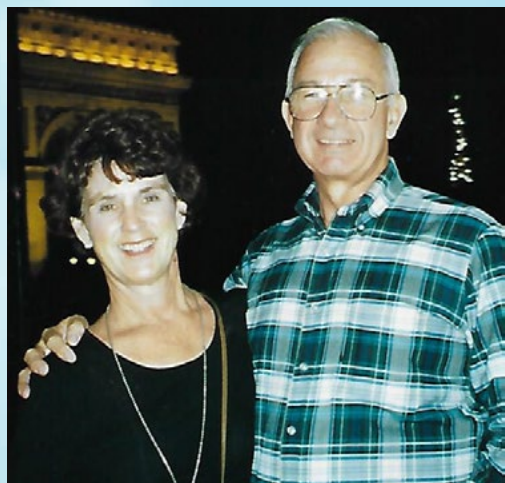
The tumor was promptly removed by surgery in March 2008. But afterwards she was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, which had metastasized

to her lymph nodes, the aorta of her kidney, and to her lungs, said Nicholson. After undergoing chemotherapy, she was readmitted to the Mayo Clinic to remove another aggressive tumor, which had destroyed one of her spinal vertebrae. Although her vertebrae had been replaced with a prosthesis, she was paralyzed on the left side, said Nicholson, adding Judy died in hospice Oct. 11, 2009.

"Judy had no prior indication she had a problem. Before this happened she'd only been to the hospital twice in her life, and that was to have babies," he said, noting her physical in December 2007 came up clear.

"We set up the foundation because through the process of dying and the heartache Judy went through, we realized we were exploring new ground," Nicholson continued. "We didn't know anyone who had kidney cancer. There was no one to talk to, no patient-centric network in Jacksonville. We talked to the doctors, but because of HIPAA regulations they couldn't tell us much. It was so incredibly frustrating as we dealt with the events that happened so quickly and devastatingly," he said, noting Mayo Clinic's cancer support group seemed insufficient because it included patients with breast, uterine, prostate, and colon cancers, which have different symptoms, and use different drugs, and treatments.

Early on, the foundation tried to raise money for early kidney cancer detection and research,







but soon realized whatever funds it raised would only be a “drop in the bucket.” Now it focuses only on patient support, education, and bringing awareness to patients of clinical trials, Nicholson said.

In March 2018, the foundation held a free one-day symposium at the University of North Florida featuring kidney cancer experts from throughout the United States, including Dr. Winston Tan of the Mayo Clinic. Since then, the idea has caught on. The foundation held a similar symposium in Indianapolis in June 2018 and planned to hold others in Philadelphia and Miami later in the year.

“The doctors who were speakers (at UNF) were so impressed they said, ‘We want you to do one of

these in our town,’” said Linda Ostoski, president of the foundation.

With help from the Shepherd Agency, a Southbank marketing firm, the foundation spread awareness about the disease as part of the International Kidney Cancer Coalition on World Kidney Cancer Day, June 21. “Our foundation is deeply involved in bringing awareness of kidney cancer to Jacksonville,” Ostoski said.

In the future, the foundation hopes to open chapters where it hosts symposiums, she said. The organization also uses social media, Facetime, and different technologies to reach beyond Jacksonville and expand its patient support

network. “A lot of people are too ill to go to meetings, so we are testing different avenues,” Ostoski said.

The foundation is also in the primary stages of finding a means to help patients in need from outside Northeast Florida finance travel costs and hotel stays so they can attend clinical trials in Jacksonville, said Nicholson.

To help fund the symposiums, the foundation has applied for grants from major pharmaceutical companies and will hold a golf tournament during Kidney Cancer Month in March 2019 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club.

*“Some people who come to the hospitals for treatment don’t have the foggiest idea of what’s going on, and we want to be a resource for them.”*



— NICK NICHOLSON





# THE KATIE CAPLES FOUNDATION

PROMOTING ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS

In April 1998 Katie Caples became a life-saving angel to five strangers after she sustained severe brain trauma when her Jeep was T-boned by a pick-up truck as she was driving home from a March of Dimes Walk in Jacksonville.

The fatal accident enabled the 17-year-old Bishop Kenny junior to provide five deathly-ill transplant patients with her heart, kidneys, liver, and a lung, and to support many others who received her bones and tissue.

Her sacrifice has inspired thousands of high school and college students who have become aware of the importance of organ donation through the Katie Caples Foundation, which was set up in Katie's memory by her parents after her death.

Key within the foundation's mission is to spread the story of Katie's desire to become an organ donor when she applied for her learner's permit at the Department of Motor Vehicles more than a year before her accident. Because thousands of young people have followed Katie's example and signed on to become donors, the foundation's message has proved to be an angel of mercy for hundreds of patients on transplant waiting lists around the country.

After Katie was life-flighted to Shands Hospital (now UF Health), there were many times during her six-day stay that her parents believed she would recover. Unfortunately, her brain injury proved to be too severe, and when she was declared brain

dead, her parents, David and Susan Caples, decided to remove life support and obey her wish to allow her organs to be harvested.

"There had been times when we actually thought she was going to pull through. But the long and the short of it is that it just wasn't meant to be," said Susan. "What made Kate a candidate for organ transplant was the fact she had been on life support since she came in. Although she had lost her spleen, everything else was still there, and there were viable organs to donate. We ended up doing the full gamut because we knew Kate would be very upset if we didn't donate the bones and tissue, too," she said.

Among the recipients of Katie's organs were a 42-year-old single father (liver), a 9-year-old girl (right kidney), a 30-year-old man (left kidney), a 62-year-old grandmother (right lung), and 17-year-old Chris Markert, who received her heart.

"For most, we did not know their names because in those days people kept their distance, but we did meet the fellow who got Kate's heart," said Susan, adding it was Markert's family who set up their meeting.

"It was wonderful to meet him, and there was a lot of irony there because he was the same age as Kate, and he was from New York and Kate was born in Ithaca, N.Y. His name was Chris and Kate's older brother's name is Chris, so for us there were amazing coincidences with the whole thing," she said.



Katie had been an avid runner on Bishop Kenny's cross country and track teams, and Susan said her "presence and the energy" were evident during the meeting. "Chris said, 'You know, I never ran, but since I got Kate's heart I've started running,'" Susan recalled. "He also said, 'I never have liked sweet tea, but I like it now.' I had read a book that said when you receive tissue from another person you get some of their DNA and some of the traits of that person are carried on," she explained.

Soon after Katie's death, the Caples set up the Katie Caples Foundation and established scholarships in her name at Bishop Kenny and Assumption Catholic School. Each year they hold an invitational cross-country meet at Bishop Kenny to financially support the scholarships.

A few years later it was evident that was not enough, and the Caples decided to expand the foundation's mission to promote an awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation.





"It had to do with our board, which felt there was something bigger we had to do," said Susan. "Tom Shouvin, who is gone now, was the real instrument behind it. He said, 'We've got to be doing something more because Katie would expect more.'"

Since 2005, the foundation has delivered its message to more than 150,000 individuals in Northeast Florida, according to its website. Through partnerships with the Mayo Clinic, University of Florida, UF Health, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and Tax Collector's Office the foundation worked to extend its reach, and in 2014, its educational programming at the high school level extended to 30 Florida counties, increasing the number of organ donors between the ages of 15-18 by 381 percent, according to its website.

The foundation's partnership with LifeQuest, North Florida's organ procurement organization, provided funding for public education coordinators who develop presentations aimed at educating high school students about organ donation. Through this partnership more than 140,000 students in Northeast Florida have been privy to its educational programs, according to the website.

Since 2016, the foundation decided to leave its high school education programs in the hands of LifeQuest, focusing instead on college students through its Campus Challenge at the University of Florida, the University of North Florida, and Edward Waters College, said Susan. However, it has since

expanded the Campus Challenge program to include The Bolles School, Yulee High School, and Fernandina Beach High School.

"We want to get college students involved. They create an education environment on campus at certain times of the year to bring about organ donation awareness," she said. "We saw there was a population there that we were missing, and we wanted to get into the college level because the kids on campus come from all over the world, and many have not been exposed to the need for organ donation."

Funding for the foundation's organ donor registration education programs is derived primarily from its annual Katie Ride, which offers bicyclists of all abilities the opportunity to cycle together over various distances along scenic coastal roadways between Fernandina Beach and Jacksonville. Also included in the event are 5K and 10K walk and fun runs and event organizers are working on creating a virtual ride for indoor riders.

An art auction in September at the Amelia Art Association and a silent auction in December at Sliders Restaurant on Amelia Island are also held to raise funds to support Katie's cause.

Although it only serves Northeast Florida, the Katie Caples Foundation has received national recognition and numerous awards for its contribution to the organ donation-transplant communities. Included among its laurels are the 2015 National Donor Award for Excellence presented

by the United Network for Organ Sharing, the 2015 Communicator Award of Distinction for Non-Profit Video Content presented by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, the 2012 E. William Nash Jr. Community Partner of the Year Award presented annually by the YMCA Florida First Coast, the 2011 James S. Wolf M.D. Courage Award, presented annually by Donate Life America, and the 2005 President's Volunteer Service Award, awarded as part of an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in Washington D.C.

Setting up the foundation has not only helped Katie's grieving family cope with her death, but also many others from the community as well, said Susan, noting the Katie Ride serves as a balm for many who never met her daughter.

"The Katie Ride helps people who have lost a friend because they never got an organ and it also helps people who have received organs and want to give back. Having the foundation opened up a bigger picture for us," Susan said.

"Setting up the foundation and going through this process has helped us to relate to other people going through a similar situation," Susan said. "For me, it's not just about Katie. She left us a job to do and that is to make people more aware of the need to become organ donors. Through our foundation, we're celebrating life, and that's what we should be doing, celebrating life because it's a gift."



# MCKENZIE NOELLE WILSON FOUNDATION

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REALIZE  
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



While a life-sized marble angel graces McKenzie Noelle Wilson's final resting place, the spirit of the compassionate 15-year-old lives on through the foundation that carries her name, nurturing both orphaned children in Africa and the educational endeavors of underserved students in Jacksonville.

When McKenzie, a sophomore at The Bolles School, suddenly passed away after a rare and sudden illness on August 17, 2010, more than 1,800 mourners celebrated her life during a funeral service at Beach United Methodist Church in Jacksonville Beach. Regarded as "the sweetest little angel," by many in the community, her family felt impelled to establish the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation as lasting way honor her and keep her memory alive.

"The desire to keep her legacy and light alive was immediate to all the people who were close

to her," explained Adrian Gibbs, director of the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation. "She was such a compelling young person. So many people were touched, and they all wanted to do something then and there."

It had been McKenzie's dream to someday help orphaned babies in Africa, an aspiration she had shared with her two best friends, Grace Marrese and Sarah Bates. As McKenzie lay dying in her hospital room, family members and many friends, including her two besties, were reluctant to leave her side, said Gibbs. To help comfort the two girls, Grace's mother made a couple of beaded bracelets for them to wear, and when McKenzie passed away, everyone who had waited at the hospital, as well as her friends on the Bolles softball team and cheerleading squad, wanted one of those bracelets, Gibbs said. "The girls would say, 'For the babies in Africa. For McKenzie.' And that's where Liv-N-Grace jewelry was born."

Beaded jewelry became the foundation's first fundraising effort when Marla Marrese and her daughters, Grace and Olivia (Liv), joined McKenzie's mother, Stephanie, in creating more bracelets and selling them to support the foundation. "Liv-N-Grace jewelry was created to help heal while also honoring McKenzie. Each piece of jewelry is handcrafted and unique. One hundred percent of all proceeds go to the foundation," said Blake Wilson, McKenzie's father.

McKenzie's dream of helping African orphans has been realized by the support her foundation has given to the Okoa Refuge Orphanage in Uganda, which was founded by Tyler and Liv Workman, members of the Church of Eleven 22, where the Wilson family worships, said Gibbs.

McKenzie's foundation has built three new dormitories for the orphanage, and, in partnership with the Okoa Refuge, provides medical care, food, shelter, education and love to more than 80 girls, boys, and babies who live at Amaka ga McKenzie (McKenzie's Home in Ugandan), said Wilson. "These facilities provide care consistent of a boys' home, a girls' home, and an abandoned baby home and come with a staff that gives love and care to these orphaned children. The foundation has committed \$250,000 to Okoa's 'Child Sponsorship Fund' over five years, ensuring that no child is turned away," he continued.

"As a family we have traveled to Amaka ga McKenzie. It was so inspiring and encouraging to love on the children living in the orphanage. McKenzie's life completely changed the trajectory of those children's lives. That brings my family so much joy and hope," he said.

The calling card for the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation is its mantra – Caring, Giving, Growing. "Just as McKenzie was committed to caring, giving, and growing, the foundation seeks to embody these three ideas in helping young people realize their full potential," said Wilson,







who as foundation CEO serves with his wife, Stephanie, foundation president.

"The foundation's mission is to help young people recognize their full potential by providing programs that encourage caring for others, giving to those in need, and growing in their own spirituality. McKenzie had a loving and caring spirit, especially for those in need. Everything we do is dedicated to continuing to live out her life and continue her legacy."

Locally, the foundation has set up and fully funded McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers (MARC) to serve students of all ages within two residential communities, Portside Mobile Home Community and Countryside Village. The academic centers are housed in buildings provided rent-free within the subdivisions by community developer RHP Properties, said Gibbs. Presently the MARC facilities serve over 300 at-risk youth by offering academic tutoring, mentoring, and developmental programs for students of all ages.

"The centers build a bridge between the classroom and community by connecting teachers, tutors, mentors, and volunteers to our students," Wilson said. In addition, MARC students can attend Kamp Kenzie, a six-week summer camp that provides enrichment and fun activities, he said.

The foundation's main fundraiser, McKenzie's Run, was initiated three months after her death and boasted a field of more than 4,000 in November

2017. The race begins at TIAA Bank Field and includes a 5K walk/run and 1-mile run. "McKenzie's Run is one of the main ways our foundation works to unite our community, while simultaneously raising support and awareness about the foundation," said Wilson.

As of February 2017, the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation has committed \$1 million over four years to MARC. Through this commitment, the foundation is partnering with Goodwill Industries of North Florida Career Services, which will focus on the operations and resource provisions of the MARC programs. The goal is to have MARC students get better grades, graduate high school, and excel in college or in the vocational opportunities they decide to pursue.

The association with Goodwill includes a partnership with Take Stock in Children Duval, a student mentoring and college scholarship program, as well as its A-STEP program, which is aimed at providing support for adults pursuing sustainable careers.

"I've been personally impacted by the power of mentoring. It was always on my heart to empower others and help them reach their full potential. McKenzie's life and legacy has provided the ground to create something incredibly special," he said.

McKenzie Clubs, for middle and high school students, began at The Bolles School when McKenzie's friends decided to continue her inclination to do

"random acts of kindness," said Gibbs. The concept has grown, and McKenzie Clubs currently exist at Bolles Middle and High School, where McKenzie's younger brother, Oliver, serves as president, Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Stanton College Preparatory School, Providence School, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, and Ponte Vedra High School, said Gibbs.

"McKenzie Clubs unite and mobilize middle and high school students to care for others through volunteerism and charitable involvement," said Wilson, adding that club members participate in foundation activities, host fundraising events on "Teal Day" in March, which is McKenzie's birthday month, help mentor students at MARC, and spread love throughout the community through the foundation's "Random Acts of Kindness" campaign.

"The purpose of our clubs is to spread kindness," said Gibbs, adding the campaign is a way to get students to think outside of themselves and get involved in philanthropy by giving back to the community through acts of service. "That is the heartbeat behind McKenzie Clubs," she said.

Wilson agreed. "The support the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation receives from McKenzie Club students around Jacksonville is incredible. They are what fuels us," he said. "They're what keeps the foundation thriving and exciting. Club members are really what continues to keep the life and legacy of McKenzie alive."





# MONIQUE BURR FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

EDUCATING CHILDREN AND TEENS  
ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE AND BULLYING

Like a guardian angel, the Monique Burr Foundation's main goal is to prevent child abuse and bullying against young children and teenagers in Florida and throughout the United States.

Founded in 1997 by GreenPointe Holdings President and CEO Edward Burr after his wife's tragic death, the Monique Burr Foundation's sole mission is to continue her legacy of child-protection initiatives and child advocacy, particularly sexual-abuse education and prevention.

"Dad started the foundation on the one-year anniversary of my mother's death," said Austin Burr, who was 5 years old when his mother was killed. "Dad gathered up his sister and a couple of other people who were close to my mother and said, 'What can we do to carry on her legacy?' The Monique Burr Foundation (MBF) for Children is what they came up with."

Monique was only 36 when a horrific car accident in Napa, California, instantly took her life and left Burr badly injured with a fractured spine, said Austin. The tragedy occurred during the couple's second honeymoon to commemorate their 10th wedding anniversary.

Although she was young, Monique had already earned a sterling reputation as a compassionate children's advocate, having founded the PALS Center, a nationally recognized nursing and day-care program for sick and disabled children. She



was also renowned for her involvement with the Mayor's Commission for Children and the Children's Crisis Center, which handled all reports of abuse in Northeast Florida.

"When we formed the foundation, our only mission was our desire to carry on Monique's spirit and passion for protecting children, especially those suffering from physical and sexual abuse," recalled Burr. Through her work with PALS and the Children's Crisis Center, Monique had seen first-hand the trauma abused children and crack babies go through, he said, his eyes growing misty. "She helped take care of those young kids. She had a passion for those children, and it was that passion and that spirit that we wanted to continue in the foundation."

At first MBF was a grant-giving nonprofit that not only funded a sexual-abuse prevention program called "Good Touch, Bad Touch" through the Children's Crisis Center, but also after-school and food programs to needy organizations. When the Children's Crisis Center dissolved and there was no organization left to administer "Good Touch, Bad Touch," Burr decided to transform the foundation into an operational nonprofit, so it could administer the "Good Touch, Bad Touch" program itself.

"We thought it was vital that the program be sustained, so we brought it in-house. We became an operating foundation instead of a grant-giving one, and there was a difference. Ultimately, we realized that if we just did child-abuse education, we could do it better than anyone else in the country. Now that's all we do."

"In 2010, we realized the challenges to youth were much different than they used to be," Burr continued, noting it was at that time the foundation hired Lynn Layton as executive director. "The internet had started exposing children to things we weren't used to, so we revamped the program to what it is now – Child Safety Matters and Teen Safety Matters – programs that cover all types of abuse – bullying, cyberbullying, and digital safety."

The Child Safety Matters program is tailored for children from Kindergarten through Grade





5 while Teen Safety Matters teaches the middle school crowd in Grades 6-8.

All MBF prevention education programs are taught by school guidance counselors with the goal to educate and empower students and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to bullying, cyber bullying, all types of child abuse and exploitation, and digital dangers. They are research-based, utilize

prevention research best practices, and were developed *with* schools, not *for* schools, so to make the best use of existing resources and ensure schools have effective programs that are easy to implement.

Since 2010, MBF has trained over 2,600 facilitators who have implemented its prevention education programs to more than two million students in schools throughout Florida and the United States, according to the MBF website.

As the foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary, it is currently developing a program for high school students and recently announced its newest initiative “MBF Athlete Safety Matters,” a research-based, comprehensive abuse-prevention education program for youth sports. The new program for athletes was announced during the foundation’s annual fundraiser, “A Night at Roy’s,” which was held in Jacksonville Beach in May.

Conscious of the recent sexual abuse scandals involving young gymnasts training at Michigan State University, MBF’s newest board member, Olympic gold medalist Shannon Miller, has joined with Donna Orender, former president of WNBA, in spearheading a task force to develop the new education program for athletes.

“We always thought the best way to reach children is through the schools. Almost every child goes to school, and we are reaching 800,000 kids in the state of Florida,” said Burr. “What keeps me up at night is not the 800,000 kids we are reaching, but the millions of kids we are not reaching. If we get into youth athletics, that’s another way to reach millions of kids. Be it swimming, gymnastics, softball, baseball, basketball, dance, football, soccer or cheerleading, almost every child is participating in something. Once we adapt our program to youth sports, it will be limitless in the number of children we can reach.”

*“When we formed the foundation, our only mission was our desire to carry on Monique’s spirit and passion for protecting children, especially those suffering from physical and sexual abuse.”*

— EDWARD BURR







# PROJECT: COLD CASE

OFFERING SOLACE TO SURVIVING  
FAMILIES OF UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



He may not wear a glistening robe or have the feathered wings of an angel, but for many families who are suffering from the unsolved murder of a loved one, Ryan Backmann and his nonprofit, Project: Cold Case, seem heaven-sent.

Established by Backmann three years ago, the organization has the ambitious goal of publicizing as many unsolved homicides from throughout the United States on its website and through social media as it can. It is Backmann's hope that by drawing attention to investigations gone cold, families with murdered loved ones may find comfort and more cases will be solved.



"Our goal is to share the cases and offer support to the families," said Backmann, adding he hopes witnesses will come forward to submit information on the website or give tips, which he passes along to Crime Stoppers or law enforcement. So far, 10 cases showcased on the Project: Cold Case website have come up with arrests.

"There's no other organization out there on our scale that's doing this for unsolved victims," he said.

Although Backmann, a former project manager for an architectural firm, never envisioned running a nonprofit prior to setting up Project: Cold Case, he finds he is uniquely qualified for the work – he is a homicide survivor himself.

Backmann's life changed forever on a Saturday afternoon in October 2009. While he was getting ready to visit friends for an afternoon of watching football, he and his wife, Valerie, were shocked to find detectives at their door with terrible news – an unknown assailant had murdered Backmann's father, Cliff, as he was doing renovation work in a one-story office complex on Bonneville Road.

"My dad just happened to be there by himself," recalled Backmann. "The detectives think someone happened to be walking through the parking lot, saw my dad working by himself, vacuuming up drywall dust. Dad probably didn't notice the guy come in. He put a gun to my dad's back and shot him. The speculation is that he may have startled

my father, who jumped, and the gun went off. The guy took my dad's wallet, but Dad lived long enough to call 9-1-1 and give a description of him before he lost consciousness. Dad basically spent the last seven minutes of his life on the phone with the 9-1-1 operator trying to describe his killer," he said, noting the description did not give detectives much to go on – a black man in a red shirt.

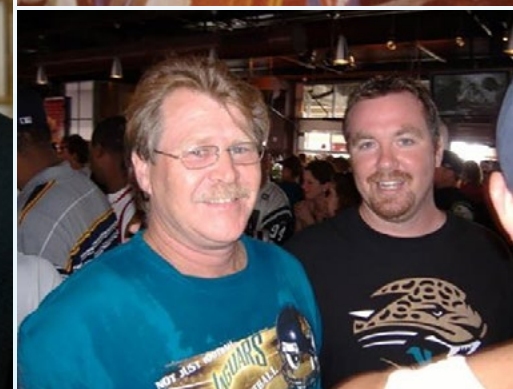
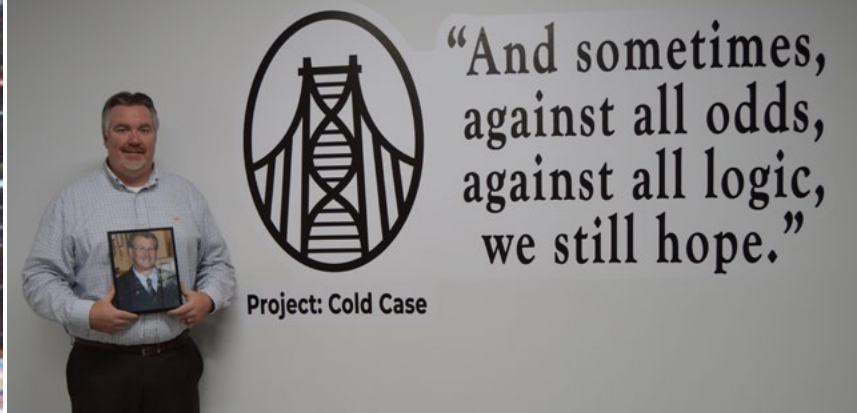
In the months following the murder, the despairing Backmann struggled at work, eventually losing his job. On top of that, seven months later his beloved stepmother, Jane Tuttle, died of cancer, having lost her desire to fight the dreaded disease due to her partner's death. Fortunately, an angel in the form of a nonprofit organization called Compassionate Families, came calling.

Compassionate Families, which has since disbanded, was founded by Glen and Margaret Mitchell after the afterschool murder of their 14-year-old son, Jeff, at Terry Parker High School in 1993. Its mission was to serve the needs of all homicide survivors in Northeast Florida with immediate and long-term support, grief recovery assistance, and life-rebuilding skills through a unique peer-support and counseling program.

By inviting Backmann to its monthly men's-only support group, a Compassionate Families' volunteer changed Backmann's life.

"I knew I needed to talk to somebody," he said, remembering there were three men who had lost





children to homicide in his group. "I was supposed to bury my dad, but not the way I did. All these men had to bury their children, which is way out of balance. I was inspired by them because they had jobs and they were still stewards in the community. Somehow, they had found a way to survive such horrible tragedy. That changed my perspective, and I started volunteering with the organization," he said.

In addition to running support groups, Compassionate Families held vigils, ran day camps for children who are homicide survivors, and served as advocates for families with law enforcement and the State Attorney's office. Soon Backmann was on the nonprofit's payroll, helping other surviving families.

Because Compassionate Families mainly supported families of cases that had arrests, Backmann noticed there was a greater need to focus on cold cases. "I decided if I started an organization, I would narrow it down to just unsolved homicides. The families where arrests had been made have resources. I didn't need to duplicate those services. Nobody was offering resources for people with cold cases," he said, adding that as a Compassionate Families' advocate, he already had many contacts with law enforcement and the State Attorney's office.

Initially self-funded, Backmann started Project: Cold Case in his home while caring for his

four-month-old daughter, Mae. Through making a public records request, talking to law enforcement, and asking Jacksonville families if he could post their loved ones' photos on his website, Project: Cold Case was born. Soon 1,200 cases were listed.

"I didn't have one family say no. You think no one cares and then suddenly someone calls and wants to put your loved one on a website and social media, so it will draw attention to the case," he said.

Soon word got out and families nationwide wanted to submit cases. "I couldn't turn my back on them just because they live somewhere else, but I also can't provide the same resources as I can for somebody who lives in Jacksonville or Florida. But I want them to know that someone cares. I will do that for anybody who needs our services."

In addition to posting murder victim's photos and spotlighting cases on social media and television, the nonprofit assists surviving families by accompanying them to court when an arrest is made, setting up meetings with police, helping survivors to negotiate the maze-like bureaucracy of law enforcement and the court system, offering local and online support groups, and maintaining a cold-case data base with 2,900 unsolved cases nationwide. The data base provides a way for people to submit information about the homicides or provide tips. It also serves a tool for the media and students doing research projects.

"Families don't know who to call or how to go about getting information," he said. "I found out quickly this was a necessary and needed organization."

Project: Cold Case holds two fundraisers per year and is presently soliciting donations so it can fund forensic testing using new DNA technology from Parabon NanLabs to help solve cold cases. "It is unacceptable that a few thousand dollars might be the difference between solving a case and having it remain unsolved," he said.

Although Backmann considers his nonprofit to be a living memorial to his father, his father's name is not on the foundation because its mission is greater than just one case. "I'm cautious about making it about my dad because I feel law enforcement did their best with his investigation. It's not their fault his case isn't solved. If I spent the rest of my life on my dad's case, I don't think that would help me to heal," he said.

Besides helping himself and others heal, Backmann said the driving force behind his work is public safety. "I love what I do. This is my way to give back to the world - to make it a safer place. I tell people, the guy who killed my dad could be in line next to their wife at the grocery store or live next door to their kid's bus stop. That's an unsettling feeling. As long as I'm here, we're going to work toward finding the killers and getting them off the streets to protect everybody."





# THE WOMEN'S BOARD AT WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

RAISING MONEY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF  
CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST

Forty-six years ago, Ellen Cavert's 8-day-old granddaughter Abbie died at Wolfson Children's Hospital because the facility lacked the proper equipment to care for the needs of critically ill newborns. While mourning her loss, Cavert, a highly religious woman, became determined no other family would endure the unspeakable pain of losing a child in this way. Acting on an angel message from her Lord, Cavert recruited 40 women with "heart" to join her in setting up The Women's Board as a fundraising arm of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"While Abbie's life and being have always inspired us, I believe it is the Holy Spirit, God's presence, that has guided my grandmother, The Women's Board, and the work we do," said Grace Martin Sarber, Cavert's granddaughter and sister to Abbie.

"My grandmother's faith was a vital component of her heart for Wolfson Children's Hospital and her passion to help sick and injured children. It was the cornerstone of her founding The Women's Board, and it guided her throughout each day of her leadership. I am quite sure The Women's Board would not exist without my grandmother's deep, abiding faith in and love for her Lord."

It was in 1972 when her daughter, Ray Cavert Martin, was expecting twin girls, that Cavert became acutely aware of Wolfson's great need for a neo-natal intensive care unit. Martin had no inkling that

anything was wrong with her pregnancy until her water broke suddenly, leading to the birth of her babies more than two months early.

For several days it was touch and go as the two newborns struggled to survive at Wolfson Children's Hospital by taking turns on a ventilator designed for an adult. At that time, Wolfson had no neonatal unit and no equipment to support one premature infant, let alone two, Sarber said.

Cavert supported her daughter by dividing her time caring for Martin's two older children Grace, 4, and Charles, 2, and praying for the tiny babies at the hospital. After Abbie died, her surviving twin, Annie, was transported in an incubator in the back of her parent's station wagon to Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

"Even though I was just shy of 5 years old, I remember it vividly," said Sarber. "I was with my mom when she began labor, and I remember her fear, as it was too soon. And then my parents were gone for days. After Abbie died, my mother didn't tell me right away. She waited until she was home, told me, and then ushered me outside to play. I remember sitting down in the driveway and crying, not really knowing how to feel. How could I miss this baby I'd never met? And yet, I did, and I hurt, deeply. I also remember the joy we felt in our home a few months later when baby Annie, whom Daddy called Peanut because she practically fit in his hand,

finally came home," she continued. "The joy of her gave us a reason to celebrate life."

After consulting with Dr. J.W. Hayes, a Wolfson pediatrician now deceased, Cavert was determined to provide tangible support to the hospital charged with caring for so many sick children in Jacksonville. At a time when women often took a backseat to their husbands in business, Cavert hand-picked 40 of her friends and family, who she knew had a heart for children, to form The Women's Board so that every sick child could have access to the best health care possible.

"As Granny said in 1973, 'We don't want this to happen to any other family.' The loss of Abbie has led to the saving of so many children's lives, and it is especially poignant that Abbie's own cousins and nephews have been patients at Wolfson. My son's life was saved by this amazing hospital, and I believe Abbie's legacy helped make that possible. I know God causes all things to work together for good to those who are called according to His purpose. He absolutely has used the tragedy of Abbie's death to bring beauty, for He is the God who brings beauty out of ashes and joy in the morning," Sarber said.

Since it was founded in 1973, The Women's Board has raised more than \$32 million for equipment, programs, and facilities, and has grown to nearly 400 members, who give their time, talent and treasure. This has helped make Wolfson





Children's Hospital one of the highest-ranked pediatric hospitals in the United States, with acclaimed international recognition.

"Granny was very purposeful in her inclusion of other women in the community. Women coming together, supporting each other, and working together toward this common goal was a huge passion for her," said Sarber.

Over the years, The Women's Board continues to be heavily influenced by the way 98-year-old Cavert handled her job as its leader. Its members remain inspired by her "Ellenisms," phrases Cavert used to encourage her volunteers. Cavert's famous sayings include many of Sarber's favorites: "It's not your job to fund, it's your job to simply ask. Ask! Knowing that almost anybody will give money to a sick baby." – "The purpose of service to others is really completion of oneself." – "You can't thank people too many times." – "Don't let anybody steal your joy." – "Do things first class – it's the quality that counts, and it's what they remember." Cavert's motto – "Do everything with the Sweet Spirit." – continues to direct the way the board operates today, Sarber said.

"The Sweet Spirit is a slogan Ellen created when she got her friends together. It's something she wanted them to remember when they were planning an event and raising money," said Executive Director Sally Parsons. "To balance all their different personalities, you need the Sweet Spirit. It's

so they will remember to ask in a sweet spirit that fosters volunteerism, and so they will work together as a team for the common good."

Each year The Women's Board generates more than \$1 million primarily from its two signature fundraisers – The Art & Antiques Show and the Florida Forum speaker's series.

Over the years, the board has funded many different parts of the hospital. Currently it seeks to build a new state-of-the-art, neonatal intensive care unit and has launched a five-year, \$4 million funding target, may total \$10 million once Baptist Health's matching funds are included. "It's the heart of why we began. What happened to Abbie would never happen today. The Women's Board is instrumental in that," Parsons said.

Sarber agreed the board's fundraising has a tremendous impact but sees its mission as much more. "While our fundraising efforts have made an impact on Wolfson, I view The Women's Board's greatest role to be as advocate," she explained. "Our untiring advocacy on behalf of this hospital, its incredible doctors and medical professionals, and the incomparable care they provide has been what has made us different. We are passionate about this mission, we believe we are the voices for the children, and we love to tell others about it," she said. "The bottom line is that, without The Women's Board, Wolfson Children's Hospital would not be

what it is today, and that is quite a lasting legacy to leave to one's community."

To ensure that legacy will continue, The Women's Board has honored Cavert and its 40 founders by establishing the Cavert Legacy Society and Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to support the mission of The Women's Board in perpetuity, and its goal is to raise \$7 million. "The Women's Board is committed to meeting this goal by 2021," said Sarber. A portion of all donations acquired by The Women's Board will be given annually to the endowment until it is fully funded. Donors may also give directly to the endowment, and if they make planned or straight donations of \$25,000 or above, they will be included in the Cavert Legacy Society as well as become members of the Society of 1955, the official legacy society of the Baptist Health Foundation.

Although Abbie is not The Women's Board's official namesake, Sarber said she has always felt Abbie's spirit in its work. "I often ask God to tell her things for me, and, as I have served in leadership roles with The Women's Board, I have in a way felt her presence," she said. "I know her life was not in vain. I believe she is often on her knees before the Throne of Grace interceding for my siblings and me, especially for her twin, Annie, for those who serve at The Women's Board, and for all the precious children at Wolfson."





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# MOVING PHILANTHROPY FORWARD

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S  
WEAVER PHILANTHROPIC  
INITIATIVE PREPARES NEXT  
GENERATION OF NORTHEAST  
FLORIDA PHILANTHROPISTS

{ BY MARCIA HODGSON }





America is currently engaged in the largest wealth transfer in history, and over the next 50 years – between 2007 and 2061 – an estimated \$59 trillion will pass from older to younger generations, with up to half this money being donated to charitable causes, according to Wealth Management.com.

Because Jacksonville's nonprofit community may be on the cusp of a "revolutionary golden age of giving" thanks to new and distinct approaches to philanthropy by the next generation, the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has tailored its educational program, the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative, to ensure a stable of young, dedicated, informed philanthropists will be ready for the future.

"Identifying and nurturing the next generation of philanthropists is crucial if we are going to continue supporting the nonprofit community in years to come," said Delores Barr Weaver, for whom along with her husband, Wayne, the program is named. "This effort not only teaches about philanthropy and exposes them to the nonprofit world, it creates an opportunity for this next generation of givers to work with each other to advance their causes."

Renamed in 2012 to honor the Weavers for the philanthropic leadership they have long provided the Jacksonville community, the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative (WPI) is a six-month long series of learning sessions specific to the local nonprofit sector. During monthly three-hour classes, which normally run between November and May, participants take part in a program where they gain hands-on, grant-making experience while learning about local giving opportunities and the potential of strategic philanthropy. Because the program initiates a "deep dive" into participants' personal values and histories, as well as their extended families' life experiences, many alumni credit the program with completely changing their perspective on philanthropy.

"I knew that giving was the 'right thing' to do, but I am not sure I properly understood the various motivations or forms," said Community Foundation Trustees' Chairman Ryan Schwartz, who has also chaired boards at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. "By challenging me to think deeper and providing a broader understanding of philanthropy, I came to understand its real importance and role in society, the various shapes and how I could go from just a check writer to an active part in the process."

Susanna Barton, communications coordinator with the advancement office at The Bolles School, agreed. "I enjoyed getting to know everyone in our group and being part of a process that I think affected real change in our community," she said.

"Our class looked at ways public schools in Northeast Florida could be more effective, and we decided to provide more platforms for teachers to share what was working well in their classrooms with their peers and with people in the community. As a result, I had the great honor of interviewing many Teacher-of-the-Year winners from around Northeast Florida – sharing their ideas and strategies in a weekly Florida Times-Union series called 'Teachable Moments.' We also got their stories out through a weekly segment with Cyd Hoskinson on WJCT public radio and through a blog at Jacksonville.com," she continued.

"One of the most exciting parts of the project was how our funding support laid the foundation for the annual TEACH conference, which gives local teachers an opportunity to share their teaching practices and methods for the benefit of all and, we think, in turn the entire educational scene in Northeast Florida," Barton said, noting the conference continues to this day with ample corporate support.

## EVOLVING PROGRAM

Since the first WPI sessions were held in 1999, seven cohorts have been held consisting of 86 graduates. The next class to be offered will take place in 2019. The program requires that each participant contribute \$2,500 toward their individual grantmaking, and those funds are matched dollar for dollar by the Community Foundation. With 15 students per cohort, \$75,000 is awarded to nonprofits within the community each year the program is held. Since its inception, more than \$430,000 has been granted by WPI classes to the Jacksonville philanthropic community.

"When the program started in 1999, it was driven by parents and grandparents who knew their children and grandchildren were going to be inheriting money, which they wanted to be philanthropically and charitably put into the community," said Joanne Cohen, vice president of philanthropic services at the Community Foundation, who has overseen the program since 2012.

"They asked the Community Foundation to come up with a program to help teach their children and grandchildren how to practice philanthropy and to help root and ground them in their own values. They wanted to nurture their

*"By challenging me to think deeper and providing a broader understanding of philanthropy, I came to understand its real importance and role in society, the various shapes and how I could go from just a check writer to an active part in the process."*

— RYAN SCHWARTZ





Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2008: Seated, left to right: Ali Korman, Ted Baker, Lindsay Lastinger Riggs, Ryan Schwartz; standing, left to right: Christopher Ball, Chris McCain, Endya Cummings, Sallie Ball Mason, Keli Coughlin, Ashley Smith Juarez, Blythe Duckworth, John Pitocchelli, Jeff Chartrand, Meredith Chartrand Frisch

*“The biggest difference I see between our traditionalists – folks in their 70s, 80s, and 90s – and the generation in their 30s is that the younger folks want to make a difference now. They want to take their work and life experience and bring it to organizations they care deeply about.”*

– JOANNE COHEN

missions and visions for philanthropy and to really teach them best practices as a grant maker and how to do that,” she said.

Today, participants are invited to join the program after being selected through a “recommended nomination process,” which requires Cohen cull through names suggested by the Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees and WPI alumni.

“Ninety-nine percent of the time, the names of the people who are brought to my attention don’t even know someone had brought their name to my attention,” Cohen explained, noting in addition to children, grandchildren and neighbors, alumni often want to get their friends in the program.

“The average person in our program has already demonstrated the ways they are engaging themselves in our community. We invite people from all over the spectrum,” she continued. “We have folks in the class that I consider inheritors, but not necessarily of the one percent. We also have people who are wealth generators, entrepreneurs who make a nice living and some nice differences in our community. And we have a whole cadre of community stewards – community pied pipers – who are people in the nonprofit sector that make a difference by giving their time, talents, and connections to better the community. The younger generation wants to bring their friends to lots of things, and they get invited to things by their friends. Much of that synergy can be philanthropically driven,” she said.

“At the time, I don’t think I realized what an honor it was – I was just elated to connect with The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, an organization I’d long respected,” said Barton, about being invited into the program. “I love to learn new things, so I was excited to be in the class.”

## GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES

Because the world has changed greatly since WPI was founded, the program has evolved to better meet the needs of the next generation. “Philanthropy is very personal and there isn’t a right way or a wrong way to be philanthropic, but there might be a better or smarter way,” said Cohen. Although there are always exceptions, in general, millennials tend to approach philanthropy differently than their parents and grandparents have, she said.

Speaking in general terms, Cohen said the older generation of donors tend to be more concerned about legacy. “It’s about the causes they have cared about their whole lives as well as the legacy they are leaving for their families and how their families will create and continue their own philanthropic legacies. For every family that’s different.

“The interesting thing about the term ‘next generation’ is that both a 60-year-old and a 20-year-old could be next generation, because today parents can live long and well,” she said, adding, in some cases, families have five “next generations” sitting around the table trying to make philanthropic decisions.

“The biggest difference I see between our traditionalists – folks in their 70s, 80s, and 90s – and the generation in their 30s is that the younger folks want to make a difference now,” she said. “They want to take their work and life experience and bring it to organizations they care deeply about. Younger generations offer more time and talent because they don’t have as much treasure to offer, and often they are not in a position to be a decisionmaker over that treasure.

“The other thing we tend to see with the younger generation is that they want to be more hands on,” she continued. “They want to visit the nonprofit and meet the people who are receiving the services or are engaged in the program. They might take a recommendation from an older family member, but they are not going to just do it automatically.”

## MONEY NOT THE ONLY CONSIDERATION

Because there are more important aspects involved with personal giving to be considered, finances are discussed at the end of the WPI program, said Cohen.

“We start with what are you inheriting, and it’s not just about money,” she said. “It’s what are you inheriting in terms of values, mission, and experiences from parents and grandparents. What is your commitment to giving back to the community? What do you offer to our community in terms of your expertise, time, financial contributions? What are the best ways for you at this point in your life to do that?

“We take them through some exercises, so they can learn more about the community,” she continued. “Even folks who grew up here – those who went away to school and came back – have lots of questions about what’s happening in public education, the arts, and with all the environmental concerns, interests, and challenges with the river and its tributaries and, of course, downtown.”

Community experts are often invited to speak to the group, she said. “We go over how to be a smart donor, how to ask questions, what questions to ask, and how to visit a nonprofit, visualize its work, and to experience the work first hand.”

Schwartz said an onsite visit to a nonprofit during the program was especially meaningful in helping him determine which nonprofits to support.



Before attending the program, “my charity – like so many other people – was focused on basic needs and youth-serving organizations,” he said. “Through the program, I came to embrace the various ‘traditions’ of philanthropy as we like to call them and now understand about giving that can impact betterment of society or be a catalyst for social change and the fact that this type of giving doesn’t have to be mutually exclusive with the causes that pull so deeply at our heartstrings.

“As part of the program, I toured a very small nonprofit focused on early childhood education for those with such severe physical challenges that they are unable to receive educational services in a traditional setting,” Schwartz continued. “You likely haven’t heard of their work. They operate on a shoestring and with a grassroots approach. They don’t have a gala. Their newsletter is hand assembled. Yet, they have a tremendous impact on the children and families they serve. I guess it was a fine reminder not to judge a book by its cover. Because of the WPI program, I know what to look for in the organizations I support and that has opened my philanthropy to areas I would have never discovered otherwise.”

In contrast, Barton said taking a collective approach to philanthropy is what she gleaned most from her experience.

“Hands down, the biggest lesson I learned is that philanthropy is most effective when resources and funding sources are applied collectively. A gift makes a much bigger difference when more than one person is motivated by the mission – either financially or through the sharing of their expertise. Everyone in our group gave a modest sum to our two-year project, but together it was a lot of money! And once we were finished, it was incredible to see how much bigger and more meaningful the work became with the addition of corporate support and other funding,” she said.

“I am on the board of a small, very specific and personal foundation that supports the education of Afghan women and honors a dear friend who died,” she continued. “The class taught me about smart ways to give and provided our tiny little board new ways to think about the foundation’s future and with whom we might partner to make a bigger impact.

“While I was taking the class, I also was very involved with our church vestry and used some of what I learned to help shape church giving and encourage others in the more delicate areas of church philanthropy,” Barton said. “Through the class and other experiences during that time, I learned that giving is an essential part of progress and organizations depend on it at very fundamental levels. Gifts, no matter the size, articulate your support of something that’s meaningful. So, when in doubt, give! And when you want to stir big change, join others!”

*“A gift makes a much bigger difference when more than one person is motivated by the mission – either financially or through the sharing of their expertise.”*

–SUSANNA BARTON

## BUILDING A PEER NETWORK

The WPI program seeks to build a “peer philanthropic network,” within each cohort, said Cohen, adding the Community Foundation has recently launched a WPI alumni network. “We’re really trying to build within each class a cohort of peers, so they can count upon each other for the rest of their lives,” she said.

Schwartz said alumni networking has helped him in his philanthropic endeavors. “I know I can count on the people I’ve met through the program to be partners in my giving and fundraising journey,” he said. “The program inspires me to know there are so many emerging leaders in philanthropy. We are used to seeing the names of the ‘greats’ on the various walls and rosters of donors, but it is rewarding to know there is a group who will help continue their monumental work.”

A member of the 2015 class, Annie Bryan agreed. “The program was an excellent opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of people involved in different sectors and with different philanthropic goals,” she said. “Participating in the program also helped me professionally as a program officer for the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations as we’ve launched new philanthropic priority funding areas with our trustees.”

Like Bryan, Susanna Barton said networking with program alumni has helped her professionally. “This class provided me with a wonderful new lens to consider some of the messaging and communications work I help with every day,” she said.

## PHILANTHROPY IS PERSONAL

In the years before Cohen took over as coordinator, the program ran at least a year or more and grantmaking of a single \$75,000 award was a collective decision. After listening to a host of alumni, Cohen decided to shorten the program to six months and work with each participant individually as they decided how to bestow their individual \$5,000 contribution.



Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2017: Back row: Marshall Hill, Glenn Miller, Doug Tutwiler, Blair Sherman, Dan Foley. Front row: Jason Spencer, Alison Trager, Brent Trager, Kirsten Martino and Ben Setzer





"Philanthropy is personal and sometimes group dynamics take over individual preference, so now we do individual grantmaking," Cohen said. "Sometimes, people want to make two \$2,500 grants over the course of the program, but it is totally donor driven."

"When you have the opportunity to be 100 percent in control of your experience, it changes your experience," she continued. "It also reinforces the fact that most gifts in our community are small ones. Yes, there are individuals in our community that can make million-dollar gifts, but most people tend not to do that. Small gifts are just as important."

Understanding the concept that philanthropy is personal hit home with Bryan. "I learned to say 'no' quickly to opportunities that do not

align with my philanthropic priorities, so I can say 'yes' enthusiastically and without reservation to being involved in organizations or projects that further my goals," she said.

"Another tangible trick I learned was to set aside a specific amount of money each year as a 'friend fund.' I can draw on this amount any time a friend asks for financial support for a project that doesn't necessarily fit with my giving goals but that I want to be involved with to support the friend."

"Before the program, I often gave financially to events or causes when I was asked, regardless of the mission or how the organization's work fit into my interests," Bryan continued. "After completing WPI, I focused more on volunteering my time with the organizations that fit into the larger picture of my philanthropy. My giving is more strategic now as well, and I'm more deeply engaged in the programs and organizations that align with my overall philanthropic goals," she said.

In following the progress of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative, Weaver indicated she and her husband might have benefited from being in such a program when they were younger.

"We really learned as we went along. There were probably a number of times early on when we certainly would have benefited from having a strong framework for understanding and executing our charitable giving. It is always helpful to begin with the heart!" she said, adding she and her husband have enjoyed meeting with different WPI classes on several occasions.

"Those WPI participants are passionate about their causes and are excited about finding ways to be involved in the causes they care about," she said. "We've both come away from those interactions with the strong impression that the future is in good hands."



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# FROM PASSION TO *Fruition*



## NURTURING A NONPROFIT FROM THE GROUND UP

BY MARCIA HODGSON

**F**ormer Minor League Pitcher Dennis Bair freely admits he had no idea what he was doing 21 years ago when he began to work on establishing the BairFind Foundation, a nonprofit that helps locate and bring home missing children by posting their photos on signs in Minor League baseball stadiums and NBA basketball arenas throughout the United States.

When Bair got the idea for his nonprofit after watching a television documentary on missing children, he soon realized baseball stadiums would be the perfect venue to bring the faces of missing kids before the public. Ultimately, he decided to make



Dennis Bair of BairFind Foundation

it his life's work to assist families in bringing their children home.

"It was such a no-brainer. Thousands of people were in the stadiums every night and signs were not there. I

thought, 'someone needs to put those signs in the stadium,' and that someone was me," he said. On track to play Major League baseball for the Chicago Cubs, he thought, after signing a contract for millions, he would simply go the commissioner, insist signs be placed in every stadium, and write a big check to cover the cost.

Unfortunately, a shoulder injury dashed his hopes of playing Major League baseball but not his plan to find a way to post the signs in sports arenas. After his doctor mentioned the best way to accomplish his quest was to establish a nonprofit, Bair, who was "broke," discovered setting up a charity was not easy.

"It took me a while to learn how to do it because I was a baseball player, and I didn't even know what a nonprofit was. The world of nonprofits is shrouded in mystery in the mind of the public. A lot of people really don't know what a nonprofit is or how it operates," he said, noting he had been falsely instructed he would need \$10,000 to \$15,000 to do the paperwork and apply.

"It took me many years to formulate the idea for my nonprofit and be able to get the money and wherewithal to establish the foundation properly, so I would be awarded 501(c)(3) status. This has been a real-life



education for me because I was one of those people who had no idea.”

For people like Bair who have a great idea for a nonprofit but no clue how to start one, there are three organizations in Northeast Florida where they can seek advice – The Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at University of North Florida, and the Jacksonville Public Library, which has a grants database at eight locations as well as an online foundation directory that features a video with the steps to create a nonprofit, according to the reference librarian at the Jacksonville Public Library.

The Nonprofit Center, which is considered the voice and advocate of the sector, holds “How to Start a Nonprofit” training classes four times a year, which are sponsored by the law firm of Holland & Knight. The classes run two-and-a-half hours and a fee of \$50 is charged for the materials, said former Program Director Amanda McDermott.

SBDC, which is part of the United States Small Business Administration, has a large outpost at UNF and provides nonprofit start-up classes quarterly as well as technical and managerial assistance for small businesses and nonprofits in Northeast Florida at no charge. This is where Bair headed for advice after moving to Jacksonville from Pittsburgh four years ago.

“I received 501(c)(3) approval in 2010, long before I came to Jacksonville, but I needed help actually developing my nonprofit,” Bair said, adding he sought advice from Kevin Monahan, nonprofit specialist at SBDC.

“We see ourselves as an educational and consultative piece to the nonprofit sector,” explained Monahan. “We have nonprofit expertise and can see people in one-hour blocks to provide free advice and technical assistance forever if they need us. Our most important thing is to teach people how to run their nonprofit as a business, so that it is indeed profitable and able to be sustainable by itself.”

## RESEARCHING SECTOR IS ESSENTIAL

Before submitting the paperwork to apply for 501(c)(3) status, there are several steps to take to assist in the success of your new nonprofit, said McDermott. To begin with, budding founders should have a firm understanding of what a nonprofit is as well as a working knowledge of the local nonprofit sector, she said. “We usually start our classes answering the questions, ‘What is a nonprofit?’ and ‘What does the sector look like in Northeast Florida?’ We also discuss how the recession hurt nonprofits here and how many donors were lost in the

community, so people will know the sector has been through some challenging times as far as fundraising and its growth.”

Creating a clear and concise mission statement and branding the mission is also vital. Researching the market early is essential to ensure the new nonprofit’s mission is not already serviced by an existing nonprofit.

“You need to look at the area and see how many other organizations in Northeast Florida are doing the same kind of thing,” McDermott said. “You don’t want to duplicate efforts but may want to instead support existing organizations. However, if you find a gap or see that an organization can’t accomplish a certain program as well as your charity, then that’s where you fit and what your mission can be.”

Monahan agreed. “You don’t need to replicate the mission if it’s already being done. The first thing I do when someone comes in is play devil’s advocate because maybe that person would be better served by volunteering at an established firm than by starting one of their own,” he said. “The funding pie is only so big and shrinking – whether it is for helping foster kids or saving seagulls – and we don’t necessarily need another player on the field unless it can be shown that the new organization can make a difference and differentiate its mission from all the others. Money is not going to pour in just because you care about something.”

Gwen Gallagher-Howard filled such a niche when she created Helping WIN (Women In Need) to bridge the gap between the everyday needs of women struggling to escape poverty and the social services available to them from traditional nonprofits, most of which have limited ability to provide emergency cash assistance. Helping WIN partners with established organizations such as Rethreaded, the Adoption Authority, and YoungLives, by offering their existing clients, who are in temporary crisis, microgrants up to \$1,000 in the areas of housing, utilities, transportation, employment and education.

“My goal is to give women a helping hand, up and out of their situation,” she said. “We’re there to help them get on their feet and enable them to stay

safe and stable while they work with the referring agency’s programming.”

Prior to starting up Helping WIN, Gallagher-Howard worked as a volunteer for more than 20 years assisting nonprofits that aid impoverished women. Before attaining 501(c)(3) status, she spent at least six months researching and talking with friends and acquaintances she knew in the nonprofit sector.

“I asked them every question I could think of, such as ‘What services do you provide?’ and ‘How do you provide them logistically?’ I gathered information and found that, by and large, people are incredibly open and helpful. Everyone was happy to talk to me and gave me advice about the mistakes they made when they began their organizations. This helped me formulate a plan of action,” she said.

## FORMING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After formulating a mission and researching the nonprofit sector, an essential next step in establishing a viable charitable organization is recruiting its board of directors. Legally, nonprofits must have a minimum of three board members, but five to seven is ideal, said Monahan. It is beneficial that each board member be savvy with different kinds of expertise, and work in the community as ambassadors of the mission.

Board members have four duties to consider – the duty of obedience to the nonprofit’s mission; duty of care in financial matters; duty of loyalty, which speaks to conflict of interest; and the duty of transparency, which deals with addressing financial matters honestly and openly, said McDermott. When writing their bylaws, nonprofits must document how they will handle conflicts of interest if they come up, she said.

The best board members are people who embody the four Ts – Time, Talent, Treasure and Tribe (good connections within the community), Monahan said, noting when Bair first came to him for advice, he had none of these things.

To help connect Bair with the community, Monahan introduced him to Ellen Sullivan, a member of



Gwen Gallagher-Howard served as a mentor for teenage mothers with Young Lives prior to establishing her nonprofit, Helping WIN.





Kevin  
Monahan

the Jax Chamber who had a long-time affiliation with the nonprofit sector. “Ellen was transitioning from business ownership. I knew she had a heart and would be touched by his mission. He didn’t know anyone, and she knew everyone. I got them together and watched the magic happen.”

In selecting board members, it is important to choose people you trust and can trust you, Bair advised. “You need people who have expertise that is going to help you and that you are unable to pay for,” he said, noting if you don’t know any lawyers or accountants, there are people at corporations you can contact who may want to enhance their resumes for promotion. “If you can, it’s good to get someone who can offer their professional services for free,” he said.

When selecting Helping WIN’s board of directors, Gallagher-Howard recruited members with strong backgrounds in foundation work, donor demographics, legal expertise, fundraising, knowledge of the poverty sector, operating small businesses, or from her partner agencies.

“Basically, I selected people with strengths to fill the gaps in my abilities,” she said. “I found it to be key to have regular board meetings and to have everyone bring their life experiences to the table,” she said.

## RAISING MONEY

There is not much difference between a for-profit business and a nonprofit, except when it comes to money. For-profit companies are generally founded to generate profits for owners and income for their employees, while nonprofits are publicly owned with the purpose to serve humanitarian or environmental needs. Yet, both entities should be profitable, with nonprofits recycling the proceeds from their work back into their mission and activities.

“It is a business, and I think you do your donors and your clients a disservice if you don’t recognize that and run it as a business,” said Gallagher-Howard. “The first time a donor other than my husband or myself gave money to Helping WIN, I felt an enormous responsibility in that moment. An outside person had just said ‘I believe in your mission, and I believe in your ability to enact that mission in a responsible way. I’m going to trust you with my

money to do good with it.’ That was a huge responsibility. After our first fundraiser, we had only a handful of donors, but I feel that way about every single one of them.”

When it comes to making money, organizations in the for-profit sector either sell a product or offer a service while nonprofits have many more options, said Monahan.

“There are nine ways to make money in the nonprofit world – grants, sponsorships, discretionary donors (the affluent), self-generated money (such as a nonprofit running a custodial business), in-kind contributions, endowments, legacies, investments, and regular fundraising such as capital campaigns, golf tournaments and galas,” he said, noting that endowments, legacies, and investments offer long-term income streams, while the five other options can be considered from Day 1.

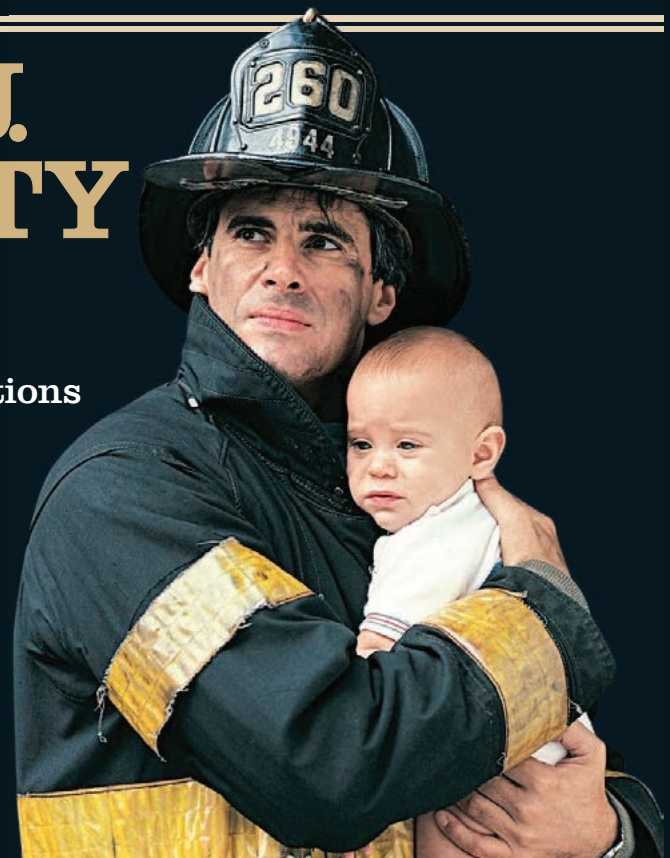
Because accruing funding can be difficult, it is important to have realistic expectations when you get

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started, said McDermott. Like a business, it is essential to budget, develop fundraising goals and a business plan.

"Please don't think that by starting a nonprofit you can immediately go and get a \$100,000 grant. That's just not going to happen," she said. "You need to be focused on peer-to-peer relationships and go about building your network of one-on-one donors who can come alongside you and support you in the beginning. As time goes on, and you can prove you've been successful in your work, then that's when you apply for some grants."

Finding money is always easier closer to home, said Monahan. "You need to get to know the people in your own community. That's where something good happens and is the most effective use of your time and money. If you are the executive director, you can multiply your market penetration by making your board into ambassadors. You don't ask them for money, you ask them to show enthusiasm for your mission," he said.

"There are so many missions, good missions, that are competing with each other, so you can't whisper about it, you have to yell from the treetops. You need to find board members with big mouths," he said.

Private donors, and 50/50 raffles, conducted by the Minor League teams at the stadiums where the missing children's photos are displayed, are ways Bair has generated income for BairFind. He has also benefited from in-kind donations such as free office space in a friend's law firm and donated database technology. "I'm not only the founder but also the guy who runs the vacuum cleaner," he joked, noting, as BairFind's only full-time employee, he receives a small stipend.

Although Monahan has cautioned him "you can't ignore grants," Bair, who has in the past had several grant applications denied, nixes the thought of seeking money that way.

"Everybody's told me I need to apply for grants and corporate dollars, but, if I could go back and talk to myself

in 2010, I would say, take that advice, roll it up in a ball, and throw it over a cliff," he said.

"Grants and corporate dollars will give you a small check that will take you away from your mission. Corporations are more interested in having you open your network to their salespeople or help them find customers. Save your energy. Don't apply for grants or corporate money right away. You will be battling it out with 1,000 other people for only 10 percent of the pie. It's better to devote energy to meeting individual people. Tell them your story, eventually you will meet that person who will champion your cause by writing a check and will encourage two or three of their friends to do the same thing," Bair said.

Although Gallagher-Howard hasn't ruled out grants, she said she has no intention of applying for them this early in the game.

"One of the things I learned early in my research that surprised me is a lot of grants have strenuous reporting requirements," she said. "If you

make it through the application process and are awarded a grant, the reporting and data mining can become a burden on you. You can get so bogged down writing grants and reporting that you bury yourself and can no longer do mission-appropriate work. It can be a poor return on investment of your time."

As far as fundraising goes, Gallagher-Howard prefers to host a cocktail party for 30 of her friends to introduce Helping WIN and seek donations. "I usually ask some close friends who might be supportive out of friendship and some others who have been interested in poverty philanthropy in the past," she said.

## CONQUERING FORMS

Perhaps the most intimidating part of setting up a nonprofit is dealing with the paperwork required by the federal government and the state to obtain 501(c)(3) status.

Because he was told it would cost at least \$5,000 to \$15,000 to pay for



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legal and accounting fees to apply for 501(c)(3) status, Bair spent nearly 13 years spinning his wheels until he discovered a nonprofit online with a template that would take care of the paperwork within eight weeks for a mere \$500 and a \$50 filing fee.

"All that time I had been told it would take me around \$10,000 and a year and a half to get my 501(c)(3) determination letter, and it ended up only taking \$500 and three weeks," he said.

Included among the documents to qualify as a 501(c)(3) are Articles of Incorporation with the State of Florida (approximately \$80); the Employee Identification Number (EIN), the IRS 1023 long form (averages \$600), which is based on the organization's budget and size, bylaws, and a conflict-of-interest statement. After filing the 1023 form, the Florida Solicitation of Contribution application must be filed at a cost between \$0 and \$400, which notifies the state the organization will solicit donations, said McDermott.

It is also important to put in a dissolution clause in your Articles of Incorporation stating when operations cease the nonprofit's assets will be passed along to another nonprofit, she said. "You don't get to bring them home with you."

Because the IRS 1023 form can take as long as 103 hours to complete, McDermott suggests fledgling nonprofits that receive donations under \$50,000 over the first three years submit the simpler 1023EZ form. Filling it out takes approximately 19 hours but the EZ form cannot be used if the nonprofit receives a \$100,000 donation its first year, she said.

"If you have a friend who is a lawyer or has that background to help you file the papers, that's great, but it definitely is not required," said McDermott. Monahan agreed. "There are a lot of people who charge for this," he said, adding although he can show his clients how to do it themselves, saving them money, he can't do it for them, because he's not a lawyer.

Once all the paperwork is filed with the IRS it normally takes up to six months to be approved. However, new nonprofits do not need to wait in limbo. Usually within two weeks they are granted a letter of receipt that says

they can do business in the meantime, unless they hear otherwise, he said.

Nonprofits doing business in Duval County also need to get a business tax receipt, which is also known as a business license, Monahan said, noting the paperwork doesn't end there. To raise funds, the county and the state also need to issue a permit, unless you hire a fundraiser who already has one.

Fledgling nonprofits can go to another nonprofit and ask for fiscal sponsorship, to utilize their administrative capability, said Monahan. He also recommends branding their mission, advertising, and being a presence on social media. Affiliations with the Nonprofit Center or the Jax Chamber can also be helpful depending on a charity's membership and what it is trying to do.

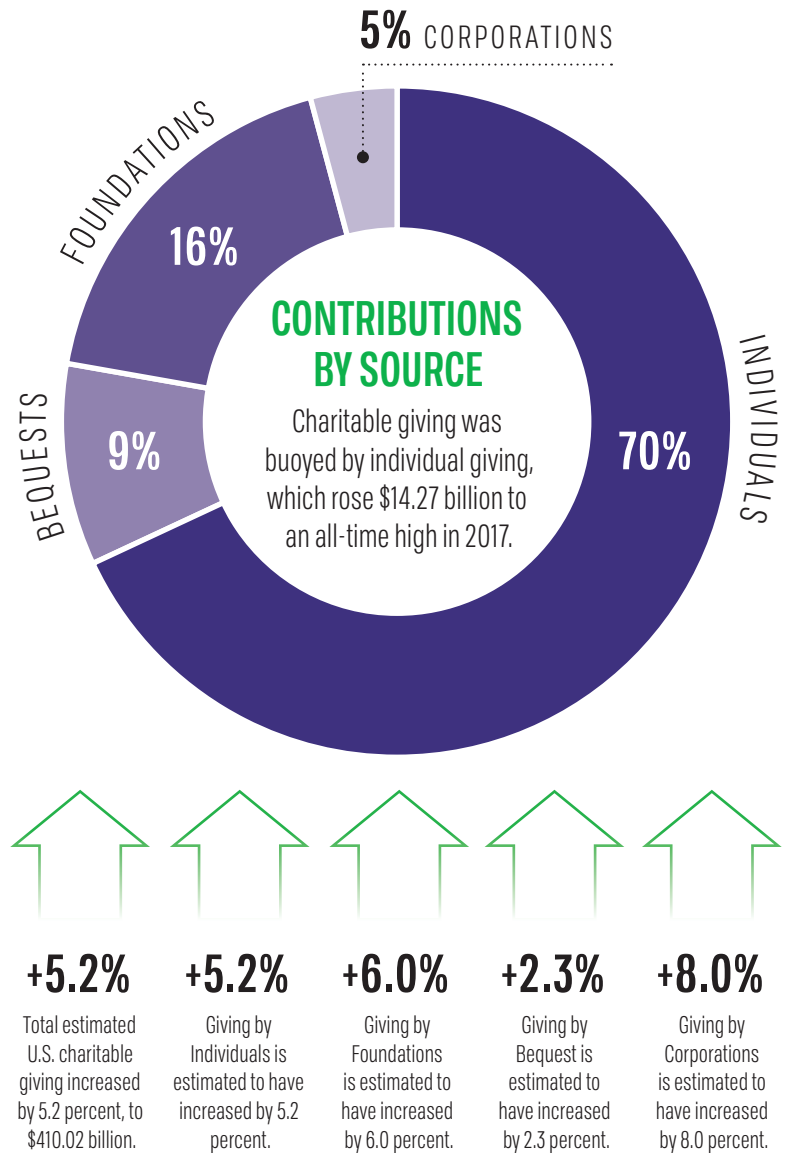
"Affiliations can provide networking opportunities and credibility for your brand," he said. "You have to do both social media and face-to-face networking."

Three other inexpensive essentials nonprofits should utilize are name-tags for their board members and executive director, business cards that include the nonprofit's mission and 501(c)(3) status, and a .org website so viewers can immediately tell you are a nonprofit, Monahan said, adding executive directors should never refer to themselves CEO. "If they are called executive director, people know immediately they are dealing with a nonprofit."

## FINDING SUCCESS

Although Gallagher-Howard is new at the game, Helping WIN doled out four grants in its first two months as a nonprofit. "My advice is to start small. Crawl before you walk and take advantage of talking to anyone in the city who might be doing something in the industry you are going to serve," she said.

"My strategic plan is to grow this into a healthy organization that will really be an asset in Duval County," she said. "It's important to realize if you don't have business experience, it's important to surround yourself with people who do. But a big heart is key. You need to want to serve, and it is also imperative



you understand you are starting a business. Don't cut corners. Try to do things right. If you don't know how to do it, that's normal, but you need to draw from people that do."

After Bair finally got his nonprofit up and running he has seen extraordinary success. Since 2010, BairFind has helped locate and bring home 1,377 missing kids – 60 percent of all children featured in 152 sports venues around the country. This year Bair's program has been adopted by the Indiana Pacers Basketball organization, so missing kids' photos now hold court in their arenas. His goal is to eventually have a BairFind presence in every major sports arena in the nation.

Three years ago, BairFind Foundation was made an official charity of

Minor League Baseball and holds the special designation of being an official "homegrown" charity because its founder is an ex-Minor League player. BairFind was also named Bold City's Best Nonprofit in 2018 and voted the #1 Charity in the 904 by Void magazine readers.

"What kept me doing this is that I knew this was my very special work given to me from God," Bair said, adding he is not married, has no children of his own, and has never personally known a missing child. "I knew from the moment this idea came to me that even if it took a person their entire life to establish this nonprofit, I would be that person. There's an old Jewish saying, 'It takes 20 years to become an overnight success.'"





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BY WAY OF COMPELLING STORIES, FACTS, AND  
ILLUSTRATING THE EFFECTIVE USE OF FUNDS  
– GRANTS DRIVE DOLLARS FOR THE MISSION

{ BY KELLY KELLY }

*“Raising funds to  
fuel programs  
that save lives.”*

That’s Christy Smith’s tagline on LinkedIn. And that’s the perfect description of what the 39-year-old grant specialist for Wounded Warrior Project does for a living.

Smith, who is also president of the Grant Professionals Association North Florida Chapter, graduated from the University of North Florida with a bachelor’s degree in history and anthropology in 2007. She started work downtown Jacksonville at the Museum of Science and History upon graduation and over time got involved in writing the annual grant for the city.

“It’s funny when you talk to people in the grant profession, it’s rare that you will hear one of them say, ‘I knew from the very beginning that I wanted to be a grant writer,’” she said. “It’s kind of one of those things that you fall into.”

*“Sometimes there is an application process, and sometimes there’s not. Sometimes they’ll have an open call for requests, and other times it’s closed – they know already who they want to grant to, and they will contact those organizations and go from there.”*

– CHRISTY SMITH

Smith said she worked at the museum for nine years and typical of a lot of smaller nonprofits, she got to dabble in different areas. After a couple rounds of writing the city grant, however, she discovered she really enjoyed it and wanted to learn more. So, when an opportunity came along that allowed her to focus specifically on grant writing, she jumped on it.

“Here at Wounded Warrior, we focus on grants from foundations,” she said. And there are several types.

A private foundation, also referred to as an independent foundation, is a nonprofit organization generally funded from a single source, such as an individual, a family, a civic club or a corporation. It exists to make grants to charitable



organizations doing work in specific areas of interest.

“Sometimes there is an application process, and sometimes there’s not,” she said. “Sometimes they’ll have an open call for requests, and other times it’s closed – they know already who they want to grant to, and they will contact those organizations and go from there.”



Public community foundations exist, as well. And Jacksonville is fortunate to have one.

The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida has about 550 funds established by the public it serves. Each of the funds has a singular mission, but the community is at the heart of all of them.

The community foundation has competitive grants, which as the name implies, are awarded through a competitive application process overseen by the foundation. These are the only grants available by application, and they function quite differently than the foundation's donor advised funds.

With donor advised funds, the person establishing the fund – the donor – gets to choose what organizations to support. The foundation does not accept solicitations, and there is no application process.

Typically, the donor will let the foundation know they want to grant a certain dollar amount from their donor advised fund to an organization, she said. The foundation then contacts the organization directly and manages the process.

"It's really all about getting to know each individual foundation, what their interests are, how they want to be contacted, if they're open to receiving requests, or if they're closed to that, and they already have people they want to grant to," Smith said. "It's really a lot of research."

The most obvious form of research is done on a foundation's website. If the foundation has a competitive grant process the information about eligibility and guidelines is usually there. But, not all foundations have websites.

And, this is where an organization's IRS Form 990, the annual return required of most tax-exempt organizations, comes in handy. Smith said the form contains all the pertinent information needed to approach an organization for funding.

"It tells you if they accept unsolicited requests," she said. "It will also tell you what address you should send them to and if they have an online system. It's all spelled out in the 990. The other thing that's really cool about the 990 is most of the time they will have a list of the organizations they

have granted to in the last year. So, you can gauge if they would be a good fit for your organization or not."

The forms can be found online through GuideStar, a nonprofit that publishes information about charities, and the Foundation Center, a research organization that focuses on philanthropy.

Kristen Dietzen, chief development officer for the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, said another good resource for new grant writers or those looking to expand those sources is the Foundation Directory Online. The Foundation Center offers the research tool as a standalone subscription that is quite pricey, she said. But, it is available to the public for free through the public library.

"They have a center set up where you can go online and search for all of the funders throughout the United States," she said. "You can narrow it down if you're searching for funders in Jacksonville, or for example, funders who support early childhood initiatives or those who provide emergency assistance."

She said the database is a great tool for experienced grant writers to find new sources of funding, too. "So, you're not having to rely on those same funders year after year."

Dietzen, who also fell into grant writing after graduating in 2013 from UNF with a bachelor's in political science, said she started with small grants. Her first grant was for a piece of technology for one of the center's audiologists.

"I believe it was for \$2,500," she said. "It was with a local organization who had supported us one time in the past, so we kind of knew what they were looking to fund as far as their priorities. And, we worked on a grant that worked for them and their funding guidelines and then was good for us, as well."

When she found out she got the grant a few months later, she said she was incredibly excited. She moved up from there writing \$10,000 grants all the way to six-figures.

"Really, it's just you have to be comfortable spending a significant amount of time doing research and really knowing the background of your organization and why you need that funding," she said. "And, you have to

*"You have to be comfortable spending a significant amount of time doing research and really knowing the background of your organization and why you need that funding. And, you have to be able to illustrate that effectively to the company or the foundation for the grants that you apply."*

– KRISTEN DIETZEN



be able to illustrate that effectively to the company or the foundation for the grants that you apply."

Applications for grants awarded competitively are typically online and available on a funder's website. She said there is a standard financial component to the application, and it is submitted beforehand or at the same time as submitting the application with all the necessary data that demonstrates the need for services and how the organization can carry out those services.

For the financials, Dietzen said most grantors want to see an organization's IRS Form 990. They also want to know if the organization has an outside audit with a CPA. And, they are interested in learning where the organization gets its funding – fees for services, grants, or other fundraising events.

"There are a lot of nonprofits out there," she said. So, it's important to demonstrate the nonprofit will spend any funding "in the most responsible way and have the effective leadership and staff and financial control in place to ensure that the money is not only being used properly, but that [the funder] is getting the most services provided for that dollar amount."

The narrative portion of the grant application follows, and this is where an organization can tell their story. This typically includes a section for the history and background of the organization – how long it's been in existence, as well as the program for which the grant is sought. But more importantly, it's an opportunity to

demonstrate the impact the program, if funded, will have in the community.

"It's your opportunity to differentiate yourself and your organization and the programs you are applying for from everyone else," Dietzen said. "To be able to show the before and after effects of your program is really critical."

Data plays a role here, too. It is necessary to provide numbers and statistics that demonstrate the problem in the community and the need for services to solve it, she said. It's also important to illustrate successful outcomes from previous programs and show those numbers.

"But at the end of the day, you have to remember you are applying for this funding for people, and it's equally important to tell their story," she said. "The story the funder's going to remember is the story of the little kid who came into our organization. They had trouble communicating. They couldn't tell mom when they were hungry, or if they didn't feel well. And, they are getting bullied at school because they can't communicate properly with their peers. And then – their process of getting the services they need – having access to the health care they require and not only at school, but later in life, as well – being able to show that change is really critical."

To help show the impact of the program, Dietzen said she thinks about where the community would be, and where the recipient of the services would be, without it.

It's important to create that compelling story.



"But, you've got to have the data to back up the request," she said. It demonstrates the organization has the infrastructure, staff and expertise to carry out the program and make an impact.

Jacquelyn Gubbins, the senior manager of marketing and communications who oversees grants for Jacksonville-based Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, said what makes for a compelling grant application "is one that is well organized. It communicates distinctly the impact the grant would have on the community. And, it provides a situation where a life could have been changed or saved if the grant was funded."

She said she also likes to see statistics about the potential for change in the community and statistics about the equipment if included in the proposal. "We really want it to be lifesaving," she said. "Not just the newest technology coming out."

The foundation's singular mission is to impact the lifesaving capabilities of first responders and safety in the

communities they serve. That mission is translated into funding priorities, and the guidelines for those are outlined on its website along with directions for the grant application.

It's Gubbins' team who reviews the applications for completion at the close of the quarter, and vets them for the quarterly board of directors meeting.

"If the grant applicant doesn't follow those directions and meet the requirements of the program the request won't be able to be considered," she said. "And, it is not time well spent on either end for the applicant or funder."

She said the grant application requires some basic information about the organization, the community that would be impacted, how many people would be impacted if the grant were approved, and if an education project, how many children and seniors would be potentially impacted by the program.

From there, grant applicants are required to upload attachments to provide the background and history

of the department, which, she said, can usually be obtained from an organization's annual report. If organizations are requesting equipment, an accurate vendor equipment quote is one of the most important considerations. And, the foundation has a lot of specifications that need to be met for a vendor quote to be complete.

"Say someone's requesting 10 AEDs for \$13,000, we want the quote that's submitted to have all of our required information on there, and for their grant request and the quote to match," she said.

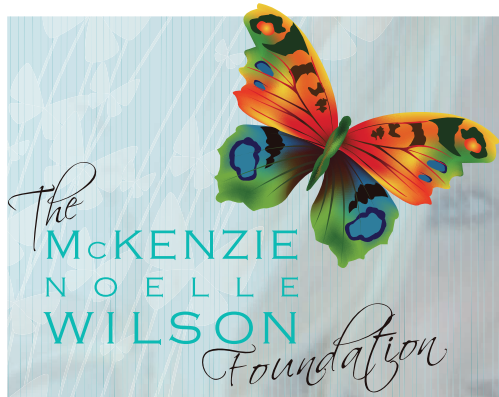
The foundation also looks for financials to look for a balance of funds within the organization. Gubbins said they always recommend an organization work with their accounting person for this.

Because the foundation donates across the country, completed applications go to area representatives who help prioritize needs and make recommendations. It doesn't mean the grant will be approved just because they recommend it, however.

"If someone applies for a gymnasium, and we have someone apply for jaws of life, we're going to choose the jaws of life because it fits within our guidelines," she said. "We are always addressing the needs and relevance of those funding areas and evaluating opportunities with our Board of Directors, but it's a balance between staying true to our mission and helping where it's needed in the safety sector."

How much funding is available makes a big difference. And, the amount of fundraising support received from each community is a consideration, as well.

Even then, though, Gubbins said, "Sometimes there is a volunteer fire department that is 50 miles from a community that we have fundraising in. And, we see that need, and we are able to support it through some of the other funding that we have available. Sometimes there's just such a compelling need that it's our duty to bring it to our Board to see if they're able to support it."






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*“People give to people, and they give to people they know, and they trust in people that they see outcomes from.”*

— NINA LOPEZ



Relationships are also important in making community change. “We can’t say enough about the value of community partners,” she said. “We know our donors would prefer that we team up to make greater change across the country rather than duplicate the effort of other nonprofits.”

One organization Gubbins recommends to help nonprofit organizations build relationships and develop community-based partnerships is the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

The center’s mission is to connect, strengthen and advocate for nonprofits in the region.

Deirdre Conner, senior director of strategic initiatives and evaluation for the center, said that encompasses a lot of things – professional development, programming, advocacy work, interfacing with government organizations, and just making sure the public understands the value the nonprofit sector brings to area.

The nonprofit sector makes a substantial contribution to the vitality of our community, she said. It’s important to leverage those relationships – to bring grant makers and grant seekers together to share knowledge to improve the community. That’s the core of its mission.

Callan Brown, a program manager with the center, said its base of more than 300 members includes

nonprofits, foundations and community business partners. They offer a number of courses and tools year-round. And their programming includes grant-writing workshops that not only explore how to write a successful proposal but delve into how the organization can find grants and understand what kinds of grants might be more useful than others.

Sustainability is also a topic of focus, she said. And they talk about the different types of grants and what it looks like if an organization is funded primarily through the federal grant system versus public and private foundation grants.

Kim Sirdevan, president and CEO of the Youth Crisis Center, understands the importance of relationships and the value of community partnerships in growing revenue sources to accomplish the mission of her organization.

She is in the business of transforming the lives of young people who have been impacted by trauma, and who, in many cases, have run away, threatened to, or are homeless and living on the streets. She runs about a \$4 million private nonprofit agency that provides five programs focused on mental health and transitional living services at its Jacksonville campus and has a sixth program on its way – the House of Hope.

As an authorized agent for the Department of Juvenile Justice providing prevention services, the center receives about half its funding through a state grant, or contract, which is funded through the legislature, she said. Its outpatient behavioral health services are fee-based. So, they also receive a mix of revenue from Medicaid, commercial payers, self-payers and some grant dollars from United Way. And, this year, Sirdevan said she also hopes to land a \$180,000 federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. That application was 90 pages long, required copious documentation – including letters of support, and a federal registration process to be eligible to apply.

Sirdevan said they also receive funding through private, public and corporate foundations.

For competitive grants, the statement of need, or executive summary – the cover letter that outlines the problem the organization wants to address and the solution it proposes – is important, she said. And, if an organization can demonstrate they are working in collaboration with community partners to solve the problem, that is an “added bonus.”

One such partnership Sirdevan developed is with Feeding Northeast Florida, a hunger relief organization and food bank. It was a natural, given they served 22,302 meals in 2017 to young people in their residential crisis center, she said.

Another collaboration – House of Hope – was inspired from a study that revealed about 60 percent of Jacksonville’s homeless youth are LGBTQ, and often become displaced from family because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, she said. The need for an emergency shelter serving this community became apparent, and the crisis center had space available in its former residential shelter that, with renovation, could serve the purpose. It was also uniquely positioned to solve some of the challenges of space that arise in the traditional shelter system owing to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The partnership that emerged was one between the crisis center,

Changing Homelessness, the lead agency for the homelessness coalition in Northeast Florida, and JASMYN, a nonprofit youth services organization for the LGBTQ community.

The program got off the ground with a \$100,000 grant for renovations from the Chartrand Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. It received another \$100,000 in the form of a matching grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at Community Foundation of Northeast Florida for operations. Neither grant required an application.

The Chartrand family connected with Sirdevan through their partnership with JASMYN. And, the Community Foundation, who manages Weaver’s fund, contacted Sirdevan by email and asked for a proposal. She said she wrote about three pages outlining the problem, the proposed solution and made the request.

Sirdevan said they are about 75 percent of the way and have until Dec. 31, 2018 to receive a match on every dollar donated to \$100,000.

She said they have several other new partners, too. One of them is with the Lowe’s Companies.

That partnership came about from a safety and security assessment conducted on their campus that resulted in recommendations for improvements in several areas. She asked for a report detailing the recommendations and obtained vendor quotes for the proposed work. She went on the Nonprofit Center’s website and found a grant opportunity with Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation that appeared to be a good fit.

She wrote the grant, which included some improvements for the House of Hope, and asked Nina Lopez, director of strategic partnerships for the crisis center, to reach out and build a relationship with the local store. Within two weeks, they had a formed a new relationship.

Now they have a store manager in the community invested in their project, she said.

“People give to people,” Lopez said. “And they give to people they know, and they trust and people that they see outcomes from.”



# Presbyterian

## Social Ministries

### *Our Mission:*

Presbyterian Social Ministries, in partnership with other organizations, exists to support the homeless with stable supportive housing solutions and life skills training; help families and individuals in need with clothing; and facilitate missions with learning and service opportunities in a residential setting.



# TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Presbyterian Social Ministries, (PSM, 501(c)(3)), administers three highly effective programs: Urban Mission Experience (UME), a Housing Ministry, and a Clothing Ministry.

In our Urban Mission program, college & high school students and faith-based groups come to Jacksonville to volunteer their time and energy in our community. They come from as far away as Wisconsin, Texas and even Jamaica! The impact they are making in our area following Hurricane Irma and other disastrous events is huge. PSM provides lodging and food to them while they are here. We provide a dormitory, showers, a kitchen for food prep and a dining room for their refuge while they deliver relief.

In our Housing Ministry, PSM manages a HUD funded program that houses people within a vulnerable population. From substance abuse to clean living, incarceration to rebirth of spirit, we are helping people get back on their feet. Not only do we facilitate the funds, we help bring hope into their lives and create lasting impact by way of life skills, coaching and other means. We empower them to move from poverty and encourage them to integrate back into society by extending a helping hand during a fragile time in their lives.

The absence of Dignity U Wear created a high demand for clothing fulfillment in our community. To accomplish this large task, our agency is

working to acquire the necessary resources such as warehouse space, a work van, fork lift, and a box truck with a liftgate, just to name a few. PSM is seeking kind hearts, generous individuals and companies that can help us with these needs for the Clothing Ministry to flourish. We are committed to making a difference in people's lives by delivering clothing to the many agencies on the front line that serve individuals & families in need.

Our agency is not in this work alone. We are engaging an inter-agency collaboration to maximize the impact of your gifts, funds and material goods.

The demand for clothing is vast and those efforts are ongoing, so we are always in need of more volunteers. If you lead a school program, a faith-based initiative or other related agencies that have people ready to assist – we can put them to work and even help fulfill community service hours. Once you become involved with our ministry, you will see the impact of our work immediately. We put FAITH into ACTION!

Finding supporters throughout North Florida and beyond, who see the value in contributing to our goals and helping those in need, is a big job. Help us help others by donating funds or any of the resources listed above. Join us in creating lasting change in our community. Learn more at [PresbyterianSocialMinistries.org](http://PresbyterianSocialMinistries.org).





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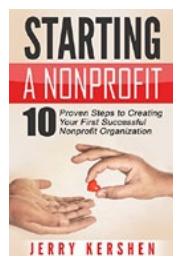
- Tom Jackson, Owner



# Our *Circles* guide to resources and reading recommendations for nonprofit prosperity

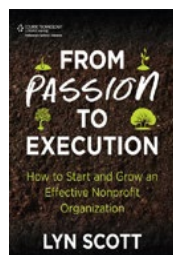
Taking the first big step to create a charitable organization is exciting and nerve-wracking, but it's all the little and not-so-little steps afterwards that can make a founder begin to question the initial decision. From forms to fundraising, here are a few books that can help to guide the fledgling nonprofit from start-up to a thriving success story.

## GUIDES TO CREATING A NONPROFIT



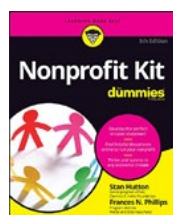
**Starting a Nonprofit: 10 Proven Steps to Creating your First Successful Nonprofit Organization, by Jerry Kershen**  
(Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, November 13, 2015, 74 pages)

Did you know there are 29 different types of nonprofit organizations? That may sound daunting if you're thinking of starting a nonprofit to make a difference, but this helpful guide makes it easy and simple to follow the rules. Learn how to develop a mission statement, file IRS forms, write policies and create a board of directors – all to make your nonprofit organization run smoothly and effectively.



**From Passion to Execution: How to Start and Grow an Effective Nonprofit Organization, by Lyn Scott**  
(Published by Course Technology PTR, February 1, 2013, 330 pages)

This book provides specific how-to steps to start a nonprofit organization with a focus on long-term sustainability. Find out how to set the groundwork from effectively articulating a mission statement to building a solid board, including how to communicate vision, design programs, ignite volunteers, assemble the right business team, craft a strategic plan, seek supporters, and navigate differing personalities as the organization grows.



**Nonprofit Kit For Dummies, by Stan Hutton and Frances N. Phillips**  
(Published by For Dummies; 5th edition, December 12, 2016, 377 pages)

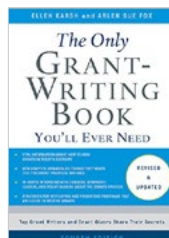
Written by people who work for foundations, the title belies the extensive knowledge the authors bring to help your nonprofit thrive. It's packed with the latest tips and techniques on starting and managing a charitable organization, offering everything you need to help your nonprofit endure the ups and downs of the economy. From mission statement to fundraising, the easy-to-follow helps will make your nonprofit grow.



**How to Start, Run & Grow a Successful Nonprofit Organization: DIY Startup Guide to 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Charitable Organization For All 50 States & DC, by Aaron Sanders**  
(Published by Lost River Publishing House, June 19, 2018, 144 pages)

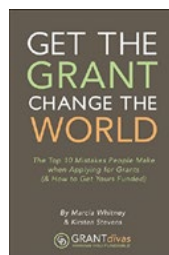
Navigating the intricacies of government regulations for nonprofits isn't rocket science, but it does take attention to detail if you want to avoid setbacks in creating and running a nonprofit. This comprehensive guide covers the basics of starting a nonprofit and offers a step-by-step process to fulfill all the requirements by state and for the federal government.

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR NONPROFIT PROSPER



**The Only Grant-Writing Book You'll Ever Need, by Ellen Karsh and Arlen Sue Fox**  
(Published by Basic Books/Hachette Book Group; 4th edition, April 8, 2014, 450 pages)

For insights into how grant-awarding is affected by shifts in the economy, this book is a must-read for anyone seeking grants in any economic climate. It provides a comprehensive, step-by-step guide for grant writers, including interviews with grant-makers, policy makers, and nonprofit leaders; suggestions for developing each section of a proposal, and conversations with grant-makers on why they award grants...and why they don't.



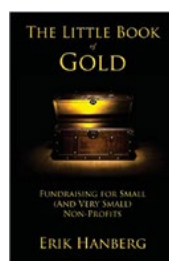
**Get the Grant, Change the World: The Top 10 Mistakes People Make When Applying for Grants (& How to Get Yours Funded), by Marcia Whitney and Kirsten Stevens**  
(Published by Grant Divas; 1st edition, August 23, 2016, 50 pages)

Don't let the size of this small but mighty book deter you from learning how and where to apply for grants. Ever waste your time applying for grants you have no chance of getting? The tips in this book will help you avoid that mistake, while making your job easier and your organization stronger, and help you get better funding to grow and sustain your mission.



**Wish Granted! Tips, Tools, & Templates to Write a Winning Grant, by Holly Rustick**  
(Published by WEGO Consulting, August 22, 2017, 184 pages)

Fun doesn't mean fluffy. This easy-to-read, upbeat book offers the inside tips and tools of the grant-writing trade. The step-by-step system to help you write competitive grants will teach you the myths and truths about grants, the different grant categories, the grant mindset, and the five basic parts of writing a grant without making your eyes glaze over.



**The Little Book of Gold: Fundraising for Small (and Very Small) Nonprofits, by Erik Hanberg**  
(Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, June 26, 2011, 124 pages)

Even small to very small nonprofits can make an impact...as long as they avoid common pitfalls in fundraising. This practical step-by-step guide to fundraising helps nonprofits unlock their fundraising potential with tips on proven methods that work. The guide is geared for those organizations with budgets from a few hundred thousand dollars to much less.



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# EMPOWE WOMEN EMPOWE WOMEN





# RED

# R

## FIRST COAST NONPROFITS UNLOCK DOORS FOR WOMEN

{ BY MARY WANSER }

They're marching on Washington and elsewhere. They're running for public office and winning. Pay inequity, gender inequality, sexual harassment – worldwide, women are standing up and saying that they are not going to take it anymore!

In politics, in business, and in sports, women clearly are determined to shift the cultural climate of the country, making known not only what they will no longer accept, but also what they expect. In Northeast Florida, they have a heap of help. There are at least a dozen charitable and nonprofit organizations devoting themselves to the empowerment of women and girls by offering essential keys to unlock the future's doors.

In the pages following, you will learn about women in leadership at nonprofits in Northeast Florida and what they believe it means to be empowered and be in the position to empower others.



Nationally, 71 percent of large nonprofits said their organization's leader is a man, according to a 2014 Harris Poll survey conducted on behalf of The George H. Heyman, Jr. Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising. In Northeast Florida the statistics are more encouraging.

Among the nearly 350 nonprofits of any size, as listed in the Circles Charity Register, nearly two-thirds of the area's nonprofits – 60 percent – have women in positions of founder, president, or executive director. Four percent have both a male and a female sharing the top leadership position, typically as co-founding spouses, while 36 percent of Northeast Florida nonprofits are run by men.

With the mantle of leadership comes the authority to do something. In a word, empowerment. It is also the process of becoming stronger and more confident. In these pages you will read about nonprofits whose focus is on empowering women in all aspects of life.

For a woman to be empowered it means "to have the skills, tools, and self-confidence to make right decisions for herself. It's the ability to thrive and exist on her own," said Dr. Robin Rose, CEO of Girls Inc. of Jacksonville, one of the dozen nonprofits profiled.

"True empowerment is when you believe in yourself, your dreams, and your goals and you know, truly know, that nothing is in your way, but you," said the late Sherry H. Blue, Founder of Foundation for Fortitude. "That kind of mental and emotional strength is hard to find, but with the right support, the right people in your life, and making the right choices, it shows up. It becomes your belief, your mindset."

For Audrey Moran, Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy at Baptist Health, empowerment means "being able to be your authentic self – in any situation. Empowerment is confidence. It is the belief that you can handle whatever life throws at you with grace."

*"True empowerment is when you believe in yourself, your dreams, and your goals and you know, truly know, that nothing is in your way, but you."*

– SHERRY H. BLUE, FOUNDER OF FOUNDATION FOR FORTITUDE

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The agencies noted and others like them are offering keys to help local women unlock the door to an empowered future, but they cannot do it alone. Community support is critical if they are to fulfill their missions of meeting needs that are ever growing and changing.

What can you do? Choose a cause that draws you. Contact that organization to see how what you have to offer aligns with what they need. Donations can come in the form of tangible goods, cash gifts, volunteering, or shopping for items whose funds go back to support the mission. Consider becoming a part of this movement that goes beyond yourself. Together, everyone can make a difference.



Women make up the majority of all nonprofit staff positions

**66%**

said their organization's staff was 'predominantly women.'

Leadership positions at large nonprofits are mostly held by men.



**44%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said their organization 'favors males over equally qualified females' for top positions.



**71%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said their organization's CEO is male.



**69%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said their organization's board was 'predominantly male.'

How would large nonprofits benefit from having more women in leadership roles.



**58%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said the organization could be more effective at raising money from female donors.

Large nonprofits may be missing out on significant amounts of funding by...



**40%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said '...not putting as much effort into identifying and soliciting affluent female donors as it does affluent male donors.'



**36%**

of respondents from large nonprofits said '...not giving affluent female donors as much respect as affluent male donors.'



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ADOPTION AUTHORITY

## FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

To bring about change in her life, a woman must make choices. The freedom to choose is a gift that the Adoption Authority gives women experiencing unplanned pregnancy.

Adoption Authority's vision is to "honor, respect, and lift these women up," said Linda Vorwerk, Client Services Coordinator. "Women seek our services when they are in crisis when they feel they have no other options, and we take time to provide them with all of the information they need to make an informed decision about parenting or placing their child for adoption.

Contrary to what most people believe, there is no time limit on choosing adoption, and women should not be pressured into feeling like they are running out of time. "Our agency values the time it takes to process such a huge decision, and women are given the time and space to make their own choices," said Hillary Berger, Adoption Authority's Operations Coordinator.

Most of the pregnant women the nonprofit assists prefer open adoption and to remain in contact with the child and the adoptive family. The amount of contact varies from family to family and may change over time. Communication can range from little or no contact to mediated contact up to direct contact and visitation if that's the choice of all parties.

Open adoption can offer the birth mother the option to "someday tell her child, 'I changed my life because you came into the world. I personally picked these people for you,'" Vorwerk said.

The Adoption Authority empowers women "to make whatever choice is right for them, without pressure, without judgment," Vorwerk said. One of the core values of the agency is helping women "make the best-informed choice they can."


But their work doesn't end there. The Adoption Authority's On Your Feet program helps empower birth mothers long after their initial adoption decision is made by offering post-placement support.

"Adoption deserves a lifelong commitment, and we're here to help navigate for a lifetime," said Vorwerk. The On Your Feet Program guides these women toward resources to secure sustainable housing, obtain drivers' licenses, and earn academic degrees, acting as an extended family for these women, giving them "the belief that they can do it!"

# WOMEN CAN DO ANYTHING

{ AUDREY MORAN }



 A major player at Baptist Health, Audrey Moran's feelings of empowerment started when she was a child.

"My parents raised me with the belief that women can do and be anything," she said. "They were definitely ahead of their time!" With this attitude Audrey built the solid foundation and began her rise in ranks.

As Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy at Baptist Health in Jacksonville, Audrey has four significant areas of responsibility: community health, philanthropy, behavioral health, and spiritual care.

Before joining Baptist Health, Audrey was selected to become a trustee of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. At the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, she chairs the board. At the LeRoy Collins Public Policy Institute at Florida State University, she is a member of the board

of directors. She has been chosen as a Gateway Girl Scout Council Woman of Distinction. These are but a few entries in Audrey's catalog of accomplishments and on the list of over two dozen board seats she's filled.

She has reached heights that most women only dare to dream of, and she has been doing it consistently for a long time. In education, Audrey earned magna cum laude designation from Syracuse University in 1980. She served as student body president and was the Outstanding Oral Advocate Award recipient at Duke University's School of Law in 1984.

In government, she filled the role of Chief of Staff for the Jacksonville mayor from 2000 to 2003. She also holds the title of Certified Civil Mediator in state and federal court.

In business, Audrey was the first woman selected to receive the Jacksonville Bar Association's Lawyer of the Year Award in 1998. Speaking of firsts, she was the first female attorney appointed to the position of director in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, and while with the State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville, she started the Special Assault Unit for handling rape, domestic violence, and child abuse cases.

She served as president and CEO of the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless from 2007 to 2011 and was honored with the Distinguished Business Leader Award by the University of North Florida's College of Business in 2012. More recently, Audrey was inducted into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame in 2017 and was recognized by Girls Inc. as a "Champion for Girls" in 2018. The list goes on. And by the way, she did all of this in addition to holding the title of "Mother of Four."

*"My parents raised me with the belief that women can do and be anything. They were definitely ahead of their time!"*





DELORES BARR WEAVER  
POLICY CENTER

## SAFETY

Fun is a necessary component of a powerful girlhood, and so is safety. Standing on a platform of advocacy, the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, which is named for the woman who gave the initial gift to open the center in 2013, “stands alongside girls, helping them find and create the essential centering force they need—the sense of safety, comfort, and home within themselves and within their communities,” said Blythe Zayets, director of communication and advancement.

“We weave safety nets that are fluid, flexible, and open-minded,” she said.

The organization addresses “the policies, processes, and practices that result in disparate treatment of girls, young women, and youth who identify as female, especially those impacted by the justice system,” per the agency’s website.

“The girls we serve are often labeled, misunderstood, and blamed for the situations, and we must find ways to raise awareness and understanding in order to bring about the needed reforms,” Zayets said.

The center’s programs aim to rehabilitate rather than incarcerate delinquent girls, as recognized by PBS news coverage. “Our goal is for the First Coast to be a national model for justice reform work. Our vision is to create communities where all girls are safe, valued, and have opportunities for a prosperous future,” she said.

The tagline of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center is “See the Girl,” which Zayets said was sparked by the sentiments of “Maria, a once-incarcerated 14-year-old girl, who shared what she wanted the policymakers in Tallahassee to hear from us: ‘See me. See me for who I am, not who you think I am. See me for who I can become.’”



An intern mentor in the Girl Matters®: It's Elementary program reads with a girl while other girls decorate their crowns, a lesson from the program's toolbox.

# MENTORING TO BRING CHANGE

{ CINDY FUNKHOUSER }



Empowerment “means that you have the confidence to know that you are in charge of your own life and that you can set goals and make those goals happen.” So says Cindy Funkhouser, president and CEO of the Sulzbacher Center, who’s done exactly that, set goals and made them happen.

While growing up in Washington, D.C., Cindy thought success meant money and money meant happiness. Although she pursued a 20-year career in sales and marketing with a Fortune 500 company, there was something that continually diverted her attention – homeless people she noticed daily sleeping on the streets of the nation’s capital. She often wondered why someone wasn’t doing something about it.

A job transfer moved Cindy from D.C. to Florida just prior to the devastating hit of Hurricane Andrew. As a volunteer through her church, she found herself working directly with homeless people like the ones she had grieved over up north, and she found her purpose.

To pursue her passion to tend to the issue of homelessness, Cindy asked herself what she could do to make a difference on a larger scale. She had been selling direct marketing but now wanted to run a homeless organization. How could she make that transition?

Step by step, she said.

She researched schools, investigated the prerequisites, and earned a master’s degree in clinical social work from Florida State University at the age of 42 as a first-generation college student.

She lived then, and still does today, by an adage she adopted from one of her many mentors – “How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.” Although the big picture might seem unattainable, Cindy suggests breaking it down, not quitting, and not giving up. “Take steps forward,” she advises, “no matter how small. Persistence is key!”

And persist Cindy does. Prior to being named president and CEO of Sulzbacher, Cindy held the titles Vice President of Health Services and Chief Program Officer for the organization. That was after serving as Executive Director of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry in Jacksonville Beach.

Ever devoted to the downtrodden, she has sat on several boards and has served on numerous committees of agencies with crisis-related missions. Today, it’s more important than ever for women to be and to feel empowered, she said.

“We are in a time that is very unsettling for everyone, particularly for women,” she explained. “People are making decisions *for* us and *about* us, but not *with* us.”

Cindy said that women, by the numbers, are misrepresented in leadership, like in boardrooms and in government, so she’s doing her part to bring about change.

“Empowerment comes from within and from without,” she said. It “requires a social support system.” When a woman feels unempowered, when she’s at a low point in her life and lacks self-confidence, she needs a mentor to tell her, “You can take charge of your life! You are the author of your story!” she said.

Since her college days, Cindy has always had mentors. Every woman needs at least one, someone “to learn from, who values you, will invest in you, and who’s committed to your success,” she said.

Cindy continues to be mentored, and she pays that forward by acting as mentor to others. She said she guides her protégées by telling them, “You were given unique gifts and skills. Figure them out. What are you good at? What excites you? Figure out your passion. Then, set a goal.” That’s a step on the road toward empowerment.



## BETTY GRIFFIN CENTER

## HEALING FOR NOW &amp; HOPE FOR TOMORROW

The vision of women's empowerment in the present and future is encapsulated in a slogan used by Betty Griffin Center, an agency in St. Johns County: "Healing for now. Hope for tomorrow." The Betty Griffin Center, formerly Betty Griffin House, is a non-profit that helps empower women by providing shelter and services to those fleeing from domestic or sexual abuse.

"Our focus is to offer protection and quality services to victims and their children through the operation of a safe and secure shelter and outreach programs, offering assistance, counseling, and transitional support while educating the community and raising awareness," said Joyce Mahr, executive director.

Betty Griffin's services focus on "empowerment and support of women's rights and self-determination," she said. The center runs an emergency shelter, a helpline, and two thrift stores.

Through individualized case management and wrap-around services, Betty Griffin Center assists women in becoming "economically independent from their abusers," one clear roadway toward empowerment. It provides women with an array of essential services, like transportation, medical and dental care, psychological and substance abuse counseling, educational and vocational training, legal assistance, child care, employment/career training and counseling, money management training, life skills training, parenting classes, health and nutritional counseling, and discharge planning to facilitate the removal from an abusive and/or violent lifestyle.

The Betty Griffin Center is committed to "addressing all of the barriers to survivors' abilities to exit the shelter into permanent housing and self-sufficiency," Mahr said.

*Jackie Meredith, Betty Griffin House sexual assault response coordinator and adult and adolescent counselor, shows a domestic abuse survivor the power and control wheel, a graphic used for domestic violence and sexual abuse.*

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# POWERFUL WORDS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

{ JENNIFER WOLFE }

 Jennifer Wolfe is the founder of Women Writing for (a) Change, Jacksonville, a nonprofit with the mission of raising the voices of women and girls one story at a time.

Hers is part of a national, women-led organization that nurtures and celebrates the individual voice by facilitating supportive writing circles and by encouraging people to craft more conscious lives through the art of writing in community. Thanks to Jennifer, hundreds of Jacksonville women have had the opportunity to tell – within a safe, non-judgmental environment – their stories, whether in the form of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, or essay.

Holding a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Jennifer has taught at Tulane University in New Orleans, and is a certified instructor for The Center for Journal Therapy. For the past 20 years, she has been facilitating change for corporate clients as well. There's something else she's been doing – keeping a journal since the age of 10.

Jennifer encourages others to use writing, as she has, as a tool for their personal growth, creative expression, and self-directed change. One of her favorite poems by Caroline Kaufman, expresses her feelings about empowerment perfectly:

*there is nothing  
more powerful  
than a girl  
with a pen  
who is brave enough  
to use it.*

“As women, we must speak up for ourselves and become more conscious of how discrimination and disempowerment are normalized in our society today. We cannot allow that to undermine our inherent power and our ability to speak truth in the world,” she said, advising girls and women who might be feeling vulnerable and unempowered to get educated from a wide range of sources and join with other females to help bring about change.

The women who came together for the Women's March on Washington in January 2017...the women who recounted their #metoo moments in the workplace...the young people in Parkland who caused a revolution in how gun violence is addressed in society...are examples of joining together, Jennifer said.

“This unity must continue if we are to protect our daughters and sons and enable them to grow in a free, just, and egalitarian world,” she said.

Jennifer initially found her strength in a garden she tended in the backyard of the farmhouse where she grew up. Her role models were her mother, grandmother, and aunt.

“Each one had the courage to ‘go against the grain’ in society. Each one was creatively brilliant in her own way and had the courage to persevere under difficult circumstances. They also encouraged me to do the same and prioritized my education as a way to do that,” she said, recalling her father's belief in her along with his support in whatever she chose to do. “That's empowering,” she commented.

“Having power,” Jennifer said, “does not mean oppressing others. Rather, it means being willing to serve, with humility, by making conscious choices for the common good.”

JENNIFER WOLFE PHOTO BY AMY ROBB/EDIBLE NORTHEAST FLORIDA MAGAZINE



***“Don't judge me by the chapter  
you walked in on.”***

– Middle School Girl  
WWW.SEETHEGIRL.ORG







GIRLS INC. OF JACKSONVILLE

## HOLISTIC LIFE SKILLS

The mission of Girls Inc. is to work with youth from poverty situations, looking at each girl holistically and determining what it will take for her to succeed. The nonprofit addresses the physical, social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive aspects of development. It explores potential barriers that might exist, ones that prevent each individual from optimal performance.

According to Dr. Robin Rose, CEO of Girls Inc. of Jacksonville, the agency considers some key questions including: Does she feel safe from bullies in school? Does she have emotion management? Does she know what a healthy relationship looks like? Does she know how not to succumb to peer pressure?



*Girls, Inc. vice chair Tonya Ray Bailey assists a middle school class.*

"Parents can't do it all. Families can't do it all," and that's why Girls Inc. of Jacksonville since 1970 has been "inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold," Rose said.

Girls Inc. works with girls K-8 and has a goal for a high school initiative by 2020 or sooner. Rose said it's imperative that girls be educated so that they can grow into women who can "make a wage that allows them to take care of themselves and their families."

Proud of the impact that Girls Inc. has to this end, Rose said that helping them develop strong skills, enriching them academically, and teaching them assertive communication through special after-school programs is key. "You can't make 'after school' look like 'during school.' They're learning, but they don't know it because they're having fun!" she said.

# FORMULATING A PLAN, SEEING IT THROUGH

{ JULIA HENRY-WILSON }

Empowerment comes from formulating a plan and seeing it through, and the best plans have many "small, achievable steps," said Julia Henry-Wilson, a three-pronged career woman, who works as director for Education and Career Development for the Jacksonville Urban League, president of Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, and as owner of a small business, The Henry-Wilson Group. Her company assists in workforce development training, team building, financial literacy training and contracts with the Urban League to oversee its summer camp and employment programs.

"The best way for women to achieve success is to lay out a plan, and don't think it comes haphazardly. Some of us are very successful at winning the lottery, but most of us are not, so it is important to plan," she said.

"You don't want to get frustrated, turned around, turned away, or even turned off, for that matter. You need to do what is in reach, and once you achieve your goal, you need to make additional goals, and then after you reach those, set some more additional goals. Every time you accomplish a goal, you need to set a new one."

Julia knows of what she speaks.

Armed with a Stanton High School diploma, she started her career at Blue Cross and Blue Shield in 1971 as a claims examiner and worked her way up to managing the training area where employees learn how to process office and hospital claims. Along the way, she earned her bachelor's degree in workforce development from Southern Illinois University, graduating in 1999, by doing weekend course work at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

A mother of four, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother to six, Julia decided to accept a buy-out from Blue Cross after 30 years and stay home for a year. After six months, she became restless, taking a job in the campaign office of Mia Jones, when she was running to become Jacksonville City Council District 10 representative.

In April 2002, Julia formulated another plan by first accepting a position as employment specialist with the Jacksonville Urban League and worked to climb the ladder to where she



is today. Realizing more education might be advantageous toward her goal, she went back to school to earn a master's in management from the University of Phoenix in 2006. When her skills became evident, she was soon promoted to her current job as director of the Center for Education and Career Development.

Julia's experience with Literacy Pros was similar. Recruited by Board Member Sarah Van Cleve in 2015 to join the nonprofit that seeks to eradicate illiteracy one individual at a time, soon she found herself holding the top job. "I came on board at Literacy Pros to have a seat at the table, but with my personality and my love for doing stuff I got to be chair of special events and special projects and that's what propelled me to the presidency," she said.

"If I was going to give advice to young girls today, it would be to learn to read, and make sure you can comprehend what you read, because without knowing how to read, you can't go far. You need to think about what you want to do and formulate a plan. I always see the end before the middle or the beginning. I think about where it is I want to go, and then I start to formulate a particular plan. If you want to be the director, start by being hired by the organization, and then do your best job possible.

"Women struggle to be empowered because they are not focused. There are too many distractions in the world that prevent us from being grounded," she continued, noting girls should try to minimize distractions – social media and men – and seek the wherewithal to go out there, get involved with the "right people," and do it.





FOUNDATION FOR FORTITUDE

## MENTORSHIP

Before she passed away in September 2018, Sherry H. Blue, founder of Foundation for Fortitude, said she believed it has always been important for women to be empowered, but in today's world, "it will mean the difference between not making it, settling for what's comfortable, or truly reaching one's potential and thriving."

Her nonprofit organization is contributing to women's empowerment by offering career shadowing, networking opportunities, financial scholarships, and guiding mentorship, which is, perhaps, the most important. The foundation also offers educational programs that cover topics like campus safety, addiction avoidance, interview skills, and business etiquette.

The Foundation for Fortitude is committed to young women in financial need, most of whom are first-generation college students. As its name suggests, it helps women "build a foundation for fortitude, and that will offer them an advantage that we hope they will hold tightly to and build upon in the years to come."

In the final interview before her death, Blue said her organization tries its best to keep young women "inspired, assured, and motivated," but that it is up to the ladies "to grab the opportunities we offer them and take full and complete advantage of them." That, she said, is often the biggest challenge because young women today are taking big steps and achieving more than they ever thought they were capable of. "As their time with us builds, you can see it taking hold and the growth and empowerment happening. It's a beautiful thing to witness, and I am honored to have the role that I have to see it develop," she said.



Foundations For Fortitude Founder Sherry Blue and *Real Housewives of Atlanta* starlet, Marlo Hampton, attend Pure White Affair 2018.

# USING POWER FOR THE PEOPLE

{ LORI BOYER }

How does a girl from rural South Dakota working at the local Dairy Queen go on to become an empowered member of Jacksonville's City Council? It can be traced back to a conversation Lori Boyer had with her eighth-grade public school principal, Mr. Groeneveld, who encouraged her to take advanced science classes even though her female classmates were aspiring to careers in nursing and teaching.

"Set the bar higher," he said. And Lori did. That solid encouragement was reinforced by Lori's parents who instilled the belief in her that "if you work hard, you can achieve what you set out to do."

For women, the accepted norms have changed dramatically since that conversation with her principal, Lori said. "Opportunities are much broader now, but there are still lots of obstacles." There's an "internal struggle that women face, the balance of work and family, which is a more difficult challenge for women than for men from a maternal standpoint," she said.

Lori's struggle was compounded when her first husband passed away when their son was only five years old and she was left to parent him alone. "Sometimes, the challenges in life make you stronger," Lori mused. "We all have them. How you react to those experiences can give you a lot of personal strength. As human beings, we are resilient," she said, noting we shouldn't be afraid to take on life's hardships.

Lori's sensitivity to hardships was evident when she worked tirelessly to see that the residents in the neighborhood of Larsen Acres would eventually have access to city water and public sewers. Lori's further accomplishments include having a voice in the construction of Southside Tennis Complex and in the building of Balis Community Center. Having represented Jacksonville's District 5 on the City Council since 2011, Lori also holds the title of Chair of the Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee, and last year she served as Council president. It's no wonder why, in 2016, Lori was named "Elected Official of the Year."

A resident of San Marco, Lori has been active in the community, holding prominent



roles. She has led the San Marco Preservation Society, which she has served since 1987, and was involved with the relocation of Preservation Hall to Fletcher Park.

Her standing as a powerful woman shows not only in her commitment to the local community, but also in her commitment to women and children. For over a decade, Lori's been active in Boy Scouts, and she has served on the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Empowerment is "a sense of self-confidence, of self-worth, knowing that you have something to contribute and that what you have to say is worthwhile. It's not being reticent or fearful that you're not as valuable," Lori said. "Women make up more than 50 percent of the world's population. We have unique perspectives. We know how to solve the world's problems. Don't cut that out," she warns.

From a cultural standpoint, the term 'empowered' is "used passively, like someone has given you power as opposed to *taking* it or *developing* it through your own skill-set and leadership roles," Lori said. There's an aspect of power that's "self-generated."

To those who might be feeling vulnerable and un-empowered, Lori offers this: "Find women mentors who will help you. Find women you admire. Many of them will be open to 'adopting' you." Lori has no doubt that women can overcome. "Don't underestimate your own ability to succeed and to find happiness."





Members of Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida celebrate by running a 5K race.

## GIRLS ON THE RUN

# INNER BEAUTY & SELF-ESTEEM

Regardless of the level of trauma a young girl has been exposed to, self-esteem is critical if she is to grow into an empowered woman. "When a girl has good self-esteem, she knows how to stand up for herself," said Laura L. Lasko, executive director of Girls on the Run (GOTR) of Northeast Florida.

Lasko cites low self-esteem as the biggest challenge facing girls today. GOTR partners with area schools to provide a 10-week program for

third-to-eighth graders that focuses on a holistic approach of attending the girls' physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Girls in the program learn to deal with peer-age issues like bullying and fitting in. They learn how to manage tumultuous emotions and maintain a positive attitude.

"Girls engage in activities that focus on inner beauty," and they learn that "what they see on social media is not the entire story," she said.

They learn these tools through a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running and culminates in a 5K (3.1-mile) non-competitive race that focuses on the completion of a set goal, which builds self-confidence. The nonprofit's goal, according to Lasko, is this: "GOTRNEFL wants to continue to grow until every elementary and middle school in our seven-county territory has a GOTR program!"



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# ENCOURAGED BY EXAMPLE, MOTIVATED TO MENTOR

{ NINA WATERS }

HER SONG JACKSONVILLE

## REST, RECOVERY, REINTEGRATION

For women who have escaped from the frightening world of human trafficking, the residential program offered by Her Song Jacksonville “consists of three progressive phases—rest, recovery, and reintegration, all with intentional goals,” said Rachel White, founder.

Daily, Her Song provides mental health support, case management, and specialized residential programs to help women who are survivors of forced labor or sexual exploitation. The “mission is to provide healing homes where young women are restored to life and freedom, on their journey to empowered independence,” said White.



*A client at Her Song relaxes with a good book.*

“Human trafficking is a community problem, and a big one for Jacksonville,” which “many people don’t yet truly understand,” she said. Recovery from its devastating effects requires “a healthy living environment that is supportive and offers comprehensive services to address the health of body, mind, and spirit.”

Her Song’s residential program serves young women with necessities that most take for granted, things like “housing, food, clothing, medical care, medications, counseling, recovery support, and dental and eye care.”

Her Song offers “the time and space for young women to heal” so that they “are able to not only overcome the bondage of these lies about identity, worth, and purpose, but they begin to dream a new dream for their lives,” White said. “We envision a world where every woman is free.”

“The end goal is independence; so, we work with women to build a network of support. For how long? To infinity...” she added.



“Having the authority and autonomy to act,” that’s what being empowered means to Nina Waters, and taking authoritative action throughout her career is what Nina has done. She is president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Inc., the state’s oldest and largest of its kind. Nina was promoted to this seat after a three-year stint as executive vice president. Under her leadership, The Community Foundation’s assets and grants have quadrupled.

For nearly 17 years, Nina has been accomplishing much for the foundation, including launching the Quality Education for All initiative, which led to the creation of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, and assisting in the development of the Women’s Giving Alliance, the organization’s first giving circle. Her induction into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame is well-deserved.

Nina’s empowerment was evident before her current career though. For 12 years prior, she served as executive director for Jacksonville’s PACE Center for Girls. There, in another display of longstanding devotion, she completed a multi-million-dollar capital campaign, assisted in the oversight of the construction of a new building, and facilitated the relocation of the program.

Nina recognizes her achievements have been possible, in part, by the influence that

others have had on her. “There have been many women and men who have played important roles in my life,” she said, and she shared how her “mother and grandmother lived at a time when women had fewer choices—especially in the areas of education and employment. The constraints placed on them truly changed the path of their lives.”

The limitations of her ancestors did not hinder Nina’s course though. “They both made sure that I had choices and instilled a sense of wonder and possibility in me at an early age,” she explained. She came from a family that encouraged a spirit of “initiative and drive to be the best at whatever I choose to do.”

But it wasn’t always positive reinforcement that motivated Nina to excel. She recalled how “a guidance counselor at my high school told me that I couldn’t possibly go to college because ‘people in your town don’t go to college.’ I saw that as a challenge. I wanted to prove her wrong.” And so, she did. Not only did Nina go to college, but she also was presented by Jacksonville University with the University Council President’s Award for Outstanding Leadership and, later, the Jacksonville University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Nina said she believes that “people are born empowered” and that “we need to stop criticizing people and tearing them down” because “feeling empowered is important for everyone.”

Nina advises other women to “Choose your friends wisely. Surround yourself with positive people who value your unique wisdom and strength. Find a mentor—you are never too old to have a mentor and create time to be a mentor to someone else.”

Nina continues to mentor women, volunteer her time, and remain active in the community. She’s a 27-year member of the Uptown Civitan Club and has been with the Jacksonville Civic Council for nearly a decade. These are but a couple of examples of Nina’s enduring commitment to service.

“I think we all have power within us,” she said, and surely Nina is a solid showcase.



## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

## EDUCATION &amp; COUNSELING

One thing women have in common is that all of them were once girls, and in childhood is where seeds of strength may be planted; it's where empowerment begins.

Pace Center for Girls is one of many organizations that recognizes and tends to this phenomenon. Pace has a presence in 21 counties across Florida and is headquartered in Duval County. Its mission is to help girls find their own voices to tell their own stories, to be "architects of their own futures," said Mary Marx, president and CEO.

Pace is a voluntary program—the girls themselves choose to come to the Pace facility for their schooling, which provides a low 1:10 classroom ratio that allows for extra attention from licensed and certified teachers in conjunction with mental health counseling to address the girls' unresolved trauma that stems from histories of family instability and conflict. Girls remain in the program for one to two years and then integrate back into the public-school system once they're on track.



*Girls at PACE Center for Girls assemble packets of socks for a fundraiser to support the foundation.*

Pace Center stands on three pillars: it is gender responsive, strength based, and trauma informed. "We believe in girls even when they don't believe in themselves," touts Marx, adding that the biggest challenge she sees for the girls in the Pace program is of a societal nature.

"It's the beliefs, attitudes, and institutions that don't value girls," she said, or the women they grow into. "You can't be what you don't see. You're asking these girls to climb a wall. You need to show them what's on the other side of it."

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# STILL EMPOWERED, DESPITE THE ODDS

{ SHANNON MILLER }

 A seven-time Olympic medalist, she is the most decorated Olympic gymnast in American history and the only female athlete to be twice inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. She has won 59 international and 49 national competition medals, over half of them gold. She is the first U.S. gymnast to win two world all-around titles. She was the most successful American athlete at the 1992 Olympics, winning five medals – two silver, and three bronze. She is also a law-degree graduate, an advocate for women and children, a cancer survivor, a published author, and a mother of two. She is Shannon Miller, and she is empowered.

Being empowered “means that we are stronger and more confident in ourselves and our dreams,” Shannon said. Her confidence did not wane after retiring from Olympic competition. She went on to pursue a university education. In 2010, she launched her own company, Shannon Miller Lifestyle: Health and Fitness for Women, which is dedicated to helping women make their health a priority through programs that promote a balanced lifestyle by focusing on topics like fitness, nutrition, pregnancy, motherhood, and more.

One year later, Shannon was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer. Surgeons removed a baseball-sized tumor and followed up with an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. Shannon is cancer-free today and remains open and public about her diagnosis and treatment, urging women to make their health a priority. She is a strong proponent of early detection, awareness, research, and survivorship.

Shannon has taken the lessons she learned through the obstacles she faced as an elite athlete, as a young adult, and as a cancer survivor and turned them into an inspirational memoir entitled “It’s Not About Perfect: Competing for My Country and Fighting for My Life.” It’s written to encourage and empower others to break through and overcome their own personal challenges.

“I have heard ‘no’ or ‘you can’t’ so many times over the years – not the right body type, not the right coach, not strong enough, not flexible enough, not talented enough, and the list goes on. I realized long ago that while there are so many reasons why we should *not* succeed, our job is to focus on the reasons why we *will* succeed.

“My coaches empowered me to speak up, which was certainly a task because I was terribly shy growing up,” Shannon reminisced. “They encouraged me to find my voice.”

And find it she did. Today, Shannon travels the country motivationally speaking to women and

children. “When we believe we can succeed, often-times, we do just that. I have had wonderful mentors that have reminded me through my athletic and business careers (and life in general) that failure is often the most important thing that can happen on the road to success.”

Because she believes that education empowers, Shannon is a proud board member of the Monique Burr Foundation, a Jacksonville-based organization that provides research-based comprehensive abuse prevention education to children. She also remains a part of the gymnastics and Olympic communities as an analyst and commentator.

SHANNON MILLER PHOTO BY LYNDSEY ALMEIDA



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HUBBARD HOUSE

## SHELTER & SERVICES

While some women are abused and pushed around, Hubbard House is stepping up.

"Since 1976, Hubbard House has been providing life-saving and life-changing shelter and services to victims of domestic violence and their children," said Dr. Gail Palin, CEO.

With an emergency shelter of 116 beds, an outreach center on Beach Boulevard, and victim advocates within the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Hubbard House "provides women survivors with the skills and tools they need to empower themselves, to both escape the darkness of domestic violence and to begin again," she said.

The vision statement for Hubbard House is a powerful one: "Every relationship violence free."

The shelter serves more than 5,000 people and protects nearly 1,000, half of whom are children. In addition to providing emergency shelter and monitoring a 24/7 domestic violence hotline, "We do everything we can to help the survivor find economic empowerment, so she has the means to sustain her safety and personal peace over the long haul," Palin said.


At Hubbard House, a woman is offered career coaching, budget counseling, and even coupon clipping after her critical crisis has passed.



*A domestic violence survivor support group meets at Hubbard House, where shelter and services, from counseling to career coaching and support groups are provided at no cost to survivors and their children.*

# HISTORY-MAKING INFLUENCER FOR WOMEN ATHLETES

{ NANCY HOGSHEAD-MAKAR }

 Nancy Hogshead-Makar is an Olympic medal winner, a civil rights lawyer, a published author, a keynote speaker, and the founding CEO of Champion Women, a non-profit organization that provides legal advocacy for girls and women in sports, addressing issues like harassment and discrimination. "We at Champion Women are looking to solve sexual abuse in the Olympic movement through shifting power to athletes, rather than merely adding layers to protect athletes," Nancy said.

She knows well the sports arena, both its light and dark sides.

In 1977, when she was only 14, Nancy was the only American swimmer to be ranked No. 1 in the world in an international event. No stranger to the world of academia as well as sports, Nancy was headed for the Olympics and obtained a full scholarship to Duke University. It was there, while out for an evening jog, that Nancy was pulled into the woods and raped.

Nancy is in the tiny fraction of sexual assault victims who hadn't met her perpetrator beforehand. It wasn't her boss, a fellow student, or her professor. Her rapist had no clout, no power over her. She had not been drinking, and she was not promiscuous. Those around her empathized with her, "and that made all the difference," she said. That empathy is what helped her heal and get back in the pool to train for the 1984 Olympics where she won one silver and three gold medals.

"I'm an example of what can happen with community support. I didn't overcome a whopping case of PTSD alone. I didn't have institutional betrayal. Everyone believed me. I was heard. No one from Duke, none of my professors nor that athletic department, told me to 'get over it.'"

It took time, but Nancy overcame. She graduated cum laude and then went on to complete her juris doctorate at Georgetown University Law Center. She received an honorary doctorate from Springfield College and worked as a tenured professor at Florida Coastal School of Law.

Beyond the pool and the classroom, Nancy is an internationally-recognized legal expert on sports issues. She has testified in Congress



multiple times on the topic of gender equity in athletics, published numerous scholarly and lay articles, served as an expert witness in Title IX cases, and written amicus briefs representing athletic organizations in precedent-setting litigation. She is a frequent guest on national news programs. She gives empowerment a public voice.

Nancy co-authored the book "Equal Play: Title IX and Social Change," and for over three decades she's consistently held leadership positions within local, state, national, and international organizations. She's been inducted into 13 Halls of Fame, and Sports Illustrated has listed her as one of the most influential people in the history of Title IX, which is a federal civil rights law that protects persons from sexual discrimination in any education program or activity that receives federal funding. "I have a tolerance for the work because I trust healing," Nancy said.

Because she was believed and embraced rather than judged and shunned in her aftermath, Nancy knows what her clients need most are support and understanding. "The more I work in this space, the more I realize how rare those two things are."

Nancy urges the public, "Don't judge the acting out" that often comes in response to being sexually assaulted. "Recognize what victims go through. If a woman gets the help she needs, and the community rallies around her, she can overcome." Nancy believes that older women, those who have earned great lives, need to serve as roadmaps for younger women. "Have patience through the process," she said.



# CARE DEEPLY AND SPEAK OUT

{ DR. SHERRY MAGILL }

RETHREADED

## LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT

It is widely recognized by many agencies that beyond the immediate need of assistance in times of emergency, for a woman to be truly empowered, she must be able to sustain an income. Rethreaded provides long-term employment for survivors of human trafficking, a subject “no one wants to talk about,” said Kristin Keen, the organization’s founder and president.

The folks at Rethreaded aren’t only talking about it, but also offering a future to many of its victims. Rethreaded sells an array of products, like fashion accessories, home goods, gifts, and even coffee.

Within the Rethreaded organization, survivors run all departments of their storefront and their web shop—from finance to retail, from inventory to administration, and all facets in between.

“Where she excels is where we want her to be,” said Keen of her clients who have all triumphed through addiction and complex trauma. It’s the transformation of identity she sees as these ladies’ biggest challenge, and yet, their greatest reward. Most women served by Rethreaded never knew they had the capacity to be successful jewelry makers, seamstresses, or saleswomen, and when you buy from them, “you’re wearing tangible hope as proof that things can change,” Keen said.



Kristin Keen



**I** To be empowered means “to act authentically from an inner place,” said Dr. Sherry Magill, about matters that are important to you. Equality is a matter of extreme importance to Sherry, and she’s been acting on it in a multitude of ways.

She grew up during a volatile time in history in an Alabama town filled with violence at the height of the Civil Rights movement. As a sensitive teenager, Sherry was a student in a segregated school district. Her dad talked about politics and public issues at the dinner table. It was a formative time in her life, and she was witness to African Americans not being afforded the same rights as others. She saw that if you were not a white male, the rights of citizenship were not extended to you. She watched as a daily occurrence on the news people stand up and demand something different. She witnessed other people’s courage, and it had enormous influence on her. She learned by example to be “willing to speak up against discriminatory issues,” and she adopted the belief that “If you care deeply, you should stand up and speak out.”

Sherry recently retired from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, a private grantmaking foundation that values the rights of all people to share in the wealth and health of our nation. Having been there for nearly three decades, Sherry had worked her way up to the title of President, having started as Program Officer

for Education. Prior to that, she served as Vice President and Deputy to the President of Washington College in Maryland. While there, she taught courses in American Studies and on the American South, and she was selected by the 1991 graduating class to receive the Gold Pentagon Award for outstanding service to the college. Jacksonville University, Randolph-Macon College, and Lynchburg College have conferred upon her the honorary degree Doctorate of Humane Letters.

When asked about the importance of women’s empowerment in today’s world, Sherry had this to say: “Women make up half the population. To build a healthy community, we need all people.” She pointed out that equality means full participation. “It’s a mistake if we leave out women’s voices.” They “bring a different perspective to the world.” She knows this well and has served as chair on the boards of the PACE Center for Girls and the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center among other noteworthy organizations, and she has held the title President of the Jacksonville Women’s Network. Further, Sherry is a founding member and past chair of the Florida Philanthropic Network.

“There are personal struggles, and there are collective ones that don’t ever go away. It’s a journey, but we make progress.” There are “ordinary folks doing extraordinary things. Over time, it gets easier.” To this end, Sherry has served as a senior moderator for the Aspen Institute, an organization with a reputation for gathering diverse voices to address some of the world’s most complex problems.

Sherry offers sage advice to young women today: “Surround yourself with good and smart people. Read biographies about powerful women who were and are courageous. Learn someone else’s story. Summon up the gumption to ask. Meet women who are successful and powerful; approach them. Talk to them. They’re all too willing to share.”

*“It’s a mistake if we leave out women’s voices.  
They bring a different perspective to the world.”*



## WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

## ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, EDUCATION

Empowering women is the essence of the work done at the Women's Center of Jacksonville where the mission is "to improve the lives of women through advocacy, support, and education."

As the only certified rape crisis center for Duval, Baker, and Nassau Counties, the necessity and the effectiveness of the Women's Center's work is wide-reaching. To meet the array of issues brought to them by three counties of women, this center has adopted a flexible service model that adapts to the changing needs of the community. Teresa Miles, the center's executive director, said, "It may be a single phone call to the hotline to help navigate a difficult situation, or it could be a student developing literacy and math skills over several years in preparation for their GED. We have had many clients come to the Women's Center immediately after a sexual assault, receive counseling, and then participate in our education program." The agency is a place for women to find counseling, referral assistance, rape prevention services, and breast cancer education, support and advocacy. Their latest endeavor is a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Center.



"Empowerment looks different for every woman we serve. It may be a survivor of sexual assault who can confidently venture out of her home alone, a counseling client employing new coping skills, a breast cancer patient wearing a wig with confidence, or a 40-year-old student walking across the stage as a high-school equivalency graduate. Empowerment may also be a group of women advocating for equal pay or women's rights," said Miles.

The Women's Center provides "the tools, support, and resources" to help women "understand that the solutions are within themselves" to live lives thriving rather than merely surviving.



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TOASTING 25 YEARS



## SULZBACHER CENTER

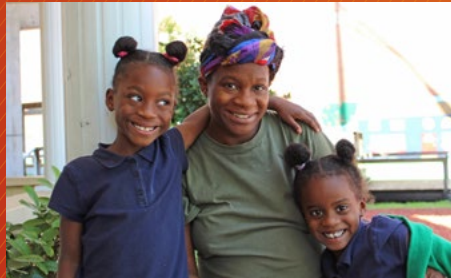
## HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, HOPE

The economic empowerment of women is one focus of the Sulzbacher Center, which is more than just a homeless shelter.

With a mission to break the cycle of multi-generational poverty, Sulzbacher offers therapeutic early learning, which addresses the trauma experienced by those born into impoverished situations and exposes them to a special curriculum that gets them ready for kindergarten.

Sulzbacher's outreach services include a mobile van unit called The HOPE Team that provides medical services and hygiene supplies to persons living on the streets.

According to Eileen Briggs, chief development officer, Sulzbacher is also "creating programs specifically designed to meet the needs of women," including female veterans who are homeless. To address the crushing effects of poverty, the center "works hard to form cross-sector partnerships" between government bodies, elected officials, corporations, and philanthropists "who must say, 'This is not okay!'" Briggs said.



*A mother and her two children play on the playground at Sulzbacher.*

The recently-opened Sulzbacher Village for Women and Families at the corner of 44th and Pearl Streets in Jacksonville is an accomplishment of which Briggs is proud. A 70-unit affordable permanent housing facility, it exclusively serves single women, families with children, and female veterans. Support services are offered for the residents during temporary adverse circumstances that might arise, like the breakdown of a car or the loss of a job.



*A mother living at Sulzbacher brings her newborn baby home to live with her in the agency's emergency housing.*

PHOTO BY INGRID DAMIANI

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So giving Sulzbacher Sweets by Sweet Pete's is like giving two gifts in one. And that's what we call sweet.

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BY







Battling cancer today,  
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Riley was diagnosed with an infiltrating astrocytoma, a relatively common type of pediatric cancer. Unfortunately, because of its location in his brain, the tumor is inoperable. Riley and his dads battled through 52 weeks of chemotherapy. Fighting alongside them was a multi-disciplinary team of Nemours pediatric specialists and his friends from Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department.

Although Riley's tumor remains stable, his fight is not over. He receives an MRI and evaluation every 90 days at Nemours. Inspired by the heroes he has met along the way, Riley dreams of helping other people in our community — *you can, too*. **Be part of Our Promise.**

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# The Art of the Human Experience... Meets the Future of Medicine

A woman with long brown hair is standing in the center, wearing a two-piece gold gown with a sequined bodice and a long, flowing skirt. She is looking slightly to the side with a soft expression. The background is dark with swirling golden light effects, and large, flowing golden fabric elements frame her on both sides, creating a sense of elegance and grandeur.

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practice based  
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# Enhanced by the skilled hands of an artist, a perfectionist, a legend.

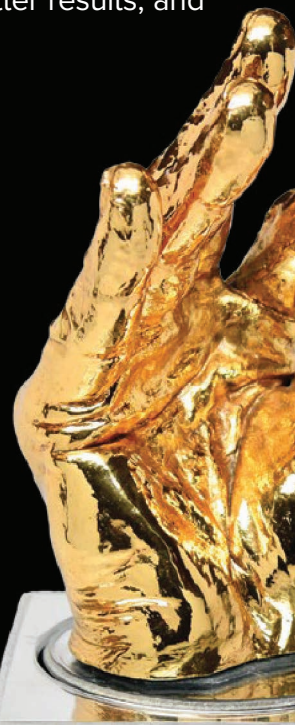
As one of the nations most diversified, advanced and accomplished plastic surgeons, Dr. Lewis J. Obi continues to bring patients the most innovative techniques and technology in the world of plastic surgery and regenerative medicine. Unique among his peers in Jacksonville, he continually develops new techniques and treatments that enhance the progression of traditional plastic surgery. His patients experience less bruising, faster recovery times, and enjoy more natural, lasting results.

In contrast to other U.S providers of adult stem cell therapies, Dr. Lewis Obi has more than 30 years experience with the use of adult fat for his plastic surgery patients. He has insured safety and efficacy by establishing the first state and federally licensed plastics ambulatory surgery center (ASC) in the state of Florida more than 30 years ago, in fact one of the IRBs Dr. Obi independently generated (Advara Cirbi IRB).

The Pangenics team includes **Dr. Lewis Obi** - Plastic Surgery, **Dr. David Heekin** - Orthopedics, **Dr. Kenneth Eaddy** - Pain Management/Internist and **Dr. Orlando Florete** - Pain Management.

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*The gold hands  
on display in Dr.  
Obi's office were  
generated in 14k  
gold by the late Dr.  
Clark Hoshall Jr.*



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The Pangenics Regenerative Network team of physicians performs a variety of procedures and continues to report and document results. Reviewed by our Independent Review Board or IRB, the compiled database is then used to establish safety and efficacy of these therapies. Adult stem cell therapy is becoming recognized as a viable alternative to joint replacement and surgical intervention for arthritis, sports injuries and a host of other diseases. The use of stem cells and PRP in place of surgery greatly enhances safety and a more rapid recovery, both in regenerative medicine as well as plastic surgery.



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# Charity

## REGISTER

2018 - 2019



# Success Stories



## ABILITY HOUSING

SHALANDA CENTORY JONES,  
HEAVEN AND CARRIE

For Shalanda Centory Jones and her daughters, Heaven and Carrie, Ability Housing has provided the stable home and security their family needed to help turn their lives around.

After Heaven's and Carrie's father died, Shalanda underwent support and recovery at Gateway Community Services, yet the family had no place to stay. They were forced to sleep on the floor at the homes of family and friends, only to face the next morning, when they might be on the streets once again.

"Not knowing where we would sleep at night, and if we would eat, or in the morning have someone say that we had to leave, was just too much," Shalanda said.

Ability Housing has provided Shalanda's family with housing and supplied necessities, such as pots and pans, cleaning supplies, towels, sheets, and a bed. Ability was also able to help them get furniture and baby supplies.

For the Jones family, having stable housing helped to keep Shalanda sober, which eased her recovery. Most importantly, it gave Shalanda security, as it was a comfort to know where her family would sleep at night.

"I was ready to give up, but Ability Housing saved me," Shalanda said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS vs. PUBLIC CHARITIES

**Blue** – Private foundations: Created to distribute money to public charities or individuals, primarily through the making of grants to other nonprofit organizations. A private foundation does not solicit funds from the public.

**Gold** – Public charities: Direct services with broad public purposes, including educational, religious, scientific, and the literary activities, among others, as well as the relief of poverty and other public benefit actions. Public charities can accept donations from the general public while serving the public good.

### 5 STAR VETERANS CENTER

40 Acme Street, 32211 | (904) 723-5950 | 5starveteranscenter.org

**CEO:** Col. Len Loving

**Mission & Vision:** The 5 Star Veterans Center works to ensure a positive impact in North Florida by offering safe/secure housing to displaced veterans, in an attempt to alleviate veteran homelessness.

### ABILITY HOUSING OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.

3740 Beach Boulevard, Ste 304, 32207 | (904) 359-9650 | abilityhousing.org

**Executive Director:** Shannon Nazworth

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of Ability Housing is to build strong communities where everyone has a home. Ability Housing's vision is a society where housing is a right, not a privilege, and all individuals have safe, affordable housing in vibrant communities.

### AGING TRUE

4250 Lakeside Drive, Ste. 116, 32210 | (904) 807-1203 | agingtrue.org

**CEO:** Teresa K. Barton

**Mission & Vision:** Aging True has been helping seniors maintain their independence and age gracefully by designing and administering programs in Northeast Florida for the past 54 years. The mission of Aging True is to provide essential and innovative services and care for individuals, families and communities throughout Northeast Florida to prepare for and support graceful aging.

### ALFRED I DUPONT TESTAMENTARY TRUST

510 Alfred duPont Place, 32202 | (904) 394-9800 | alfrediduponttrust.org

**Chief Operating Officer:** Kara P. Riley

**Mission & Vision:** The Trustees and staff of the Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust act as loyal stewards of Alfred I. duPont's legacy through prudent financial management and faithfulness to his mission, and by advancing his mission appropriately through the Trust's charitable beneficiary, The Nemours Foundation.

### THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE JACKSONVILLE

1628 San Marco Boulevard, Ste. 9, 32207 | (904) 469-4964 | afjacksonville.org

**President:** Florent Pignaud

**Mission & Vision:** AFJax's mission is to encourage and develop knowledge of the French language and French and Francophone cultures, and to foster cultural, intellectual and artistic exchanges between the United States, France and French-speaking countries.

### ALL I KNOW INC.

5501 Wesconnett Boulevard, #7534, 32244 | (904) 305-4124 | alliknowjax.com

**Founder/CEO:** Claresa Baggs

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of All I Know INC. is to equip limited resource families and youth who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs with the tools and skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives.

### ALLISON BRUNDICK HARAMIS FOUNDATION – ANGELS FOR ALLISON

4155 Oxford Avenue, 32210 | (904) 312-9490 | angelsforallison.org

**Executive Director:** Liz Nottingham

**Mission & Vision:** Angels for Allison is an opportunity to join together in God's name to help with the financial needs and ongoing support of families who are suffering with the loss of a child.



## ALS ASSOCIATION FLORIDA CHAPTER

**Regional Headquarters:** 3242 Parkside Center Circle, Tampa, FL 33619-0907  
(888) 257-1717 | [alsafl.org](http://alsafl.org)

**President/CEO:** Philip Flynn III

**Mission & Vision:** The ALS Association is leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy while also empowering people with Lou Gehrig's disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support.

## ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

4237 Salisbury Road, Ste. 406, 32216 | (904) 281-9077 | [alz.org](http://alz.org)

**Executive Director:** Jessica Marshall

**Mission & Vision:** The Alzheimer's Association is working to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

1430 Prudential Drive, 32207 | (904) 398-0537 | [cancer.org](http://cancer.org)

**Executive Director, Community Development:** Mel Toran

**Mission & Vision:** The American Cancer Society's mission is to save lives, celebrate lives and lead the fight for a world without cancer.

## AMERICAN CIVILITY ASSOCIATION

4466-1A Hendricks Avenue, Ste. 250, 32207 | (904) 612-5031 | [americancivility.org](http://americancivility.org)

**President:** Amy Barnett

**Mission & Vision:** The American Civility Association works to reverse the rising tide of anger, rude behaviors and bullying by educating individuals and families about the dangers of incivility, and equip them with heart tools to live safer and happier lives.

## AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

1650-302 Margaret Street, PMB 356, 32204 | (904) 730-7200 | [diabetes.org](http://diabetes.org)

**CEO:** Tracey D. Brown, MBA, BChE

**Mission & Vision:** The American Diabetes Association works to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

## AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION/ AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

7751 Baymeadows Road, E., Ste. 106F, 32256 | (904) 903-5205 | [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org)

**First Coast Board Chair:** Prakash Patel

**Mission & Vision:** The American Heart Association is helping build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

## AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHEAST

6852 Belfort Oaks Place, 32216 | (904) 743-2933 | [lungfla.org](http://lungfla.org)

**President/CEO:** Martha Bogdan

**Mission & Vision:** The American Lung Association helps save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

751 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 358-8091 | [nefloridaredcross.org](http://nefloridaredcross.org)

**CEO:** Gail McGovern

**Mission & Vision:** The American Red Cross works to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

## AMPUTEE FITNESS COUNCIL, INC.

P.O. Box 40807, 32203 | (904) 258-6862 | [amputeefitnesscouncil.org](http://amputeefitnesscouncil.org)

**Co-founders:** Charlene Hixon, Jennifer Simms

**Mission & Vision:** The Amputee Fitness Council's mission is to provide accessible and adaptive fitness and recreational opportunities to those who are living with life-changing limb loss.

## ANGELS FOR ALLISON

4155 Oxford Avenue, 32210 | (904) 312-9490 | [angelsforallison.org](http://angelsforallison.org)

**Executive Director:** Sissy Crabtree Horn

**Mission & Vision:** Angels For Allison is an opportunity to gather together in God's name to help with the financial needs of families who are suffering with the loss of a child.

## ANGELWOOD

P.O. Box 24925, 32241 | (904) 288-7259 | [angelwoodjax.org](http://angelwoodjax.org)

**Executive Director:** Diane Tuttle

**Mission & Vision:** Angelwood helps improve the quality of life for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

## AQUAJAX

3832-10 Baymeadows Rd., Ste. 183, 32217 | (904) 537-5219 | [aquajax.net](http://aquajax.net)

**Founder/President:** George Harrell

**Mission & Vision:** An advocacy group determined to advance projects for the city of Jacksonville that will provide greater prosperity, growth, and revenues to benefit all citizens. The first AquaJax project will be to place a world-class aquarium on the riverfront in downtown Jacksonville.

## THE ARC JACKSONVILLE

1050 North Davis Street, 32209 | (904) 355-0155 | [arcjacksonville.org](http://arcjacksonville.org)

**President/CEO:** Jim Whittaker

**Mission & Vision:** The ARC works to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life.

## ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

14499 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Ste. 139, Tampa, FL 33618 | (813) 968-7000 | [arthritis.org/florida](http://arthritis.org/florida)

**CEO:** Melissa Hughey

**Mission & Vision:** The Arthritis Foundation helps to conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections.

## THE ARTHUR VINING DAVIS FOUNDATIONS

225 Water Street, Suite 1510, 32202 | (904) 359-0670 | [avdf.org](http://avdf.org)

**Board Chair:** J.H. Dow Davis

**Mission & Vision:** The organization serves to strengthen America through philanthropy to religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes within the United States and its territories.

## ART WITH A HEART IN HEALTHCARE

841 Prudential Drive, 32207 | (904) 306-0390 | [artwithaheart.info](http://artwithaheart.info)

**Founders:** Lori Guadagno, Lisa Landwirth Ullmann

**Executive Director:** Christy Ponder

**Mission & Vision:** Art with a Heart in Healthcare provides personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families.

## ATLANTIC INSTITUTE OF JACKSONVILLE

2032 Southside Blvd., 32216 | (904) 379-2915 | [atlanticinstitutejax.org](http://atlanticinstitutejax.org)

**Executive Director:** Emma Amos

**Mission & Vision:** Atlantic Institute seeks to be a leading voice on the First Coast that builds mutual understanding and seeks common ground among diverse races, cultures, and faiths.

## BAIRFIND FOUNDATION

8777 San Jose Boulevard, Ste. 803, 32217 | (412) 926-7456 | [bairfind.org](http://bairfind.org)

**Founder:** Dennis Bair

**Mission & Vision:** BairFind Foundation's goal is getting the public more involved with finding missing children: More eyes looking means more children found.



# Success Stories



Catlynne, Shannon and Jodi Keet

## AMERICAN RED CROSS THE KEET FAMILY

Not long after Jodi, Shannon and Catlynne Keet moved to Florida from Pennsylvania, they lost everything when an electrical fire burned their home. The support the family received from the American Red Cross after the fire not only gave them comfort, but also a sense of security.

"We were in shock," said Shannon, noting both family pet cats were lost in the fire.

Knowing the family would need additional help in the days ahead, the fire department reached out to the American Red Cross, and a Red Cross volunteer showed up at the scene to offer support for the family.

"The Red Cross volunteer stayed and talked with us for hours, calmed us, and brought us water, food, and clothing vouchers," Shannon explained. "He even reminded me to contact the insurance company, which I hadn't even thought about."

Small gestures made by the organization became huge because they meant so much to her family, said Shannon. "The volunteer brought my daughter a Mickey Mouse toy with information and tips," said Shannon. "She is 18, but it was a very comforting thing."

The Keets are also grateful for several follow-up visits Red Cross volunteers made to the family after the fire, just to make sure they were doing okay.

Although the Keets have since relocated to another home and are making a fresh start, they said they will always have appreciation for the American Red Cross and its volunteers.

"The American Red Cross was an unexpected, amazing source of support" she said. "We are so thankful."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### BAPTIST HEALTH FOUNDATION

841 Prudential Drive, Ste. 1300 32207 | (904) 202-2912 | foundation.baptistjax.com

**Interim Chief Development Officer:** Audrey M. Moran

**Mission & Vision:** The Baptist Health Foundation, Inc. supports the health system's mission through philanthropy and stewardship of gifts that enable Baptist Health hospitals — Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist-MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baptist Beaches, Baptist Nassau, Baptist South and Wolfson Children's Hospital — to continually serve patients and their families and other community health care needs.

### BARNABAS CENTER

1303 Jasmine Street, Ste. 101, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
(904) 261-7000 | barnabasnassau.org

**President & CEO:** Wanda Lanier

**Mission & Vision:** The Barnabas Center works to provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis throughout Nassau County.

### BASCA, INC.

352 Stowe Avenue, Orange Park, 32073 | (904) 541-1742 | bascainc.org

**CEO:** Beth Clark

**Mission & Vision:** BASCA's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Northeast Florida.

### BEACHES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

797 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | (904) 241-1222 | beacheshabitat.org

**President/CEO:** Guy Cuddihee

**Mission & Vision:** Beaches Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Jacksonville's Beaches. In addition to building and rehabilitating quality, affordable homes for qualified families in need at no profit, the nonprofit guides its partner families through home ownership and provide educational opportunities.

### BEAM (BEACHES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY)

850 6th Avenue S., Ste. 400, 32250 | (904) 241-2326 | jaxbeam.org

**Executive Director:** Lori Richards

**Mission & Vision:** BEAM is a community-based organization that aims to provide emergency assistance and a path to economic stability for low income residents in Jacksonville's beaches communities. The nonprofit relies heavily on community support to assist those in need of food or shelter.

### BEN'S PLACE

1956 Blanding Boulevard, 32210 | (904) 379-7570 | bensplacecof.org

**Co-Founders:** Ben Shay, Melody McFadden

**Mission & Vision:** Ben's Place mission is to provide social experiences and support the independence of individuals with disabilities. Its vision is based on the premise that individuals with disabilities will be respected and appreciated for their own individual capabilities as they strive toward their own personal dreams.

### BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

4130 Salisbury Road, Ste. 2200, 32216 | (904) 296-0510 | bestbuddies.org/florida

**Area Director:** Erika Hatch

**Mission & Vision:** Best Buddies works to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### BETTY GRIFFIN CENTER

2450 Old Moultrie Rd, Ste. 202, St. Augustine, FL 32086 | (904) 824-1555 | bettygriffincenter.org

**Executive Director:** Joyce Mahr

**Mission & Vision:** The Betty Griffin Center offers protection and quality services for victims of Domestic Violence and their minor children and/or victims of Sexual Assault and their families of St. Johns County, through operation of a shelter offering assistance, counseling, and transitional support.



### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

40 East Adams Street, Ste. 220, 32202 | (904) 727-9797 | bbbsnefl.org

**CEO:** Sara Huke-Alford

**Mission & Vision:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of N.E. Florida provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

### BLAKE BORTLES FOUNDATION

(904) 474-2251 | blakebortlesfoundation.com

**Founder:** Blake Bortles

**Mission & Vision:** Support children with intellectual and developmental challenges in their pursuit of full, independent lives. Provide support to first responders, with the goal of improving their ability to safely carry out their vital lifesaving work.

### THE BOSELLI FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 16385, 32245 | (904) 704-6212 | bosellifoundation.com

**Executive Director:** Jennifer Vihrachoff

**Mission & Vision:** The Boselli Foundation is a faith-based non-profit organization striving to help children living in at-risk neighborhoods on the Northside of Jacksonville.

### BOUQUETS OF KINDNESS

4240 Marquette Avenue, 32210 | (904) 553-0505 | bouquetsofkindness.org

**Founder:** Lisa Kirkwood

**Mission & Vision:** To strengthen the community, show kindness to neighbors and grow friendships in unexpected places with the gift of flowers.

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUB NORTHEAST FLORIDA

555 West 25th Street, 32206 | (904) 396-4435 | bgcnf.org

**President/CEO:** Paul Martinez

**Mission & Vision:** Boys & Girls Clubs of N.E. Florida helps to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL

521 S. Edgewood Avenue, 32205 | (904) 388-0591 | nfcscouting.org

**Scout Executive/CEO:** Jack Sears

**Mission & Vision:** The Boy Scouts of America helps to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices in their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scouts' Oath and Law.

### BRIGHT MINDS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 441963, 32222 | (904) 644-8594 | brightmindsyouth.org

**Board Chair:** David Bright

**Mission & Vision:** Bright Minds Youth Development cultivates young minds for excellence and success by providing opportunities, skills, experience, exposure and positive challenges for children, teens and young adults to improve their quality of life.

### CAF & CNL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

136 Sawmill Lakes Blvd., 32082 | (904) 545-2771 | cafcnl.org

**Founder:** Jim Houston

**Mission & Vision:** To raise funds for Challenged Athletes Foundation and Camp No Limits, which provide opportunities and support to people with physical disabilities.

### CAMP I AM SPECIAL

235 Marywood Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259 | (904) 230-7447 | campiamspecial.com

**Ministry Director:** Rebecca Aleman

**Mission & Vision:** Camp I Am Special, a program of Catholic Charities, helps to reflect the compassion and love of God in Christ, by providing persons with disabilities the opportunities to know, love and serve God based on the value and dignity of human life.

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# Success Stories



## BEACHES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY {BEAM}

JEAN

After Jean, who lives in Jacksonville Beach, was suddenly hospitalized, she soon realized she was facing many unexpected expenses her Social Security income alone could not cover.

To cut down on grocery expenses, Jean, who considers herself strong and independent, took up gardening so she could grow her own fruits and vegetables, but unfortunately it was not enough.

Although she was at first reluctant to ask for help, Jean turned to the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) after falling short on her mortgage payments.

"Jean is an extraordinary woman who has made a wonderful, productive life for herself with limited funds by using her ingenuity and imagination," said BEAM Client Services Director Kathy Maloney.

BEAM's staff assured Jean of its ministry's purpose, which is to supply an emergency safety net to those facing a crisis. It was able to assist Jean with her overdue bills.

Thanks to BEAM, Jean was also able to get food from the Jacksonville Beach Food Pantry to supplement what she grows in her garden.

"Between SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and BEAM, I can eat and have a healthy lifestyle, which is important to me," Jean said. "BEAM has supplemented my diet in a way that I could never afford to do by myself."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST - INNER CITY MINISTRY

4940 Emerson Street, Ste. 104, 32207 | (904) 448-0737, ext. 10 | cru.org

**President:** Susan Hill

**Mission & Vision:** Campus Crusade For Christ, Jacksonville, serves and mobilizes the church to live out God's heart for the poor by training and resourcing volunteers in partner ministries.

### CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE (CCI)

Southeast Regional Office: 8150 Clarcona Ocoee Road, Orlando, FL 32818  
(407) 522-3300 | cci.org

**First Coast Chapter President:** CJ Smith

**Mission & Vision:** Canine Companions For Independence enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

### CARL S. SWISHER FOUNDATION, INC.

3030 Hartley Road, #250, 32257 | 904-399-8000

**President:** Kenneth G. Anderson

**Mission & Vision:** An independent foundation to support higher education and give grants to youth agencies, health associations, and social services.

### THE CARPENTER'S SHOP CENTER

1601 University Blvd. N., 32211 | (904) 226-2056 - thecarpentershopcenter.org

**Founder/Executive Director:** Cheryl Doro Wilder

**Mission & Vision:** The Carpenter's Shop Center is a faith- and community-based organization that improves the health of families by connecting them to resources, providing programs and services that empower and educate families so they can lead responsible, productive lives.

### CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

207 N. Laura Street, Ste. 300, 32202 | (904) 281-5599 | capkids.org

**President/CEO:** Rev. Kimberly Hyatt

**Mission & Vision:** The Cathedral Arts Project works to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUREAU JACKSONVILLE

134 E. Church Street, 32202 (904) 354-4846 | ccbjax.org

**Executive Director:** Lauren Weedon Hopkins

**Mission & Vision:** Catholic Charities provides services to anyone in need, regardless of race or religion; to advocate justice, human dignity and quality of life; and to call all people to join in these efforts; thereby reflecting the compassion of God in Christ.

### CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

11625 Old St. Augustine Road, 32258 | (904) 262-3200 | dosafl.com/catholic-foundation

**President:** Bishop Felipe J. Estévez

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of St. Augustine is to expand the opportunities for Christ's work in the Diocese-its parishes and schools, its ministries and clergy by encouraging stewardship, philanthropy and the growth of perpetual endowment.

### CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL

6112 POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, 32221 | (904) 303-8907 | powmiamemorial.org

**Executive Director:** Michael Cassata

**Mission & Vision:** The memorial will honor all former prisoners of war, remember and never forget those quiet, missing in action heroes and the families that wait for their return.

### CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES OF NORTH FLORIDA, INC.

3530 Enterprise Way, Green Cove Springs, 32043 | (904) 284-9859 | challengeenterprises.org

**Chief Executive Officer:** Nancy C. Keating

**Mission & Vision:** The nonprofit seeks to promote the power of people and possibilities for individuals living with disabilities, so they become enterprising members of their community.



### CHAMPION WOMEN

3116 St. Johns Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-8484 | [championwomen.org](http://championwomen.org)

**Founder/CEO:** Nancy Hogshead-Makar

**Mission & Vision:** Champion Women is an advocacy organization for girls and women in sports, and uses sports to improve the lives of girls and women.

### CHILD CANCER FUND

4720 Salisbury Road, 32256 | (904) 396-4223 | [childcancerfund.org](http://childcancerfund.org)

**Executive Director:** Carla Montgomery

**Mission & Vision:** The Child Cancer Fund provides emotional, practical, educational, and financial support to families of children battling childhood cancer.

### CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER

5776 St. Augustine Road, 32207 | (904) 448-4700 | [childguidancecenter.org](http://childguidancecenter.org)

**President/CEO:** Theresa Rulien, Ph.D.

**Mission & Vision:** Invest in the community by providing counseling and support services to assist children and families in reaching their fullest potential. Improve the lives of children and families by offering a full range of comprehensive, state of the art behavioral health services.

### THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

Buckner Division: 3027 San Diego Road, 32207 | (904) 493-7744 | [chsf.org](http://chsf.org)

**Executive Director:** Kymberly Cook

**Mission & Vision:** The Children's Home Society embraces children and inspires lives by helping to break generational cycles of child abuse and protecting children from harm.

### CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK JACKSONVILLE

580 W. 8th Street Tower 1, 3rd Floor, 32209 | (904) 244-9354 | [cmnjax.com](http://cmnjax.com)

**Executive Director:** Emily Williamson

**Mission & Vision:** Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are dedicated to improving the health and welfare of all children by raising funds and awareness for the pediatric programs of UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

### CHILDREN'S SAFE PASSAGE

(904) 400-0726 | [csapc.org](http://csapc.org)

**Executive Director:** Mike Williams

**Mission & Vision:** The goal of CSP has been to actively seek out solutions to prevent violence and sexual exploitation against children in the Northeast Florida community.

### CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRIES

438 W. 67th Street, 32208 | (904) 765-3332- ext. 201 | [christianhealingmin.org](http://christianhealingmin.org)

**Director of Ministry/President:** Judith MacNutt

**Mission & Vision:** Jacksonville's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the practice and teaching of healing prayer strives to make Christian healing prayer a way of life in families, churches, and medical professions, and to be a visible presence of Jesus' desire to heal in the world today.

### CHRIST'S STARFISH FOUNDATION

11750 Coastal Lane, 32258 | (904) 612-8522 | [christstarfish.org](http://christstarfish.org)

**President:** Carldon Lahey

**Mission & Vision:** Christ's Starfish Foundation share the love of Jesus Christ providing assistance to children's hospitals through child life specialists and by assisting families of non-cancer patients who are experiencing financial hardships due to medical expenses.

### CISV INTERNATIONAL - JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

1650-302 Margaret Street, PMB 279, 32204 | (904) 616-1390 | [cisvjax.org](http://cisvjax.org)

**President:** Lisa Taylor

**Mission & Vision:** CISV International helps participants develop skills to become informed, responsible and active global citizens to make a difference in our community and the world.

### CITY RESCUE MISSION

426 S. McDuff Avenue, 32254 | (904) 387-9377 | [crmjax.org](http://crmjax.org)

**Executive Director:** Penny Kievet

**Mission & Vision:** The City Rescue Mission exists to transform the lives of the homeless and needy, serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

### CITY YEAR JACKSONVILLE

6 E. Bay Street, Fl 2, 32202 | (904) 423-2100 | [cityyear.org/jacksonville](http://cityyear.org/jacksonville)

**Executive Director:** Dan Foley

**Mission & Vision:** To decrease the rate of high school drop-outs, City Year helps close the gap between what students need to succeed and what schools are designed to provide.

### CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF JACKSONVILLE

3305 Riverside Avenue, 32205 | [civicorchestrajax.org](http://civicorchestrajax.org)

**President:** Nadine Terk

**Mission & Vision:** To cultivate classical music connoisseurship through education, performance, and collaborative programming to engage, enrich, and strengthen our community.

### CLARA WHITE MISSION

613 W. Ashley Street, 32202 | (904) 354-4162 | [clarawhitemission.org](http://clarawhitemission.org)

**President/CEO:** Ju'Coby Pittman

**Mission & Vision:** The Clara White Mission works in partnership with the community to prevent and reduce homelessness through advocacy, housing, job training and employment.

### CLAY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

3292 County Road 220, Middleburg, FL 32068 | (904) 291-5561 | [ccbhc.org](http://ccbhc.org)

**CEO:** Irene M. Toto, LMHC

**Mission & Vision:** Clay Behavioral Health Center is dedicated to being a resource that provides mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment to adults, teens, children and families in Clay County.

### COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS - JACKSONVILLE

6261 Dupont Station Court, 32217 | (904) 344-3900 | [cisjax.org](http://cisjax.org)

**CEO:** Steve Gilbert

**Mission & Vision:** Communities In Schools works to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

### THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

245 Riverside Avenue, Ste. 310, 32202 | (904) 356-4483 | [jaxcf.org](http://jaxcf.org)

**President:** Nina Waters

**Mission & Vision:** The Community Foundation For Northeast Florida stimulates philanthropy to build a better community through civic leadership, philanthropic leadership and by providing products and services to help donors fulfill their philanthropic goals.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

5126 Timuquana Road, 32210 | (904) 573-1333 | [chojax.org](http://chojax.org)

**Executive Director:** Lenora Gregory

**Mission & Vision:** Community Health Outreach works to cloth the needy, feed the hungry and heal the sick in the name of God.

### COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

4266 Sunbeam Road, 32257 | (904) 268-5200 | [communityhospice.com](http://communityhospice.com)

**President/CEO:** Susan Ponder-Stansel

**Mission & Vision:** Community Hospice works to improve the quality of life for patients and families, and to be the compassionate guide for end-of-life care in our community.



# Success Stories



## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS BLAKE HUMPHREY

Eighteen-year-old Blake Humphrey didn't realize at the time that observing a poster for Communities in Schools Rising Stars Talent Show while he walked to class would change his life.

Humphrey, whose father had left the family soon after he was born and whose mother serves in the military, often felt anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Then he met his Communities in Schools Site Coordinator Mary Naumann, who encouraged him to sign up for the talent show. Not long after, Humphrey found he could turn to Naumann for guidance in academics and other areas of his life.

"She not only motivated me to push myself in education but encouraged me to cultivate and sharpen my acting and stage gifts," Humphreys said.

"Even when I felt as though I'd be better off giving up, Mrs. Naumann, as well as my mother, believed I should truly reach for the stars. I utilized all the ideals and tools that Communities in Schools poured into my life," he said.

Not only did Humphreys make the cut during the talent show auditions, he took second place for his performance in the show.

"No matter what life throws your way, you are never alone," said Humphrey. "Someone will always be in your corner to fight. For me, it was God, my mother, and the loving people at Communities in Schools."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER

623 Beechwood Street, 32206 | (904) 358-1211 | [communityrehabcenter.org](http://communityrehabcenter.org)

**CEO:** Reginald Gaffney

**Mission & Vision:** The Community Rehabilitation Center envisions a future where everyone experiences a holistically better quality of life and has access to effective treatment and support essential for living, working, learning and fully participating in the community. CRC promotes the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of individuals and families in Northeast Florida by providing easily accessible, culturally competent, quality competent, and quality-based clinical services.

### COMPASSIONATE HEARTS FOR KIDS

731 Duval Station Road, Ste. 107-126, 32218 | [compassionateheartsforkids.org](http://compassionateheartsforkids.org)

**Founders:** Christina and Richard Wood

**Mission & Vision:** We desire to show compassion to all children experiencing difficulties by demonstrating love through action: the Caden Project provides Build-A-Bears® to children in hospitals, and Caleb's Helping Hands finds special solutions for special needs children who need help participating in life's activities.

### COUNCIL ON AGING ST. JOHNS COUNTY

180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084 | (904) 209-3700 | [coasjc.com](http://coasjc.com)

**Executive Director:** Becky Yanni

**Mission & Vision:** The Council On Aging St. Johns County provides leadership and advocacy for the dignity, independence, health and community involvement of older St. Johns County residents.

### COUNCIL ON AGING NASSAU COUNTY

1367 S. 18th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 | (904) 261-0701 | [nassaucountycoa.org](http://nassaucountycoa.org)

**Executive Director:** Janice Ancrum

**Mission & Vision:** The Council On Aging of Nassau County works to improve the lives of older adults with a special focus on those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged through their Senior Life Centers as well as compassionate care designed to improve the health, independence and economic security of area seniors and their families.

### CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA/ JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 124, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 553-9743 | [www.cctakesteps.org](http://www.cctakesteps.org)

**Take Steps Walk Manager:** Ginger Lilley Peace

**Mission & Vision:** To cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

### CSI GIVES BACK

9995 Gate Parkway N, Suite 315, 32246 | (904) 862-2949 | [csigivesback.org](http://csigivesback.org)

**Director:** Becky Lowry, CMP

**Mission & Vision:** CSI Gives Back identifies and supports local organizations that directly impact those in true need by providing acts of kindness and bringing smiles to the community.

### CULTURAL CENTER AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH

50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | (904) 280-0614 | [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)

**Executive Director:** Donna Guzzo

**Mission & Vision:** The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach works to bring the arts into the life of our communities through arts education, art appreciation and community outreach.

### CULTURAL COUNCIL OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE

300 Water Street, Ste. 201, 32202 | (904) 358-3600 | [culturalcouncil.org](http://culturalcouncil.org)

**Board of Directors Chair:** Ann Carey

**Mission & Vision:** The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville champions the appreciation, relevance, and expression of art and culture.

### THE CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART & GARDENS

829 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 356-6857 | [cummuseum.org](http://cummuseum.org)

**Chief Operating Officer/Chief Curator:** Holly Keris

**Mission & Vision:** The Cummer Museum works to engage and inspire through the arts, gardens, and education.



### CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION - FLORIDA CHAPTER

12627 San Jose Blvd, Ste. 504B, 32223 | (904) 733-3560 | cff.org

**Executive Director:** Paul Gloersen

**Mission & Vision:** The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is dedicated to improving the daily lives of people with Cystic Fibrosis and to finding a cure for all people with CF.

### DANIEL KIDS FOUNDATION/DANIEL MEMORIAL, INC.

4203 Southpoint Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 296-1055 | danielkids.org

**President/CEO:** Lesley Wells

**Mission & Vision:** Daniel Kids Foundation, Inc. works to improve the lives of children and families through various community-based services.

### DARE - DACHSHUND ADOPTION, RESCUE & EDUCATION

4495-304 Roosevelt Blvd., PMB 179, 32210 | daretorescue.com

**President:** Alicia Duval

**Mission & Vision:** DARE views its mission as increasing public awareness through education against animal cruelty, related issues and overpopulation while rescuing and re-homing displaced and unwanted dachshunds and dachshund mixes.

### DAVID GARRARD FOUNDATION

245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 250, 32202 | (904) 376-7029 | davidgarrardfoundation.org

**Director:** Heather Surface

**Mission & Vision:** Founded in 2009, the David Garrard Foundation supports programs that enhance the awareness, education and research of breast cancer and Crohn's disease. The foundation also aims to support healthy lifestyle choices for youth.

### DELORES BARR WEAVER POLICY CENTER - SEE THE GIRL

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 130, 32202 | (904) 598-0901 | seethegirl.org

**President/CEO:** Lawanda Ravoira, D.P.A.

**Mission & Vision:** The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center is a local nonprofit organization that works to engage communities, organizations and individuals through quality research, community organizing, advocacy, training and model programming to advance the rights of girls and young women, especially those in the justice and child protection systems.

### DEPAUL SCHOOL OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3044 San Pablo Road South, 32224 | (904) 223-3391 | depaulschool.com

**Head of School:** Dr. Amber Oliveira

**Mission & Vision:** The DePaul School of Northeast Florida is committed to understanding and educating students with specific learning differences such as visual and auditory processing disorders, memory or attention deficits and dyslexia.

### DLC NURSE & LEARN

4101 College Street, 32205 | (904) 387-0370 | dlcnl.org

**Executive Director:** Amy Buggle

**Mission & Vision:** DLC Nurse & Learn provides year-round high-quality education, nursing care, and therapies to children of all abilities so that children and families have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.

### THE DONNA FOUNDATION

11762 Marco Beach Drive Ste. 6, 32224 | (904) 551-0732 | thedonnafoundation.org

**Founder:** Donna Deegan

**Executive Director:** Amanda Napolitano

**Mission & Vision:** The Donna Foundation provides financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and fund ground-breaking breast cancer research.

### THE DONOVIN DARIUS FOUNDATION

13245 Atlantic Boulevard, #4-156, 32225 | (904) 290-3320 | donovindariusfoundation.com

**Founder:** Donovan Darius

**Mission & Vision:** To educate, equip and empower individuals in identifying their purpose and to maximize their potential, serving the hearts, souls and minds of families in Northeast Florida.

# The Spirit of VICTORY

Thank you to our generous donors who have contributed nearly \$1.5 million for park restoration through the Spirit of Victory campaign.



This is an incredible feat for our all-volunteer organization — one that has been fueled by love and dedication to the preservation of this important historic landmark and vibrant community resource.

Having reached this milestone, we will focus our efforts toward ongoing care of the park and building an endowment to maintain the park's grandeur in perpetuity.

MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION

### About Memorial Park & Memorial Park Association

Memorial Park is Florida's World War I Memorial, located on six acres overlooking the St. Johns River in the heart of historic Riverside. Designed by the famed Olmsted Brothers and dedicated on December 25, 1924, it honors all Floridians who lost their lives in service during World War I. Memorial Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also designated a World War I Centennial Memorial. Established in 1986, Memorial Park Association is a nonprofit charitable organization serving its mission to enhance, promote and preserve Memorial Park as the premier historic park in the City of Jacksonville.

[memparkjax.org](http://memparkjax.org) | [info@memparkjax.org](mailto:info@memparkjax.org)



# Success Stories



## FOSTER CLOSET EBONY BLAND

Even though she is now a young adult and a mother herself, Ebony Bland will never forget all that Foster Closet did for her when she began to transition out of foster care.

Foster Closet not only helps teens who are aging out of foster care, it also offers free resources, clothing, furniture, and other items to support foster-care families.

Thanks to Foster Closet, Ebony received a donated car, which meant more to her than just a means of transportation. Having wheels gave her a sense of security as well as a connection to other family members in the foster-care system.

Before receiving the donation from Foster Closet, Bland often found herself unable to pick up her son, Morris, from daycare if he became sick or something unexpected happened.

"I couldn't always find a way to get to him," Bland said. "The car they gave me allowed me to take my son to daycare and doctor appointments," she explained. "It has allowed me to get to and from school, to the grocery store, and has been essential for emergencies."

The car also gives her the opportunity to visit her three younger siblings, who are still in foster care, on a regular basis.

"Without this car, I would probably never see them," she said.

A sophomore at Florida State University where she is majoring in mechanical engineering, Bland's goal is to become an engineer that develops alternative types of fuel for cars that are efficient and affordable for everyone.

"This car has given me independence and has kept me close to my family," she said. "I am truly grateful for their donation."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### DON'T MISS A BEAT

PO Box 6697, 32226 | (904) 385-4001 | dontmissabeat.org

**Director of Programs:** Esther Poitier

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of Don't Miss a Beat is to blend music, art, academic achievement, and civic engagement to inspire and enlighten children and teens in the Riverside and Brooklyn communities.

### DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS FOUNDATION

2445 San Diego Road, 32207 | (904) 208-0962

**Executive Director:** Jacqueline Cornelius

**Mission & Vision:** The Foundation strives to further the arts program at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts and the talents of the students who attend the school.

### DOWNTOWN ECUMENICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

215 N. Ocean Street, 32202 | (904) 358-7955 | descjax.org

**Executive Director:** David Clark

**Mission & Vision:** The Downtown Ecumenical Services Council provides emergency assistance to people in need through food distribution, clothing assistance and financial assistance.

### DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF JACKSONVILLE

630 May Street, 32204 | (904) 353-6300 | dsaj.org

**Executive Director:** Debbie Revels

**Mission & Vision:** The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville is committed to helping people with Down Syndrome achieve their full potential and to helping create a community that is educated, supportive, and inclusive of individuals with Down Syndrome.

### DREAMS COME TRUE OF JACKSONVILLE

6803 Southpoint Parkway, 32216 | (904) 296-3030 | dreamscometrue.org

**Executive Director:** Sheri K. Criswell

**Mission & Vision:** Dreams Come True is the only locally-based dream granting organization dedicated to using the power of a dream to bring hope and joy to every local child battling a life-threatening illness.

### DUCKS UNLIMITED

National Headquarters - One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee 38120  
1-800-45DUCKS or (901) 758-3825 - ducks.org/florida

**Regional Director (South Georgia/North Florida):** Jarrett Lafferty

**Mission & Vision:** Ducks Unlimited is the world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

### DUVAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 16304, 32245 | duvalaudubon@gmail.com | duvalaudubon.org

**Chapter President:** Jody Willis

**Mission & Vision:** The society is dedicated to the enjoyment of birds and other wildlife, with a primary focus on the preservation of a diversity of species and habitats, through education, conservation, environmental leadership and community involvement.

### EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF DUVAL

6500 Bowden Road, Ste. 290, 32216 | (904) 208-2044 | elcdual.org

**President/CEO:** Denise Marzullo

**Mission & Vision:** The Early Learning Coalition helps lead and support the early learning community in building the best foundation for children from birth to age five.

### ELDERSOURCE

10688 Old St. Augustine Road, 32257 | (904) 391-6600 | myeldersource.org

**Executive Director:** Linda Levin

**Mission & Vision:** ElderSource works to empower individuals to age with independence and dignity by providing leadership, direction, advocacy and support for a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of care.



## EMPOWERMENT RESOURCES

3832-010 Baymeadows Road, Ste. 348, 32217  
(904) 268-8287 | empowermentresourcesinc.org

**Executive Director:** Elexia Coleman-Moss

**Mission & Vision:** Empowerment Resources works to make children and families stronger and empower them to be successful leaders in the community today, for a better tomorrow.

## EPIC OUTREACH

(904) 274-1177 | epicoutreach.org

**Compassion Creator:** Jessie Miller

**Mission & Vision:** EPIC Outreach exists to inspire compassion by sharing information through humane education, networking, and outreach to create a kinder world for people, animals, and the environment.

## EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA – JACKSONVILLE

5209 San Jose Boulevard, Ste. 101, 32207 | (904) 731-3752 | efof.org

**CEO:** Karen Egozi

**Mission & Vision:** The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy.

## EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

8443 Baymeadows Road, Ste. 1, 32256 | (904) 726-1500 | ecs4kids.org

**CEO:** Connie Stophel

**Mission & Vision:** Episcopal Children's Services strives to be a recognized leader in early childhood education that uses research and best practices to help families ensure their children enter school ready to learn.

## EXCHANGE CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

president@jaxexchangeclub.com | jaxexchangeclub.com

**Board President:** Shawn DeVries

**Mission & Vision:** Through camaraderie and a shared spirit of service, Exchange Club is a group of men and women who come together, working to make Jacksonville a better place to live through four pillars of service: Americanism, child abuse prevention, community service and youth programs.

## EXCHANGE CLUB FAMILY CENTER

3119 Spring Glen Road, Ste. 111, 32207 | (904) 306-9318 | exchangeclubfamilycenter.com

**Executive Director:** Barbara Alexander

**Mission & Vision:** For 25 years, the Exchange Club Family Center of Northeast Florida has offered free, in-home Parent Aide services to at-risk families across Jacksonville's First Coast to deter child abuse and strengthen families

## FAMILY NURTURING CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

2759 Bartley Circle, 32207 | (904) 389-4244 | fncflorida.org

**Director:** Elaine Jacobs

**Mission & Vision:** The Family Nurturing Center is dedicated to the needs of children and families in crisis throughout Florida.

## FAMILY PROMISE OF JACKSONVILLE

225 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 354-1818 | familypromisejax.org

**Executive Director:** Mark Landschoot

**Mission & Vision:** Family Promise is an interfaith hospitality network providing temporary assistance, hospitality and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA

1300 Riverplace Boulevard, Ste. 700, 32207 | (904) 421-5800 | fssjax.org

**President/CEO:** Robert Miller

**Mission & Vision:** The Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. works to be the leader in providing safety, stability, and quality of life for all children by working with the community to strengthen the family unit.

## FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA

1116 Edgewood Avenue North, Units D/E, 32254 | (904) 513-1333 | feedingnefl.org

**President/CEO:** Frank Castillo

**Mission & Vision:** Feeding Northeast Florida's strives to banish hunger from all 17 counties in Northeast Florida.

## FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

12735 Gran Bay Parkway, Ste. 150, 32258 | (904) 606-5148 | firehousesubsfoundation.org

**Executive Director:** Robin Peters

**Mission & Vision:** The foundation's mission is to impact the live-saving capabilities, and the lives, of local heroes and their communities.

## FIRST COAST NO MORE HOMELESS PETS, INC.

6817 Norwood Avenue, 32208 | (904) 425-0005 | fcnmhp.org

**Founder & Executive Director:** Rick DuCharme

**Mission & Vision:** First Coast No More Homeless Pets seeks to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters in our community, Northeast Florida and the nation.

## FIRST COAST ROWING CLUB

645 Cesery Blvd., 32211 | (904) 479-6325 | stantonriverbankrowing.wildapricot.org

**Director of Rowing:** Paul Mokha

**Mission & Vision:** The club's focused mission is to help children establish strong character, learn life skills, and develop physically and emotionally through the sport of rowing.

## THE FIRST TEE OF NORTH FLORIDA

475 W. Town Place, Ste. 115, St. Augustine, 32092  
(904) 810-2231 | thefirstteenorthflorida.org

**Executive Director:** Jeff Willoughby

**Mission & Vision:** The First Tee of North Florida works to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

## THE FLORIDA BALLET

300 E. State Street, Suite E, 32202 | (904) 353-7518 | floridaballet.org

**Executive Director:** Martha Lemire

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of The Florida Ballet is to enrich and inspire the cultural landscape of our community through the education and art of classical ballet.

## FLORIDA BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

11900 Biscayne Blvd., Ste. 288, N. Miami 33181 | (305) 631-2134 | FloridaBreastCancer.org

**Interim President and CEO:** John Capurso

**Mission & Vision:** Dedicated to ending breast cancer through advocacy, education and research.

## THE FLORIDA NONPROFIT ALLIANCE

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 229, 32202 | (407) 694-5213 | finonprofits.org

**Executive Director:** Sabeen Perwaiz

**Mission & Vision:** The Florida Nonprofit Alliance informs, promotes, and strengthens the nonprofit sector in order to create more vibrant communities across the state.

## FLORIDA PANCREAS CANCER COALITION, INC.

13007 Chets Creek Drive N., 32224 | (904) 434-3089 | flpcc.org

**President:** Anna Murphy

**Mission & Vision:** The goal of FLPCC is to invest in local, world class, pancreas cancer research, where our neighbors are part of the team and can see the value of their contributions and know where they are being spent.

## FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

501 W. State Street, Ste. 104, 32202 | (904) 633-8100 | fscfoundation.org

**Executive Director:** Cleve Warren

**Mission & Vision:** Florida State College Foundation strives to secure financial resources for Florida State College at Jacksonville to provide students in need access to an affordable, quality education and to enhance the lives and the economic development of Northeast Florida.



# Success Stories



## GREYHOUNDS AS PETS NATHAN AND KELLY SPAULDING WITH FRECKLES AND PERI

For Nathan and Kelly Spaulding, one visit to the Greyhounds as Pets booth at Riverside Arts Market led to the meeting of Freckles and Peri, two retired greyhounds who would soon become both friends and members of their family.

When the Spauldings, who are local business owners, stopped by the Greyhounds as Pets booth, they were impressed with the staff and the nonprofit's mission to find a "forever home" for retired greyhounds. They decided to begin the adoption process.

Soon they visited the Greyhounds as Pets kennel and, nearly three years ago, adopted 2-year-old Freckles. A few months later, the couple welcomed Peri, who was slightly younger than Freckles, into their home as well.

"We have given Freckles and Peri their forever home after their racing days were over," said Kelly.

"Freckles and Peri have been a great addition to our family. Giving these retired racers their forever home has been one of the best decisions we have made. They are gentle, loving, and polite dogs who love to sleep, take an occasional run around the yard, or go for a ride and walk in the park," she said. "It's so much fun having dogs that love to socialize with people – children included – as well as other dogs."

"They give us unconditional love daily and are such a joy to have in our lives," she continued. "We are grateful to Greyhounds as Pets for all they do to place these wonderful dogs into loving homes."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### FLORIDA THEATRE

128 E. Forsyth Street, 32202 | (904) 355-5661 | floridatheatre.com

**President:** Numa C. Saisselin

**Mission & Vision:** Florida Theatre works to enhance the North Florida community's quality of life by providing diverse and memorable arts and entertainment experiences, and by preserving a unique historic Jacksonville landmark.

### FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

7035 Philips Hwy, Ste. 36, 32216 | foeinfo.com

**Executive Director:** Marcus Broadnax

**Mission & Vision:** Focus on Excellence is a leading college preparatory program in Northeast Florida with the goal of delivering its scholars the best possible college or university and the best possible financial package. Focus on Excellence offers its scholars academic, emotional and social repatriation.

### FOOD ALLERGY FAMILIES OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

fafofnefl@gmail.com | foodallergy.org

**President:** Lori Cordell

**Mission & Vision:** Food Allergy Families (FAF) of Northeast Florida is a volunteer-run support group for families managing food allergies. The organization's vision is to provide support, educate the community and members on food allergies, and advocate for policy improvements for the safety of the food-allergic.

### FOSTER CLOSET

8307 Beach Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 629-2116 | fostercloset.org

**Founders:** Tammy and John McGuire

**Mission & Vision:** "To look after the orphans..." Foster Closet provides support and free resources for foster families and independent living teens.

### FRESHMINISTRIES/BE THE CHANGE INTERNATIONAL

1131 N. Laura Street, 32206 | (904) 355-0000 | freshministries.org

**Founder, Chairman & CEO:** Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III

**Mission & Vision:** FreshMinistries is an interfaith organization working to eliminate extreme poverty by empowering communities and individuals to realize their full potential.

### FRIDAY MUSICALE

645 Oak Street, 32204 | (904) 355-7584 | fridaymusicale.com

**Interim Executive Director:** Eric Becher, Ph.D.

**Mission & Vision:** For 125 years, Friday Musical has supported the Jacksonville community through concerts, educational outreach and scholarships.

### FRIENDS OF HEMMING PARK

303 N. Laura Street, 32202 | (904) 515-5098 | hemmingpark.org

**Interim Director:** Bill Prescott

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of Friends of Hemming Park is to transform Jacksonville's oldest public park into a modern, urban space that engages diverse communities and restores vitality to our city's public square.

### FRIENDS OF JACKSONVILLE ANIMALS

c/o Animal Care and Protective Services, 2020 Forest Street, 32204 | friendsofjaxanimals.com

**President - Executive Committee:** Alicia Strayer

**Mission & Vision:** Friends of Jacksonville Animals works directly with Jacksonville's Animal Care and Protective Services to benefit the lives of shelter animals by focusing on fundraising to assist with medical care, enrich the shelter environment, and promote adoptions to reduce euthanasia.

### FUNK-ZITIELLO FOUNDATION, INC.

830 A1A North, Ste. 13, #187, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082  
(904) 373-0737 | championsforhopegolf.com

**Director:** Judith Zitiello

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of the Funk-Zitiello Foundation is to help the community by taking the challenges of individuals and turning them into initiatives that can provide hope and funding to those dealing with extraordinary obstacles.





**DA Theatre Graduate  
DANIEL BREAKER '98**

Juilliard / BFA / Actor  
Tony Nominee for Passing Strange;  
Currently starring as Aaron Burr in  
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**DA Film Graduate  
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Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.  
Strategy Analyst for Intuitive Medical  
Surgical; Geneva, Switzerland

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# Success Stories



## HART FELT MINISTRIES MS. JEWEL

After suffering with polio as a child, Ms. Jewel found that when she reached her 80s, she could no longer drive, which made it hard to find transportation to her doctor appointments. Thankfully Hart Felt Ministries, a nonprofit that helps Jacksonville seniors stay independent and age gracefully in their homes, stepped in to help, and now at 90 years old, Ms. Jewel is grateful for the difference Hart Felt has made in her life.

"The problem with polio is when you get older, you lose muscle strength and no amount of exercises can help," she explained.

In 2011, Ms. Jewel was teamed up with her Hart Felt volunteer, Michele, who drives Ms. Jewel to her medical appointments and shopping. Through the years, a special bond has formed between the two, with Ms. Jewel calling Michele every morning just to check in and let her know that everything is okay.

"Michele is a beautiful person and has been a dream to me," said Ms. Jewel. "She calls me her spiritual mama and that is the biggest compliment I could get."

Over the years, Hart Felt Ministries has also helped Ms. Jewel with yard projects and home repairs, such as fixing her kitchen faucet and toilet. A festive Christmas stocking is even delivered to her by the ministry's volunteers during the holidays.

"Oh, my word, Hart Felt has made a huge difference in my life!" exclaimed Ms. Jewel. "It was the difference between me being able to get to the doctor or not."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE

4599 Worrall Way, 32224 | (904) 821-8995 | gabrielhouseofcare.org

**Executive Director:** Valerie Callahan

**Mission & Vision:** Gabriel House of Care provides hope and compassionate support to patients and their caregivers in a "community of healing" environment by providing temporary lodging and support to those who come to Northeast Florida from other communities to receive life-saving medical care.

### GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

1005 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 355-4224 | gardenclubofjacksonville.org

**President:** Betsy Powers

**Mission & Vision:** The Garden Club of Jacksonville is dedicated to education, beautification, and conservation citywide with projects such as the gardens at The Jacksonville Zoo, the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, Tree Hill, and The St. Johns Riverkeeper.

### GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

555 Stockton Street, 32204 | (904) 387-4661 | gatewaycommunity.com

**President/CEO:** Candace Hodgkins, Ph.D., LMHC

**Mission & Vision:** Gateway Community Services helps deliver effective treatment and recovery services based on proven steps to help people suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction and related mental health issues.

### THE GIRLS GONE GREEN

P.O. Box 331745, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | thegirlsgonegreen.com

**Executive Director:** Julie Watkins

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of The Girls Gone Green is to draw attention and proper action to critical issues through outreach and education in an effort to protect our planet's resources, animal welfare and human health.

### GIRLS INC. OF JACKSONVILLE

100 Festival Park Avenue, 32202 | (904) 731-9933 | girlsincjax.org

**CEO:** Robin Rose

**Mission & Vision:** Girls Incorporated works to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by being a leading advocacy organization dedicated to extending girls' voices, issues, and concerns to policy makers, corporations, and the media.

### GIRLS ON THE RUN

3986 Boulevard Center Drive, Ste. 102, 32207 | (904) 619-6763 | gotrnefl.org

**Executive Director:** Laura Lasko

**Mission & Vision:** To inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. We envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.

### GIRL SCOUTS OF GATEWAY COUNCIL

1000 Shearer Avenue, 32205 | (904) 388-4653 | girlscouts-gateway.org

**CEO:** Mary Anne Jacobs

**Mission & Vision:** Girl Scouts of Gateway Council helps to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

### GLEANERS DISPATCH

8207 103rd Street, 32210 | (904) 777-6344 | gleanersdispatch.org

**Founder/Board Chair:** H. David Fountain

**President:** Frank Brashears

**Mission & Vision:** To challenge hunger by bringing relief to people on fixed but inadequate incomes: Senior Citizens, Disabled, Single Parents, the Under-Employed or Unemployed between jobs.

### GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTH FLORIDA

4527 Lenox Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1361 | goodwilljax.org

**CEO:** Bob Thayer

**Mission & Vision:** Goodwill Industries is the nation's largest private provider of training and employment services for people with disabilities and special needs.



**GRACE MINISTRY OF HELPING HANDS**1620 Naldo Avenue, 32207 | (904) 677-0133 | [graceministriesjax.org](http://graceministriesjax.org)**Co-Founders:** Kathleen McDaniel and Jan Miller**Mission & Vision:** Grace Ministry of Helping Hands rescues women on the streets and provides intervention for women recently released from incarceration.**GREATER JACKSONVILLE AREA USO**P.O. Box 108, NAS Jacksonville, 32212-3028 | (904) 778-2821 | [usojax.com](http://usojax.com)**Executive Director:** Mike O'Brien**Mission & Vision:** The Great Jacksonville Area USO provides more than \$1 million annually in services through a wide variety of programs, and is the channel for community participation during every war effort and in peacetime.**GREENSCAPE OF JACKSONVILLE INC.**1468 Hendricks Avenue, 32207 | (904) 398-5757 | [greenscapeofjacksonville.com](http://greenscapeofjacksonville.com)**Executive Director:** Anna Dooley**Mission & Vision:** Greenscape of Jacksonville is dedicated to enriching Jacksonville through planting, protecting, and promoting trees.**GREENWOOD SCHOOL**9920 Regency Square Blvd., 32225 | (904) 726-5000 | [greenwoodjax.org](http://greenwoodjax.org)**Head of School:** Anthony Mortimer**Mission & Vision:** Greenwood School is dedicated to providing a challenging and supportive learning environment for average to above-average middle through high school students who struggle with reading disabilities, need ADHD support, or have other learning differences.**GREYHOUNDS AS PETS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA**2600 W. 5th Street, 32254 | (904) 388-6034 | [greyhoundpetsjax.org](http://greyhoundpetsjax.org)**Mission & Vision:** Greyhounds as Pets of Northeast Florida is a nonprofit corporation which provides a unique opportunity to adopt and enjoy the loving companionship of this versatile breed as a pet.**GROUNDWORK JACKSONVILLE**10 W. State Street, Bldg. A, Rm 1003, 32202  
(904) 598-5664 | [groundworkjacksonville.org](http://groundworkjacksonville.org)**Chief Executive Officer:** Kay Ehas**Mission & Vision:** Groundwork Jacksonville's mission is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.**GROWING PARENTING CHOICES**1637 King Street, 32204 | (904) 308-7510 | [emergencypregnancyservices.org](http://emergencypregnancyservices.org)**Executive Director:** Sandra S. Duggan**Mission & Vision:** Growing Parenting Choices, a ministry of St. Vincent's Healthcare, empowers women to make informed decisions regarding pregnancy, saves lives, counsels and mentors teens and women through pregnancy.**GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION**214 N. Hogan St., FL 6, 32202 | (904) 255-8440 | [galfirstcoast.org](http://galfirstcoast.org)**Circuit Director:** Vanessa Byerly**Mission & Vision:** The mission of Florida's 4th Judicial Circuit's Guardian ad Litem program is to recruit, train, support and supervise volunteers, also known as court appointed special advocates, to speak for the best interests of children, thereby giving abused, neglected or abandoned children in the dependency court system a voice in the outcome of their future.**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY JACKSONVILLE**2404 Hubbard Street, 32206 | (904) 798-4529 | [habijax.org](http://habijax.org)**President/CEO:** Mary Kay O'Rourke**Mission & Vision:** Habitat For Humanity Jacksonville (HabiJax) seeks to put God's love into action, and bring people together to build homes, communities and hope.**HART FELT MINISTRIES**7235 Bonnevall Rd., #123, 32256 | (904) 861-2799 | [hartfelt.org](http://hartfelt.org)**President/Executive Director:** Kelly Moorman Coggins**Mission & Vision:** Hart Felt Ministries helps Jacksonville seniors stay independent and age gracefully in their own homes. Donations help fund emergency financial assistance, minor home repairs, gift cards for groceries and other essential services, including veterinary services.**HAVEN (FORMERLY HAVEN HOSPICE)**9143 Philips Highway, Ste. 480, 32256 | (904) 733-9818 | [beyourhaven.org](http://beyourhaven.org)**President:** Gayle Mattson**Mission & Vision:** Haven helps to honor life by providing comfort, care and compassion to those they serve.**THE HEAL FOUNDATION**P.O. Box 140 Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 716-4198 | [healautismnow.org](http://healautismnow.org)**Executive Director:** Jason Gurka**Mission & Vision:** The Heal Foundation serves as an outreach organization providing educational programs and camps tailored to the needs of the Autism Community.**HEALTHYUNOW FOUNDATION**3800 Joe Ashton Road, St. Augustine, 32092 | (904) 834-2938 | [healthyunow.org](http://healthyunow.org)**Founder:** Dr. Julie Buckley**Mission & Vision:** The HealthyUNow Foundation's mission is to develop virtual and physical communities that support the treatment of autism for individuals and their families in a Healthy Living environment.**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**11250 Old St. Augustine Road, Ste. 15123, 32257  
(904) 631-6357 | [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org), [www.hla-jax.org](http://www.hla-jax.org)**Chapter President:** Tom Logue**Mission & Vision:** The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Addiction recovery is a team effort.  
With you on our side, we're winning.

With a success rate more than double the national average, our long-term addiction recovery program transforms lives through emotional, medical, social and spiritual strength-building. With your support, our approach restores not just our students independence but their dignity, their faith and their future.

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# Success Stories



## THE INN MINISTRY NATALIE YATES

When Natalie Yates realized she and her two-year-old child needed to escape her home because of domestic violence, the young mother found safety, encouragement, and the opportunity to regain her independence at The Inn Ministry.

Yates, who was pregnant with her second child, was forced to flee her abusive environment very quickly with only the clothes she and her toddler had on their backs. At the time all the women's shelters in town were full. Fortunately, Yates recalled learning about The Inn Ministry, a sanctuary for pre- and postpartum mothers in crisis, from her church.

"I was aware of how much they helped children and mothers without a home or safe place to live, by offering a place where they'd be protected," Yates said. "We arrived and were welcomed with only the clothes I could grab quickly."

The Inn Ministry not only gave Yates shelter, it also supported her as she planned her future. "While I was there, I was able to work to get a vehicle and a job. I was also able to figure out the next steps I needed to do to ensure my children and I could successfully make it on our own," Yates said. "The women at The Inn Ministry encouraged me while I found a job and started to be able to provide for my children. They helped me become independent again."

The Inn Ministry also provides residents with parenting classes and Bible study, which Yates said helped elevate both her mind and soul.

"By God's grace, The Inn Ministry has helped numerous women and children through some of the most difficult times in their lives," she said.

"Life before receiving help from The Inn Ministry was scary, overwhelming and confusing," said Yates. "I had no clue what I needed to do or even where to start. The Inn Ministry was my family's safe haven – a line of support and a loving Christian environment that was very much needed. I am forever grateful."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### HEART FOR CHILDREN INC.

1429 Winthrop Street, 32206 | (904) 619-6792 | heartforchildreninc.com

**Founder/CEO:** Joyce Brinson

**Mission & Vision:** Heart for Children a family-oriented organization that teaches the importance of education and team building. One of HFC's many goals are for the children to grow into productive adults who will one day positively give back to their communities.

### HELPING WIN (WOMEN IN NEED), INC.

4940 Emerson Street, Suite 107, 32207 | (904) 831-6046  
helpingwinnefl.org | gwen@helpingWINnefl.org

**Founder/Executive Director:** Gwen Gallagher-Howard

**Mission & Vision:** Helping WIN is a nonprofit founded to provide emergency cash assistance to women battling poverty through partner agencies in Northeast Florida.

### HENDERSON HAVEN

772 Foxridge Center Drive, 32065 | (904) 264-2522 | hendersonhaven.com

**Founders:** Lee and Sherri Henderson

**Mission & Vision:** To protect and support the inherent rights of all people, including those who are developmentally disabled, to choose where and with whom they work, live and play.

### HER SONG

25 N. Market Street, 32202 | (904) 513-0203 | hersongjax.org

**Founder:** Rachel White

**Mission & Vision:** We are addressing the issue of sex trafficking of young women in Northeast Florida by providing restorative aftercare services to survivors and by offering community awareness and outreach programs. We are working to create a fully operational Her Song residential community where young women can heal from the devastating effects of sexual exploitation, find the confidence to succeed and the courage to move forward.

### HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE

9801-12 Baymeadows Road, PMD #148, 32256 | (904) 333-9448 | hopeforabetterlife.com

**President/Board Chair:** Dr. Mary Pentel

**Mission & Vision:** Hope For A Better Life, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for socially and economically disadvantaged children and adults in Northeast Florida by focusing on a different local nonprofit each year to promote its mission, raise awareness and funds.

### HOPE HAVEN CHILDREN'S CLINIC & FAMILY CENTER

4600 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 346-5100 | hope-haven.org

**Chief Executive Officer:** Stella Johnson

**Mission & Vision:** Hope Haven provides excellence in educational, psychological and related therapeutic services for children, families and young adults with special needs.

### HOPE SPRINGS FLORIDA

25 N. Market Street, 32202 | (904) 805-3497 | facebook.com/HopeSpringsFlorida

**Founders:** Joe and Ann Rodgers

**Mission & Vision:** Hope Springs Florida is a vacation respite home for families, primarily those with autism, with all services necessary for an affordable beach experience. By caring for the caregiver, HSF seeks to strengthen families and to make northeast Florida known as the "go to" destination for compassionate vacationing for special needs children.

### HUBBARD HOUSE

P.O. Box 4909, 32201 | (904) 354-0076 | hubbardhouse.org

**CEO:** Dr. Gail A. Patin

**Mission & Vision:** Hubbard House strives to make every relationship violence-free and to ensure safety for victims and their children, empowerment of victims, and social change through education and advocacy.

### HUGS FROM HUNTER

230 Canal Blvd., Ste. 2, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082

**Founder:** Laurie K. Hodges

**Mission & Vision:** To heal hearts by serving those in need in the community.



# Explore Northeast Florida's Finest Communities



**COMBINING AN UNDERSTANDING** of what consumers value most in a community with a proven track record for exceeding those expectations, GreenPointe is driven to ensure **QUALITY EXECUTION OF EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD**. With a focus on quality and regionally-appropriate architectural styles and standards, our communities are as **GRACEFUL** as they are **PRACTICAL**.

**GREENPOINTE**  
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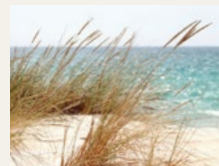
## AMELIA WALK

Amelia Walk is a resort-style community in the picturesque and historic coastal city of Fernandina Beach — 30 minutes north of downtown Jacksonville.



## GREYHAWK

Ascend to a new level of living. Nestled within the pine forests of Clay County, our recreation-rich community offers homes designed for today's families.



## EVENTIDE

EvenTide is a new custom home beach community in Ponte Vedra Beach. Experience exclusive coastal living at its finest, with private, deeded beach access on Ponte Vedra Boulevard.



## TRAILMARK

Imagine a place where connecting with the outdoors is an everyday occurrence. Located in St. Johns County, TrailMark is where you can live life connected — with nature and with your community.



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[greenpointellc.com/communities](https://greenpointellc.com/communities)



**MONIQUE BURR**  
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

[mbfchildsafetymatters.org](https://mbfchildsafetymatters.org)

## GREENPOINTE COMMUNITIES PROUDLY SUPPORTS

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children is dedicated to protecting children from all types of maltreatment and exploitation by providing the best prevention education programs, collaborating with partner organizations, and engaging communities in child safety initiatives with community awareness efforts and resources.



# Success Stories



## I'M A STAR FOUNDATION JESSICA LUCAS

The leadership skills, study habits, and goal setting that Jessica Lucas learned from being involved with the I'm A Star Foundation have helped her to become an advocate for people in need.

The hard-working college junior connected with the foundation when she was in eighth grade, and the experience has helped her grow into a leader in her community.

I'm A Star, which stands for "smart, talented and resilient," helps young people ages 12 to 18 engage in service and learning projects. Through those projects, teens focus on combating issues such as childhood obesity, student homelessness, and food insecurity.

"I'm A Star encouraged me to be a leader," said Lucas, who was recently awarded a scholarship at Florida State College Jacksonville.

Along with the scholarship, Lucas also received the opportunity to donate \$1,000 to the charity of her choice, and there was no doubt in her mind which nonprofit she would pick to receive the donation.

"I chose I'm A Star Foundation to donate the \$1,000 to because that's where I earned my volunteer hours, and it is the organization that prepared me to be a leader in my community," she said.

"Once I became an I'm A Star student servant leader, I grew more involved in the community," Lucas explained. "When I joined I'm A Star, it shifted me into gear to interact with and volunteer in the community."

Currently an intern at Chase Bank, Lucas said the skills she has developed through I'm A Star made her into what she is today. No doubt her training will help her attain her goal of becoming a school administrator.

"Everything I do currently was shaped around how I was formed at I'm A Star," she said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### HUMBLE HARVEST MINISTRIES

4446-1A Hendricks Avenue, Ste. 310, 32207 | [humbleharvestministries.com](http://humbleharvestministries.com)

**Founders:** Lori Ibach and Janice Jurkovic

**Mission & Vision:** The goal of this annual outreach is to continue to give, in Jesus name, to those in need in our communities, through a super-size, free garage sale.

### HUNGER FIGHT

2935 Dawn Road, 32207 | (904) 374-5623 | [hungerfight.org](http://hungerfight.org)

**CEO & Founder:** Sherri Porter

**Mission & Vision:** Hunger Fight works to eradicate hunger in North East Florida and the surrounding area.

### HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

(904) 641-7984 | [hdsa.org/nofl](http://hdsa.org/nofl)

**Development Manager, Southeast Region:** Craig Mayers

**Mission & Vision:** Dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by Huntington's disease, HDSA offers community services, education, advocacy and research.

### I'M A STAR FOUNDATION

3909 Soutel Drive, 32208 | (904) 924-0756 | [imastarfoundation.org](http://imastarfoundation.org)

**Founder & Executive Director:** Betty Seabrook Burney

**Mission & Vision:** The foundation provides the training that helps today's young people learn to become leaders in their schools and in their communities. I'M A STAR empowers youths to realize their potential, graduate high school and become productive citizens.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

2709 Art Museum Drive, 32207 | (904) 399-8484 | [theilrc.com](http://theilrc.com)

**Executive Director:** Tyler Lasher Morris

**Mission & Vision:** Jacksonville's leading cross-disability based organization, ILRC provides personalized services to people with disabilities.

### INN MINISTRY

1720 Hamilton Street, 32210 | (904) 388-7730 | [innministry.org](http://innministry.org)

**Executive Director:** Judith Newberg

**Mission & Vision:** The Inn Ministry promotes and encourages mothers to become spiritually, physically and mentally stable so they will be capable of providing a home for their children and to become productive members of society.

### IN RIVER OR OCEAN

1625 Atlantic Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 384-0775 | [inriverorocean.org](http://inriverorocean.org)

**Founders:** Gary and Terry Roberts

**Mission & Vision:** The nonprofit promotes the protection, restoration and rational management of all river and ocean resources, and supports environmental education through scholarships, conservation programs and fishing tournaments.

### IN THE PINK

3547 Hendricks Avenue, 32207 | (904) 396-5515  
522 North 3rd Street, Jacksonville Beach, 32250 | (904) 372-0029  
[jaxinthepink.com](http://jaxinthepink.com)

**CEO/Founder:** Jeri Millard

**Mission & Vision:** In the Pink is a nonprofit boutique and salon dedicated to helping women heal, cope and survive the effects of cancer...physically and emotionally.

### JACKSONVILLE ALUMNAE PANAHELLENIC ASSOCIATION

[jacksonvillepanhellenic.org](http://jacksonvillepanhellenic.org)

**President:** Lauren O'Connell

**Mission & Vision:** Founded in 1914, the philanthropic association has a continuous history of supporting the greater Jacksonville community. Recognized for its achievements by the National Panhellenic Council, JAPA members have given over 25,000 volunteer service hours to help those in the community.



## JACKSONVILLE ARBORETUM & GARDENS

1445 Millcoe Road, P.O. Box 350430, 32225 | jacksonvillearboretum.org

**President, Board of Directors:** Lawrence Gierum

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens seeks to cultivate a unique environment for recreation, education and inspiration.

## JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID

126 W. Adams Street, 32202 | (904) 356-8371 | jaxlegalaids.org

**President/CEO:** James A. Kowalski, Jr. Esq.

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Area Legal Aid works to assist our low-income neighbors in our community with civil legal problems.

## JACKSONVILLE AREA SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH NETWORK – JASMYN

P.O. Box 380103, 32205 | (904) 389-3857 | jasmyn.org

**CEO:** Cindy Watson

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network works to support and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth by creating safe space, providing youth development services and bringing people and resources together to promote diversity and human rights.

## JACKSONVILLE ARTISTS GUILD

4129 Oxford Avenue, 32210 | jacksonvilleartistsguild.org

**President:** Ron Episcopo

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Artists Guild is dedicated to elevating artistic awareness and participation by artists through dynamic programs and exhibitions that enhance, encourage and promote the arts.

## JAX CHAMBER FOUNDATION

3 Independent Drive, 32202 | (904) 366-6634 | jaxchamberfoundation.org

**President:** Dawn Adams

**Mission & Vision:** The JAX Chamber Foundation serves Northeast Florida in funding workforce development, leadership and entrepreneurial education programs in support of long-term regional prosperity.

## JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

225 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 353-1636 | jaxchildrenschorus.org

**Artistic & Executive Director:** Darren Dailey

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Children's Chorus works to provide a high-quality choral music education for children of diverse backgrounds, fostering teamwork, self-discipline, accomplishment and pride while filling an important cultural need in the community and sharing the beauty of the choral art form through artistically excellent performances.

## JACKSONVILLE CIVIC COUNCIL

800 W. Monroe Street, 32202 | (904) 354-0530 | jaxciviccouncil.com

**President:** Jeanne Miller

**Mission & Vision:** To help resolve community issues by studying a problem, proposing one or more solutions, advocating for change, and providing resources and support.

## JACKSONVILLE DOG CAFÉ

(904) 610-0746 | jaxdogcafe.com

**Executive Director:** Carolyn Snowden

**Mission & Vision:** The Jax Dog Café assists other animal rescue nonprofit organizations with adoption efforts by providing a small, intimate, stress-free environment for homeless dogs to meet and greet with prospective forever families.

## JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

314 Palmetto Street, 32202 | (904) 665-0064 | jaxhistory.org

**Executive Director:** Alan Bliss

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Historical Society works to foster and promote appreciation of the history of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida.

## JACKSONVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY

8464 Beach Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 725-8766 | jaxhumane.org

**Executive Director:** Denise Deisler

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Humane Society provides care, comfort and compassion to animals in need while engaging the hearts, hands and minds of the community to bring about an end to the killing of abandoned and orphaned shelter animals.

## THE JACKSONVILLE LADIES

4083 Lannie Road, 32218 | (904) 565-1859 | jacksonvilleladies.org

**Chair:** Kathie Garrett

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Ladies serve as the "final witness" for all burials at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, especially for those who have no family or friends present, to say a prayer and give the thanks and respect former military so deserve.

## JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 110, 32202 | (904) 356-7757 | jaxpef.org

**Interim Executive Director:** Rachael Tutwiler Fortune

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Public Education Fund strives to inform and mobilize the community to advocate for universally high-quality public schools for all children.

## JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

303 N. Laura Street, #334, 32202 | (904) 630-1995 | jplfoundation.org

**Board Chair:** Robin Albaneze

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Public Library Foundation helps to strengthen the ability of the Jacksonville Public Library to serve as an educational and cultural resource for the community.

## JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL FOR AUTISM

9000 Cypress Green Drive, 32256 | (904) 732-4343 | jsakids.org

**Founder & Executive Director:** Michelle Dunham

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville School for Autism is dedicated to helping children with autism and their families by tapping into all available resources to provide "outside of the desk" thinking.

## JACKSONVILLE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

117 W. Duval Street, Ste. 275, 32202 | (904) 630-1304 | jsca.org

**President:** Brenda Frinks

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Sister Cities Association fosters and encourages mutual understanding, friendship and peace through cultural, economic, educational and professional exchanges between the people of Jacksonville and the people of our Sister and Friendship Cities.



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# Success Stories



Nyasia Robinson and Bridget Allen

## JACKSONVILLE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE {JAXPAL} NYASIA ROBINSON

When Nyasia Robinson met JaxPAL Teen Leadership Program Officer Bridget Allen, it changed her life for the better.

Robison, a seventh grader, had been struggling as a victim of child sexual abuse and felt betrayed. She cried all the time.

"I just shut down and was a walking time bomb ready to explode," Robinson said.

But once Robinson became involved in the Police Athletic League's outreach program, which enriches the lives of children by creating positive relationships between law enforcement officers and struggling teens, things turned around. Officer Allen began mentoring Robinson and got her involved in JaxPAL's summer camp and leadership program.

"Officer Allen started mentoring me at a time when my life was in shambles," Robinson said. "I was struggling with school, having suicidal thoughts, was disrespectful, and a handful at home," she said. "When I wanted to give up, she was there to push me to keep going."

Through the JaxPAL Teen Leadership Program, Robinson has practiced public speaking, gained on-the-job experience, leadership skills, and says she has come to understand how vital it is to do community service by volunteering. Her grades have skyrocketed so that she is now on the A/B Honor Roll and active in her church. Robinson has even been inspired to start practicing dance again.

"Being a part of JaxPAL has helped me to have respect for others, better serve my community, and have a love for myself," said Robinson. "By all accounts, my life is better now. Being in this program with other teens that are thriving helps me to be my best. I guess I just needed a PAL."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### JACKSONVILLE SPEECH & HEARING CENTER

1010 N. Davis Street, Ste. 101, 32209 | (904) 355-3403 | shcjax.org

**President/CEO:** Mike Howland

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center helps provide the highest quality professional and compassionate care to all individuals with hearing, speech and/or language disorders in our community.

### JACKSONVILLE SPORTS COUNCIL

1 Gator Bowl Boulevard, 32202 | (904) 798-1700 | gatorbowlsports.com

**President/CEO:** Rick Catlett

**Mission & Vision:** The Gator Bowl Association works to create an economic impact through increasing tourism and meaningful charitable giving.

### JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY

300 Water Street, Ste. 200, 32202 | (904) 354-5479 | jaxsymphony.org

**President/CEO:** Robert Massey

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Symphony's mission is to enrich the human spirit through symphonic music. Its vision is to be the premier orchestra in the Southeast.

### JACKSONVILLE URBAN LEAGUE

903 W. Union Street, 32204 | (904) 723-4007 | jaxul.org

**President/CEO:** Dr. Richard Danford Jr.

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Urban League works to assist African Americans and others to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.

### JACKSONVILLE ZOO & GARDENS

370 Zoo Parkway, 32218 | (904) 757-4463 | jacksonvillezoo.org

**Executive Director:** Tony Vecchio

**Mission & Vision:** The Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens works to foster understanding of the interaction of people, wildlife, and their environment.

### JAGUARS FOUNDATION

1 TIAA Bank Field Drive, 32202 | (904) 633-5437 | jaguars.com/community

**Senior Vice President:** Peter Racine

**Mission & Vision:** Believing that youth represent the community's future, the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation is committed to support programs benefiting economically and socially disadvantaged youth, families and other NFL and team charitable initiatives.

### THE JED FUND

66 Evans Drive, Jacksonville Beach, 32250 | thejedfund.org

**Founder/President:** Dione Garnand

**Mission & Vision:** The Jed Fund assists animal welfare organizations which work diligently to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs. The project-based mission identifies the needs of these groups, fundraises and markets for them in order to provide life-saving and life-enhancing funds.

### THE JERICHO SCHOOL

1351 Sprinkle Drive, 32211 | (904) 744-5110 | thejerichoschool.org

**Executive Director:** Angelo Martinez

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of The Jericho School is to provide comprehensive, individualized science-based education not otherwise available in the community. Children with autism and other developmental delays deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.

### JESSIE BALL DUPONT FUND

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 300, 32202 | (904) 353-0890 | dupontfund.org

**President:** Mari Kuraishi

**Mission & Vision:** The Jessie Ball duPont Fund works to expand access and create opportunity by investing in people, organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont.

### JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

8505 San Jose Boulevard, 32217 | (904) 730-2100 | jcjax.org

**Executive Director:** Myron Flagler

**Mission & Vision:** The Jewish Community Alliance strengthens Jewish life, serves as a common meeting ground, and enhances the quality of life of the entire community.



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# Success Stories



## K9S FOR WARRIORS ADAM FULLER AND JD

Thanks to K9s For Warriors, U.S. Army Veteran Adam Fuller once again has a sense of normalcy in his life.

Fuller, who served as an Army medic, was struggling to assimilate into society after serving a tour of duty overseas. Fortunately, a friend who worked with the Texas Veterans Commission suggested Fuller contact K9s For Warriors to receive some help.

The nonprofit paired Fuller with JD, a black lab mix who was specially trained by K9s For Warriors to help veterans like Fuller. K9s For Warriors provides service canines to veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma due to military service post-9/11.

"K9s For Warriors has paired me with JD, who has allowed me to regain functioning as an average person," Fuller said. "JD has time and again provided me with a feeling of security while out and about."

After K9s For Warriors helped turn his life around, Fuller decided to give back to the organization by becoming a "Warrior Trainer," a volunteer who teaches participants how to use their service canines.

"Since working with K9s, it has felt great being able to positively impact warriors' lives and watch them as they begin their new lives and move back to a point of normalcy," said Fuller. "K9s For Warriors is a Godsend. It has not only changed my life, but the lives of hundreds of veterans like myself."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

8540 Baycenter road, 32256 | (904) 448-1933 | jfcsjax.org

**CEO:** Colleen Rodriguez

**Mission & Vision:** Jewish Family & Community Services is committed to the mission of helping people help themselves and serves all persons in a non-discriminatory manner.

### JEWISH FEDERATION OF JACKSONVILLE

8505 San Jose Boulevard, 32217 | (904) 448-5000 | jewishjacksonville.org

**Executive Director:** Alan Margolies

**Mission & Vision:** The Jewish Federation of Jacksonville is a fundraising organization supporting the local and global Jewish community funding local and overseas partner agencies; forging strong connections with Israel and helping Jews across the Diaspora; supporting fellow Jews in need; inspiring the next generation to embrace Jewish identity and value Jewish education, and providing programs and services designed to engage the local Jewish community.

### THE JIM MORAN FOUNDATION

100 Jim Moran Boulevard, 33442 | (954) 429-2122 | jimmoranfoundation.org

**Chairman, President:** Jan Moran

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of The Jim Moran Foundation is to improve the quality of life for the youth and families of Florida through the support of innovative programs and opportunities that meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

### JIM & TABITHA FURYK FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2867, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 735-0624 | jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com

**Founders:** Jim and Tabitha Furyk

**Mission & Vision:** The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation helps to provide necessary funding to help the community become healthier, stronger, and educationally enriched.

### JTC RUNNING

P.O. Box 24667, 32241 | (904) 384-8725 | jtcrunning.com

**President:** Larry Roberts

**Mission & Vision:** As a promoter of the next generations of runners, JTCRunning supports high school track and cross-country programs and awards scholarships that enable many high school athletes to attend running camp each summer. JTCRunning frequently collects used running shoes which are donated to local homeless shelters.

### JT TOWNSEND FOUNDATION

830 A1A North, Ste. 187, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082 | (904) 373-0737 | jttownsendfoundation.org

**Executive Director:** Pauline Gerry

**Mission & Vision:** The JT Townsend Foundation helps First Coast families with children and adults with disabilities by providing adaptive equipment or comprehensive financial assistance.

### JUDY NICHOLSON KIDNEY CANCER FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 50127, 32240 | (904) 309-0502 | jnfkidneycancer.org

**President:** Linda Ostoski

**Mission & Vision:** The Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation is dedicated to furthering awareness and education, providing support, and funding research.

### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTH FLORIDA

4049 Woodcock Drive, Ste. 200, 32207 | (904) 398-9944 | JAjax.com

**President:** Steve St. Amand

**Mission & Vision:** Junior Achievement is dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices.

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSONVILLE

2165 Park Street, 32204 | (904) 387-9927 | jljaxsonville.org

**President:** Anne Detlefsen

**Mission & Vision:** The Junior League of Jacksonville is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.



**JUSTICE COALITION**

1935 S. Lane Avenue, Ste. 1, 32210 | (904) 783-6312 | justicecoalition.org

**Executive Director:** Michael Liles**Mission & Vision:** The Justice Coalition works to reach out to victims, the community, law enforcement, legislators, the faith-based organizations and local officials.**JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER**

9700 Philips Highway, Ste. 106, 32256 | (904) 739-2101 | jdrf.org

**Executive Director:** Brooks Biagini**Mission & Vision:** The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation works to find a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications through the support of research.**K9S FOR WARRIORS**

114 Camp K9 Road, Ponte Vedra, 32081 | (904) 686-1956 | k9sforwarriors.org

**CEO:** Rory Diamond**President:** Bett Simon**Mission & Vision:** K9s For Warriors provides service canines to disable American veterans, empowering them to return to civilian life with dignity and independence.**KAMP KRITTER**

1650-31 Margaret Street, Ste. 208, 32204 | (904) 384-2111 | kampkritter.com

**Executive Director:** Sue Towler**Mission & Vision:** Kamp Kritter is a nonprofit, no-kill sanctuary committed to finding permanent homes for strays, abused or unwanted dogs, and provides a loving environment for unadoptable dogs to live out their days in peaceful surroundings.**KATE AMATO FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 51043, Jacksonville Beach, 32240 | (904) 629-8300 | kateamatofoundation.org

**Founders:** Lisa and Jeff Amato**Mission & Vision:** The mission is to fund innovative, nontoxic treatments for childhood cancer. The vision is to support innovation that accelerates the pace of progress in pediatric cancer research.**KATIE CAPLES FOUNDATION**

1617 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, 32034 | (904) 491-0811 | katiecaples.org

**Founders:** David and Susan Caples**Mission & Vision:** The Katie Caples Foundation is committed to increasing the number of registered organ donors and eliminating the wait for the more than 125,000 adults and children in need of a lifesaving organ transplant.**KIDS FIRST OF FLORIDA**

1726 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, 32073 | (904) 278-5644 | kidsfirstofflorida.org

**CEO:** Irene M. Toto**Mission & Vision:** Kids First of Florida works to ensure the safety of children through a holistic approach designed to support the health and well-being of families in order to build a healthier community one family at a time.**KIDS TOGETHER AGAINST CANCER**

2 Shircliff Way, 32204 | (904) 308-5822 | ktacjax.com

**Program Coordinator:** Jenny Lehman**Mission & Vision:** Kids Together Against Cancer offers support for children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer.**L'ARCHE JACKSONVILLE, INC.**

700 Arlington Road North, 32211 | (904) 721-5992 | larchejacksonville.com

**Executive Director:** Melanie Saxon**Mission & Vision:** L'Arche Jacksonville believes that by creating an environment where people with intellectual and physical disabilities can share their gifts, we are affecting a positive change in the world.**LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE**

40 E. Adams St., Ste. 230, 32202 | (904) 396-6263 | leadershipjax.org

**CEO:** Jill Langford Dame**Mission & Vision:** Leadership Jacksonville's mission is to educate, connect and inspire diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities. Its vision is to be the catalyst for vibrant, connected communities where diverse perspectives are valued and encouraged for the greater good.**LEARN TO READ**

40 E. Adams Street, LL 30, 32202 | (904) 238-9000 | learnreadjax.org

**Executive Director:** Judy Bradshaw**Mission & Vision:** Learn to Read Jacksonville is dedicated to improving adult literacy in Duval County.**LISC JACKSONVILLE**

100 N. Laura Street, Ste. 600, 32202 | (904) 353-1300 | lisc.org/jacksonville

**Executive Director:** Janet Owens**Mission & Vision:** LISC Jacksonville is the leading nonprofit community development organization in the nation, focused on transforming challenged urban communities into neighborhoods of choice and opportunity—good places to work, do business and raise families.**LITERACY PROS OF JACKSONVILLE**

118 E. Monroe Street, 32202 | (904) 358-7323 | about.me/literacypros

**President:** Julia Henry-Wilson**Mission & Vision:** Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc. believes every child has the potential to succeed and remains firmly committed to this vision, helping kids achieve academic excellence.**LIVE FOR TODAY**

P.O. Box 10432, 32247 | (904) 619-9071 | live-for-today.org

**Founders:** Todd Blake, Katie Pearsall, Kaitlyn Ash**Mission & Vision:** To help young adults with cancer by providing dynamic opportunities, fostering community support, and promoting healthy living.**LUTHERAN SERVICES OF FLORIDA****1) HEAD START**

3027 San Diego Drive, 32207 | (904) 423-8637 | lsfn.net

**2) LSF HEALTH SYSTEMS**

9428 Baymeadows Road, Bldg. 3, Ste. 320, 32256 | (904) 900-1075 | lsfn.net

**Executive Director:** Dr. Christine Cauffield**Mission & Vision:** Lutheran Services Florida serves to bring God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ.**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA**

4615 Philips Highway, 32207 | (904) 448-5995 | lssjax.org

**President/CEO:** Mary Strickland**Mission & Vision:** Motivated and guided by the compassion of Christ, Lutheran Services serves and cares for people in need.

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without discrimination.

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# Success Stories



## NORTH FLORIDA SCHOOL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION BRIAN PETERS

When Brian Peters and his family moved to Florida from northern Virginia several years ago, one of his parents' biggest concerns was finding a quality vocational program like the one he was involved with for over 20 years.

The Peters' move resulted in quite a transition for their son, who has Down syndrome. Thanks to the support they received from the North Florida School of Special Education, Brian quickly found a new niche when he became involved in the Culinary Arts program, Barkin' Biscuits and Berry Good Farms.

"Brian was very depressed and lonely. He wanted to go back to Virginia," explained his mother, Cathy, adding that after joining the NFSSE family, "Brian soon returned to the outgoing, fun loving individual he was prior to the move."

Through North Florida School of Special Education's Barkin' Biscuits program, post-graduate students and young adults with intellectual and developmental differences help create all-natural dog treats.

"We cannot speak highly enough of North Florida School of Special Education," Cathy said. "North Florida School went above and beyond in accommodating Brian."

Cathy said, Brian, 41, still participates one day a week in the Barkin' Biscuits program in addition to working at his job at LongHorn Steakhouse.

She emphasized, "North Florida School gave us back our Brian. He has grown in so many areas."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### MAINSRING ACADEMY

6867 Southpoint Drive, Ste. 103, 32216 | (904) 503-0344 | mainspringacademy.org

**Head of School:** Garrett Adamson

**Mission & Vision:** Mainspring Academy helps students with special needs and learning challenges reach their fullest potential.

### MAKE-A-WISH® NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3938 Sunbeam Road, Ste. 3, 32257 | (904) 580-5906 | cnfl.wish.org

**Development Manager:** Cindy Kruty

**Community Engagement Manager:** Jaclyn Normandin

**Mission & Vision:** Make-A-Wish wants each wish experience to be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition. The vision compels the foundation to be creative in exceeding the expectations of every wish kid, and drives it to make donated resources go as far as possible.

### MALIVAI WASHINGTON KIDS FOUNDATION

1096 W. 6th Street, 32209 | (904) 359-5437 | malwashington.com

**Executive Director/CEO:** Terri Florio

**Mission & Vision:** The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation works to develop champions in classrooms, on tennis courts and throughout communities.

### MANDARIN MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

11964 Mandarin Road, 32223 | (904) 268-0784 | mandarinmuseum.net

**President:** Sandy Arpen

**Mission & Vision:** The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society shares the stories of Mandarin's history, culture and natural resources by providing engaging programs that educate, entertain and inspire.

### MARCH OF DIMES

9838 Old Baymeadows Road, #109, 32256 | (904) 398-2821 | marchofdimes.org/florida

**Executive Director:** Jill Harrington

**Mission & Vision:** March of Dimes is a United States nonprofit organization that works to improve the health of mothers and babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

### MARGARET'S MEMORIES

819 Park Street, 32204 | (904) 355-5491 | margaretsmemories.org

**Founder:** Nicole Remo

**Mission & Vision:** Margaret's Memories is a standing mission project of the Riverside Park United Methodist Church and makes Bereavement Memory Boxes for parents who lose a child to miscarriage, stillbirth, or death shortly after birth. The boxes are donated to local hospitals in Jacksonville, Florida.

### MCKENZIE NOELLE WILSON FOUNDATION

13936 Ascot Drive, 32250 | (904) 992-0124 | caregivegrow.org

**Foundation Director:** Adrian Gibbs

**Mission & Vision:** The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation desires to inspire and help young people find their purpose in a world of challenges.

### MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION

1650-302 Margaret Street, Ste. 322, 32204 | info@memparkjax.org | memparkjax.org

**President:** Percy Rosenbloom III

**Mission & Vision:** The Memorial Park Association is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Memorial Park, dedicated in 1924 to honor Floridians who died in service during World War I.

### MENINAK CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

P.O. Box 8626, 32239 | (904) 745-3393 | meninak.org

**Executive Director:** Catherine M. Hill

**Mission & Vision:** The Meninak Club is dedicated to the overall betterment of the spiritual, cultural and social attributes of Jacksonville.





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# Success Stories



Sara Pineda with her Seamark Ranch house parents, Nancy and Lamar Grimes, and their son, Garrett

## SEAMARK RANCH SARA PINEDA

Thanks to the nurturing support she received from her house parents at Seamark Ranch, Sara Pineda was finally able rise above feeling abandoned and scared due to years of physical and emotional abuse.

At Seamark Ranch in Green Cove Springs, Pineda found a traditional home environment as well as the emotional support and unconditional love the group home routinely gives to children who have nowhere else to go.

"As a child I was abused in more ways than one," Pineda said. "I was told I would never amount to anything, and my adoptive mother told me I was retarded – that's why my parents didn't want me.

"When I came to Seamark, people were there to comfort me and support me and get me on the right track," she continued. "They have supported me by showing me the Christian walk and loved me even through my most unlovable times. I now have a mom and dad," she said.

In addition to emotional distress, Pineda also had to deal with physical abuse from her foster mother and brother. Pineda even suffered neglect after turning to the only family member she had left, her aunt, who eventually abandoned her.

"I went to go live with my aunt, and she left me at school and never picked me up," said Pineda. "She had abandoned me, and as I laid in the bathroom crying for hours, I wondered why I ever began to trust anyone again."

The love she has received at Seamark has enabled Pineda to be able to trust again. She recently graduated from high school and plans on earning a bachelor's and master's degree in secondary education, so she can become a high school math teacher.

"I once had nothing and now I can gladly say I have everything," she said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

4615 Philips Hwy., Ste. 300, 32207 | (904) 738-8420 | mhajax.org

**CEO:** Wendy Hughes

**Mission & Vision:** Mental Health America of Northeast Florida raises awareness, provides training on mental health and wellness, helps people navigate the system, and impacts mental health policy and legislation.

### METHODIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

7915 Herlong Road, 32210 | (904) 783-1681 | methodistchildrensvillage.com

**Executive Director:** Kelly Paterno

**Mission & Vision:** The Methodist Children's Village works to enhance the quality of young children's lives through nurturing, early intervention, and developmentally-based education.

### MICAH'S PLACE

P.O. Box 16287, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 | (904) 491-6364 | micahsplace.org

**Executive Director:** Heather Woody Jones

**Mission & Vision:** Micah's Place provides prevention and intervention services to victims of domestic violence; and to provide education within our community to effect change in behavior and attitudes relating to domestic violence.

### MISSION HOUSE

800 Shetter Avenue, 32250 | (904) 241-6767 | missionhousejax.org

**Executive Director:** Lori Anderson

**Mission & Vision:** Mission House helps meet the needs of homeless adults at the beaches through compassion, faith and programs designed to provide assistance at an individual level.

### MONIQUE BURR FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

7807 Baymeadows Road, East, Ste. 205, 32256 | (904) 642-0210 | moniqueburrfoundation.org

**Executive Director:** Lynn Layton

**Mission & Vision:** The Monique Burr Foundation works to make a positive impact on the community at large, to create change in a family's life for the better, and to give hope in the life of a child by providing bullying and child abuse prevention safety education that is relevant to issues facing children today, including all forms of abuse, neglect, bullying, and internet safety.

### MORNING STAR SCHOOL

725 Mickler Road, 32211 | (904) 721-2144 | morningstar-jax.org

**Principal:** Jean Barnes

**Mission & Vision:** Morning Star School's mission is to provide a strong foundation of faith, service and academics for students with learning differences, encouraging all students to reach their full potential. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, Morning Star is the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

### MURRAY HILL THEATRE

932 Edgewood Avenue S., 32205 | (904) 388-3179 | murrayhilltheatre.com

**Founder/President:** Tony Nasrallah

**Mission & Vision:** Murray Hill Theatre is an alcohol-free, drug-free, smoke-free, all-ages nightclub that showcases live music with a positive message to present things of faith in a positive light. As an alternative to typical bars and nightclubs, it gives people a safe nightspot to enjoy live entertainment.

### THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

6196 Lake Gray Boulevard, Ste. 105, 32244 | (904) 296-7434 | mda.org

**Executive Director:** Lauren Herringdine

**Mission & Vision:** The Muscular Dystrophy Association works to save and improve lives of people fighting muscle disease.

### NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

P.O. Box 16404, 32245 | (904) 724-7782 | namijacksonville.org

**President:** Tara Wildes

**Mission & Vision:** The National Alliance On Mental Illness Jacksonville helps support and improve the quality of life for family members and those living with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse through compassion, education, and advocacy.



## NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY NORTH FLORIDA

8940 Western Way, Ste. 16, 32256 | (904) 332-6810 | nationalmssociety.org

**Executive Director:** Michael Ugarte

**Mission & Vision:** The National Multiple Sclerosis Society North Florida Chapter works to improve the quality of life for people affected by MS in North Florida and raise funds for critical MS research.

## NASSAU COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

1367 S. 18th Street, Fernandina Beach, 32034 | (904) 261-0701 | nassaucountycoa.org

**President/CEO:** Janice Ancrum

**Mission & Vision:** The mission is to enhance the lives of older adults through services and compassionate care designed to improve the health, independence and economic security of Nassau County seniors and their families.

## NEMOURS FOUNDATION

807 Children's Way, 32207 | (904) 697-3600 | nemours.org

**CEO:** David J. Bailey

**Mission & Vision:** Nemours is committed to improving the health of children.

## NEUROSURGERY OUTREACH FOUNDATION

PO Box 8201, 32239 | (866) 735-9536 | neurosurgeryoutreach.org

**President:** Philipp R. Aldana, MD, FAANS, FAAP

**Mission & Vision:** The Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation, Inc. is an all-volunteer non-profit organization in Jacksonville, whose mission is to promote the advancement of neurosurgical care in under-served communities through service, education and support.

## NEW HEIGHTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3311 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 396-1462 | newheightsnefl.org

**President/CEO:** Sue Driscoll

**Mission & Vision:** Formerly Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Florida, New Heights works to enrich the lives of persons with disabilities and their families and empower their independence and lifelong growth through quality services.

## NEXT STEPS, INC.

3545 St Johns Bluff Rd S, Ste. 1, PMB 255, 32224 | (904) 434-1054

**President:** Vena Patton

**Mission & Vision:** Next Steps is a financial and referral resource for women released or about to be released from the Duval County Detention Center.

## THE NONPROFIT CENTER OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 100, 32202 | (904) 425-1182 | nonprofitctr.org

**CEO:** Rena Coughlin

**Mission & Vision:** The Nonprofit Center of N.E. Florida connects, strengthens, and advocates for nonprofits, creating a more vibrant Northeast Florida.

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA AIDS NETWORK

2715 Oak Street, 32205 | (904) 356-1612 | nfanjax.org

**Executive Director:** Donna Fuchs

**Mission & Vision:** Northeast Florida AIDS Network provides compassionate leadership, services, and advocacy in meeting the prevention, health, spiritual, and social needs of individuals, families, and communities.

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS (NEFAR) CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

7801 Deercreek Club Road, 32256 | (904) 394-9494 | nefarcharitablefoundation.org

**CEO:** William Glenn East

**Mission & Vision:** With a vision to be the charity of choice for real estate professionals, the mission is to serve as an advocate and resource for local nonprofit communities in Northeast Florida.

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA WOMEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

2133 Broadway Avenue, 32209 | (904) 862-6039 | womenveteransresources.org

**President:** Deloris Moton Quaranta

**Mission & Vision:** Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. is focused on ensuring women who have served on active duty, National Guard or Reserves and their children, transition into the civilian community with the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

## NORTH FLORIDA HEALTHY START COALITION

644 Cesery Boulevard, Ste. 210, 32211 | (904) 723-5422 | nefhealthystart.org

**Executive Director:** Faye Johnson

**Mission & Vision:** The Healthy Start Coalition leads a cooperative community effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children, childbearing women and their families in Northeast Florida.

## NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST

2038 Gilmore St., 32204 | (904) 479-1967 | northfloridalandtrust.org

**President:** Jim McCarthy

**Mission & Vision:** North Florida Land Trust preserves the natural areas, historic resources and working lands of North Florida.

## NORTH FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

223 Mill Creek Road, 32211 | (904) 724-8323 | northfloridaschool.org

**Head of School:** Sally Hazelip

**Mission & Vision:** The North Florida School of Special Education works to improve the lives of students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities through the achievement of academic, vocational, and social skills.

## THE OLD DOG HOUSE SENIOR DOG RESCUE

1650 Margaret Street, Ste. 302, PMB 137, 32204 | (904) 419-7387 | theolddoghouse.org

**Founder:** Erik Stordahl

**Mission & Vision:** The Old Dog House is Northeast Florida's first nonprofit dedicated to giving older and senior dogs a chance at living out their lives in dignity.

## ONEJAX

1 UNF Drive, #53, 32224 | (904) 620-1000 - onejax.org

**Executive Director:** Nancy Broner

**Mission & Vision:** OneJax seeks to promote diversity as the foundation for a strong community. We work to increase respect and improve relationships among people who represent the rich menagerie of religious, ethnic, racial and cultural groups that compose our community.

## ONEBLOOD

7595 Centurion Parkway, 32256 | (904) 353-8263 | oneblood.org

**President/CEO:** George "Bud" Scholl

**Mission & Vision:** OneBlood provides a safe, available and affordable blood supply to more than 200 hospital partners and their patients throughout most of Florida, parts of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.

## OPERATION NEW UNIFORM

8825 Perimeter Park Blvd., 32216 | (904) 328-1600 | operationnewuniform.org

**Executive Director:** Michelle McManamon

**Mission & Vision:** Operation New Uniform's mission is to train veterans and their families for fulfilling careers and develop their skills as they grow within an organization, and its vision is to produce confident veterans who are coveted and embraced in the business community.

## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

1 W. Adams Street, Ste. 301, 32202 | (904) 421-8585 | pacecenter.org

**President/CEO:** Mary Marx

**Mission & Vision:** PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.



# Success Stories



Coach Tom Coughlin and Whitney Pinson

## TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND WHITNEY PINSON

When she was just 10 years old, Whitney Pinson was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare disease where cancer cells are found in the bone or in soft tissue. Through the tremendous support she received from the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, Pinson realized she was not alone in her fight against childhood cancer.

Pinson, who first discovered she had cancer in 2004, was forced to battle it not once but twice when she suffered a relapse in 2006. Through the diagnoses and treatments that followed, she gained the confidence and emotional support she needed from the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. Her family was also able to receive financial assistance through the nonprofit.

"As a child and patient, the Jay Fund helped my family, and I was able to get to know other children and families fighting childhood cancer," Pinson explained.

"This helped me to feel more confident. Through my treatments, they also helped my family financially, allowing my parents to stay by my side," she said. "The Jay Fund allowed my family and me to spend more time together throughout my treatments, for which we are very thankful."

Even though 14 years have passed since she first became acquainted with the Jay Fund, Pinson feels it is important to give back to other children suffering with childhood cancer. By working as a nursing assistant on the pediatric Hematology/Oncology floor of Wolfson Children's Hospital, she helps children who are going through what she had to endure as a childhood cancer patient.

And, thanks to the Jay Fund, Pinson was able to get a degree enabling her to do her job. "The Jay Fund also granted me a scholarship right out of high school that helped me in receiving my Associate of Arts degree," she said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### PAJCIC FAMILY FOUNDATION

102 Palm Place, Neptune Beach, 32266

**President:** Helen Pajcic Nicholson

**Mission & Vision:** The Pajcic Family Foundation promotes social justice, animal welfare and the preservation of mother nature, with a focus on the Jacksonville community.

### PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

National Office: 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Ste. 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
(310) 725-0025 | [pancan.org](http://pancan.org)

**President/CEO:** Julie Fleshman

**Mission & Vision:** The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a nationwide network of people dedicated to working together to advance research, support patients and create hope for those affected by pancreatic cancer.

### PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES

2140 Mango Place, 32207 | (904) 398-2437 | [pastoralcounselingservices.net](http://pastoralcounselingservices.net)

**Executive Director:** Cliff Thomas

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of the nonprofit is to work with people to foster healing, growth and life-giving change through holistic mental healthcare and community-building.

### PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION OF CANCER SPECIALISTS OF NORTH FLORIDA

7015 AC Skinner Parkway, Ste. 1, 32256 | (904) 519-2739 | [pafcsnf.org](http://pafcsnf.org)

**President:** Beth Page

**Mission & Vision:** The Patient Assistance Foundation of Cancer Specialists of North Florida offers short-term financial assistance for day-to-day living expenses to patients undergoing treatments for cancer or blood-related diseases.

### PATRONS OF THE HEARTS

841 Prudential Drive, Ste. 1300, 32207 | (904) 202-2919 | [foundation.baptistjax.com](http://foundation.baptistjax.com)

**Interim Chief Development Officer:** Audrey M. Moran

**Mission & Vision:** Patrons of the HeARTS is a program that functions under the umbrella of the Baptist Health Foundation and benefits international children that live in corners of the world with no access to the specialized care they require.

### THE PERFORMERS ACADEMY

3674 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 322-7672 | [theperformersacademy.org](http://theperformersacademy.org)

**Executive Director:** Kathryn McAvoy

**Mission & Vision:** The Performers Academy works to increase access to the performing arts for all children in the Jacksonville Area.

### THE PETER BRAGAN FOR BETTER BASEBALL FOUNDATION

1010 E. Adams Street, Ste. 105, 32202 | (904) 327-5069 | [peterbraganbbf.org](http://peterbraganbbf.org)

**Founders and Co-chairs:** Peter and Nancy Bragan Jr.

**Mission & Vision:** The Peter Bragan for Better Baseball Foundation financially supports and promotes the game of baseball for betterment in Northeast Florida and provides scholarships for higher education. The foundation's vision includes the opening of The Jacksonville Baseball Museum to provide a cultural destination to showcase the historical legacy of baseball in Jacksonville.

### THE PGA TOUR – THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

112 PGA TOUR Boulevard, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | (904) 285-3700 | [pgatour.com](http://pgatour.com)

**Executive Director:** Jared Rice

**Mission & Vision:** The PGA TOUR, its players and tournaments support more than 3,000 charities. These local and national organizations work in a range of areas affecting the lives of millions in the communities where we live and play.

### PINE CASTLE INC.

4911 Spring Park Road, 32207 | (904) 733-2681 | [pinecastle.org](http://pinecastle.org)

**CEO:** Lori Ann Whittington

**Mission & Vision:** Pine Castle works to enrich the lives of people with developmental and acquired disabilities by providing opportunities to learn, work and live in our community.



### PINK RIBBON CLASSIC

P.O. Box 483, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 567-6180 | pinkribbonjax.org

**Co-Chairs:** Joanne Ghiloni and Nancy Morrison

**Mission & Vision:** The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group of events created to raise funds for local breast cancer research and related services at Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville.

### PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

50 N. Laura Street, Ste. 2500-44, 32202 | (904) 887-3843 | pgcnfl.org

**President:** Sharon Clark

**Mission & Vision:** The council's mission is to foster awareness and to provide an effective forum for education, communication, networking and collaboration for our gift planning community.

### POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF JACKSONVILLE

3450 Monument Road, 32225 | (904) 854-6555 | jaxpal.com

**Executive Director:** Lt. Lakesha Burton

**Mission & Vision:** The Police Athletic League of Jacksonville works to enrich the lives of children by creating positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the youth of our community through educational, athletic and leadership programs.

### PONTE VEDRA WOMAN'S CLUB

P.O. Box 957, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 654-7281 | pontevedrawomansclub.com

**President:** Ti Haroldson

**Mission & Vision:** The club was established in 1970 by 15 women who wanted to work together for a charitable cause; over the decades the list of charities and scholarships has increased.

### PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

4115 Post Street, 32205 | (904) 338-0920 | presbyteriansocialministries.org

**Executive Director:** Teri Ketchum

**Mission & Vision:** Offers faith-based social service ministry for everyday problems, including programs that offer shelter, clothing and education to individuals and families in need.

### PROJECT: COLD CASE

10 S. Newnan Street, Ste. 1, 32202 | (904) 525-8080 | projectcoldcase.org

**Executive Director:** Ryan Backmann

**Mission & Vision:** Project Cold Case focuses on helping with unsolved criminal homicides.

### QUIGLEY HOUSE

3373-1 Hwy 17 N., 32043 | (904) 284-0340 | quigleyhouse.org

**CEO:** Ana Martinez-Mullen

**Mission & Vision:** The Quigley House works to provide advocacy and empowerment to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while providing community education to heighten awareness.

### READ USA, INC.

1001 Mayport Rd., #330491, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | (720) 256-6143 | readusainc.com

**Founders:** Ellen Wiss and Vanessa Tussey

**Mission & Vision:** The goal is to put books in the hands of every low-income child, introduce the love of reading and learning, and to end the cycle of poverty.

### RETHREADED

820 Barnett Street, 32209 | (904) 438-8109 | rethreaded.com

**Founder & President:** Kristin Keen

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of Rethreaded is to renew hope, reignite dreams, and release potential for survivors of human trafficking, locally and globally through business.

### THE RITA FOUNDATION

(904) 363-1493 | the-rita-foundation.org

**Volunteer Chairman:** Charles R. Jantz

**Mission & Vision:** The Mission of The RITA (Research Is The Answer) Foundation is to raise awareness and money to help in the fight against all cancers, with an emphasis on breast cancer.



## Making a Difference

CSI Gives Back began with local sponsorships of community events and golf tournaments in 2005.

Since then we have grown into a comprehensive corporate initiative giving back in an even more impactful way. Don't miss out on exciting new changes coming in 2019!

CSI Gives Back extends our community contribution beyond providing great candidates with flexible job opportunities and new careers. It enables us to have a meaningful impact on the lives of people with the greatest need. We are mending hearts, providing support and drying tears during a critical time.



The CSI Companies



CSIGIVESBACK.ORG | 904.862.2949



# Success Stories



## WE CARE JACKSONVILLE JAMES HAGEN

After James Hagen served a 19-month prison sentence for an alcohol-related incident, We Care Jacksonville played an integral part in helping him get his life back on track.

We Care Jacksonville provides access to health care to the uninsured and underserved by coordinating a network of medical volunteers and donated healthcare services.

At one of the lowest points in his life and in need of medical care, Hagen was able to get assistance from We Care for eyeglasses, dental care, and medical treatment for atrial fibrillation.

To gain access to the vital health care he needed during his journey to sobriety, Hagen met with We Care Jacksonville's Director of Health and Wellness Tina Crooks, RN.

"It's secured me with a piece of mind that I've never had," Hagen said. "They offered me help without any strings or attachments and made me feel welcome. We Care has hooked me up with a cardiologist and really has poured out all of this vital health care that has gotten me back on my feet."

Employed as a handyman, Hagen was recently offered a job helping install digital information signs throughout Florida.

"I was in a bad way, I am not ashamed to say that," Hagen said. "You never want to forget where you came from."

## CHARITY REGISTER

### RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

300 Water Street, Ste. 200, 32202 | (904) 472-4270 | [ritzchamberplayers.org](http://ritzchamberplayers.org)

**Executive and Artistic Director:** Terrance Patterson

**Mission & Vision:** The Ritz Chamber Players foster the appreciation of chamber music through performances and educational outreach featuring preeminent African-American musicians and composers, with an emphasis on building audiences and arts inclusion that reflects our diverse society.

### RIVER GARDEN HEBREW HOME

11401 Old St. Augustine Road, 32258 | (904) 260-1818 | [rivergarden.org](http://rivergarden.org)

**CEO:** Martin Goetz

**Mission & Vision:** River Garden Hebrew Home helps to provide a wide range of quality, cost effective elder care services in residential, outpatient, and community-based settings, to create a comfortable, caring, and dignified home for the frail elderly, to serve people of all faiths while maintaining Jewish identity, and to act as a valuable educational resource in elder care for the entire community.

### RIVERSIDE TRADITION HOUSE

2911 Riverside Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1839

**Manager:** Leigh Johnson

**Mission & Vision:** Established in 1971 by Riverside Presbyterian Church to provide a safe, secure residence for adult men wishing to recover from the problems resulting from substance abuse.

### RIVER REGION HUMAN SERVICES

3901 Carmichael Avenue, 32207 | (904) 899-6300 | [rrhs.org](http://rrhs.org)

**Chief Operating Officer:** Kenneth Arnold

**Mission & Vision:** The River Region Human Services works to provide integrated health services that change lives, rebuild families, and restore communities.

### RIVERSIDE FINE ARTS

1100 Stockton Street, 32204 | (904) 389-6222 | [riversidefinearts.org](http://riversidefinearts.org)

**Board President:** Glenna Veiga

**Mission & Vision:** The Riverside Fine Arts Association seeks to enrich the spirit and enhance the quality of life for the community through education and direct experience of artistic expression.

### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF JACKSONVILLE

824 Children's Way, 32207 | (904) 807-4663 | [rmhcjacksonville.org](http://rmhcjacksonville.org)

**Executive Director:** Diane Boyle

**Mission & Vision:** The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville supports the health and well-being of children by providing lodging and other services for critically ill, chronically ill and seriously injured children and their families.

### SAFE HARBOR BOYS ACADEMY

4772 Safe Harbor Way, 32226 | (904) 757-7918 | [www.safeharboracademy.com](http://www.safeharboracademy.com)

**Co-Founder & Executive Director:** Robbie W. Smith

**Mission & Vision:** A nonprofit maritime-based boarding school that teaches discipline and seamanship as a therapeutic model for helping turn around at-risk teenage boys.

### SAFE HAVEN OF NE FL

4823 Shelby Avenue, 32210 | (904) 572-9529 | [safehavenofnefl.org](http://safehavenofnefl.org)

**Executive Director:** Kathy Swafford

**Mission & Vision:** Committed to protecting children from prolonged abuse by changing the laws, one at a time, Safe Haven NE FL is determined to limit the number of chances given to offenders. Its mission is to protect innocent children at all costs.

### ST. FRANCIS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

2727 Atlantic Blvd., 32207 | (904) 674-7223 | [SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org](http://SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org)

**Founder:** Susan Shelton, DVM, DABVP

**Mission & Vision:** St. Francis Animal Hospital strives to make healthcare accessible to all owned pets.



**ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER**

2800 University Boulevard North, 32211 | (904) 256-7591 | stjohsriverkeeper.org

**Executive Director:** Jimmy Orth**Mission & Vision:** The St. Johns Riverkeeper works to be an independent voice that defends, advocates, and activates others to protect and restore the St. Johns River.**ST. MICHAEL'S SOLDIERS**

1342 Coopers Hawk Way, Middleburg, 32068 | (904) 599-7855 | stmichaelsoldiers.org

**Founders:** Kathy and Jim Signorile**Mission & Vision:** St. Michael's Soldiers is dedicated to the support of the deployed men and women of the United States Military, and to the service of those injured in the line of duty in the Jacksonville area.**ST. VINCENT'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**

1 Shircliff Way, 32204 | (904) 308-7300 | jaxhealth.com

**President & System Chief Development Officer:** Jane R. Lanier**Mission & Vision:** St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation is dedicated to spiritually-centered holistic care, which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities.**SALVATION ARMY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA**

328 N. Ocean Street, 32202 | (904) 301-4875 | salvationarmyflorida.org/jacksonville

**Area Commander:** Major Bert Tanner**Mission & Vision:** The Salvation Army works to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.**SANCTUARY ON 8TH STREET**

120 E. 8th Street, 32206 | (904) 356-3588 | sanctuaryon8th.org

**Executive Director:** Rick Cartlidge**Mission & Vision:** The Sanctuary On 8th Street works to encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs.**SCHULTZ CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP**

4019 Boulevard Center Drive, 32207 | (904) 348-5757 | schultzcenter.org

**Executive Director:** Simmie A. Raiford, Ph.D.**Mission & Vision:** The Schultz Center is a resource and convener for innovative learning, leadership and professional development systems.**SEAMARK RANCH**

1 San Jose Place, Ste. 31, 32257 | (904) 529-1951 | seamarkranch.com

**Executive Director:** Fred Meiners**Mission & Vision:** Seamark Ranch is a nurturing Christian home and family system that gives children from families in crisis the tools they need for a brighter future.**SENIORS ON A MISSION**

2050 Art Museum Drive, Ste. 102, 32207 | (904) 551-4373 | seniorsonamission.org

**Founder & Executive Director:** Joanne Hickox**Mission & Vision:** Seniors on a Mission exists to love and encourage independent-living senior citizens, enabling them to live longer, healthier, more grace and purpose-filled lives.**SHANNON MILLER FOUNDATION**

4311 Salisbury Road, 32216 | shannonmiller.com

**Founder:** Shannon Miller**Mission & Vision:** Through education and awareness of the health risks associated with childhood obesity, the Shannon Miller Foundation strives to make a positive impact on children's health.**THE SHOELACE FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 551029, 32255 | (904) 479-5925 | theshoelacefoundation.org

**Founder:** Denard Robinson**Mission & Vision:** The Shoelace Foundation works to empower underprivileged youth to become productive members of society.**SINGLE VISION, INC.**

8185 Forest Hills Road, Melrose, 32666 | (904) 377-7993 | singlevisioninc.org

**Founder:** Carl Bovard**Mission & Vision:** Single Vision's mission is worldwide conservation of endangered species and the preservation of land and habitat essential to earth's remaining wildlife.**THE SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF JACKSONVILLE**

2970 Mercury Road, 32207 | (904) 699-6640 | spinabifidajax.org

**Executive Director:** Demery Webber**Mission & Vision:** The Spina Bifida Association provides support for families living with Spina Bifida.**SULZBACHER CENTER**

611 E. Adams Street, 32202 | (904) 359-0457 | sulzbachercenter.org

**President/CEO:** Cindy Funkhouser**Mission & Vision:** The Sulzbacher Center works to empower homeless and at-risk women, children and men through health, housing and income services thereby restoring hope and self-sufficiency.**SUSAN G. KOMEN NORTH FLORIDA**

200 W. Forsyth Street, Ste. 1620, 32202 | 1-877-465-6636 | komennorthflorida.org

**President:** Paula Schneider**Mission & Vision:** To save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.**tag! THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

76 Dockside Drive, Ste. 105, St. Augustine, 32084 | (904) 647-1757 | tagmuseum.org

**Executive Director:** Kim MacEwan**Mission & Vision:** To create transformative, play-based opportunities to discover, explore and innovate, which would result in a world where all people think for themselves, confidently ask questions, compassionately and collaboratively solve problems, and creatively craft a better world.**TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN**

4527 Lenox Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1361 | takestockjax.org

**Director:** Leah Lynch**Mission & Vision:** Take Stock In Children works to change the lives of deserving children by combining in-school support through a college support coach, the promise of a college or vocational school scholarship and most importantly the guidance of a caring mentor.**TEACH FOR AMERICA**

214 N. Hogan Street, Ste. 6010, 32202 | (904) 353-6517 | teachforamerica.org

**Executive Director:** Darryl Willie**Mission & Vision:** Teach For America works to enlist, develop and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence.**TESORI FAMILY FOUNDATION**

101 Marketside Avenue, Ste. 404 #345, 32081 | (904) 479-8330 | tesorifamilyfoundation.org

**Founders/Board Co-Chairs:** Paul and Michelle Tesori**Mission & Vision:** The foundation's mission is to achieve great things through God by lending a helping hand, providing hope, and healing hearts for children. Its vision is to make a positive change in the lives of children in the local community and those touched by the PGA TOUR.**THERAPY ANIMAL COALITION**

P.O. Box 170, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082 | (904) 567-6863 | therapyanimalcoalition.org

**Board President:** Kristi Leonard**Mission & Vision:** To grow the therapy animal community by educating the public about pet therapy; providing assistance and support to aspiring therapy animal teams; facilitating volunteer opportunities and continuing education for registered therapy animal teams; and assisting facilities and organizations with starting therapy animal programs. Therapy Animal Coalition's vision is to be the leading resource for sharing the healing love of pets.



# Success Stories



## YOGA 4 CHANGE MEGAN RIDOUT

In despair due to an opiate addiction that had caused her to be incarcerated, Megan Ridout is thankful she discovered Yoga 4 Change, a holistic mind/body practice that has helped her overcome her dependence on drugs and remain on the road to recovery.

Yoga 4 Change empowers underserved individuals facing barriers to success in life. It assists veterans, low-income seniors, at-risk youth, those suffering from chronic mental illness and substance abuse by teaching the practice of mindfulness-based yoga.

"I had resigned myself to the fact that I would be a worthless drug addict for the rest of my life," Ridout said. "I had been exposed to recovery programs, but little success was reached, and I had no faith in myself. When Yoga 4 Change found me, they showed me that my body wasn't the enemy. Yoga 4 Change gently guided the way for me to teach myself that I am enough and that I am worth investing time and energy into."

Today Ridout is focusing on being a good mother to her four daughters. She has graduated with a GED and has become a teacher in training for Yoga 4 Change. She also is working on furthering her education.

"Yoga 4 Change showed me how to have enough faith in myself to work at staying sober, and for that I am eternally grateful," she said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

2220 County Road 210 W, Ste 108, PMB 317, 32259  
(904) 380-8499 | [timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org)

**President:** Steve Biondo

**Mission & Vision:** The Foundation's mission is to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need.

### TIMUCUAN TRAIL PARKS FOUNDATION

9953 Heckscher Drive, 32226 | (904) 707-3584 | [timucuantrailparksfoundation.org](http://timucuantrailparksfoundation.org)

**Executive Director:** Mark Middlebrook

**Mission & Vision:** The Timucuan Trails Parks Foundation serves to protect, preserve and promote the Timucuan Trail Parks through advocacy, fundraising and marketing.

### TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND FOUNDATION

5000 Sawgrass Village Circle, Ste. 6, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082 | (904) 543-2599 | [tcjayfund.org](http://tcjayfund.org)

**Executive Director:** Keli Coughlin

**Mission & Vision:** The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund helps families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional and practical support.

### TREE HILL NATURE CENTER

7152 Lone Star Road, 32211 | (904) 724-4646 | [treehill.org](http://treehill.org)

**Executive Director:** Mark Mummaw

**Mission & Vision:** Tree Hill Nature Center promotes environmental stewardship to the community through hands-on educational programs and low-cost access to natural areas.

### TRINITY RESCUE MISSION

622 W. Union Street, 32202 | (904) 355-1205 | [trinityrescue.org](http://trinityrescue.org)

**Executive Director:** Rick Denny

**Mission & Vision:** Trinity Rescue Mission provides emergency services and long-term recovery programs to the hungry, homeless and hurting in the greater Jacksonville area.

### UCOM URBANSERV, INC.

3349 St. Augustine Road, 32207 | (904) 396-2401 | [ucomjax.org](http://ucomjax.org)

**Executive Director:** Sara Mitchell

**Mission & Vision:** UCOM serves the community to ensure that no one faces hunger alone, providing emergency relief to those facing food insecurity, providing one hot meal a day to the homebound, and providing help to those willing to break their cycle of crisis.

### UNF FOUNDATION

1 UNF Drive, 32224 | (904) 620-2151 | [unf.edu/foundation/](http://unf.edu/foundation/)

**Board Chair:** Vince McCormack

**Mission & Vision:** The UNF Foundation provides financial support and counsel for the University of North Florida, including assisting the University in the building of the endowment and in financially supporting the long-term academic and other priorities of the University.

### UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

40 E. Adams St., Ste. 200, 32202 | (904) 390-3200 | [unitedwaynefl.org](http://unitedwaynefl.org)

**President/CEO:** Michelle Braun

**Mission & Vision:** United Way provides leadership, resources and focus to change lives in our community by creating sustainable improvements in education, income and health.

### VISION IS PRICELESS COUNCIL

3 Shircliff Way, Ste. 546, 32204 | (904) 308-2020 | [visionispriceless.org](http://visionispriceless.org)

**Executive Director:** Jami Bueker

**Mission & Vision:** The Vision Is Priceless Council works to serve as the premier community resource for improving the vision health of First Coast children and adults through screening, referral, and education.

### VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE JACKSONVILLE

41 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 399-2766 | [vim-jax.org](http://vim-jax.org)

**President/ CEO:** Jennifer Ryan

**Mission & Vision:** Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville works to improve the health of the Greater Jacksonville community by providing free outpatient medical service to those who are employed but cannot afford health insurance or health care for themselves and their families.



## WALK-OFF CHARITIES OF JAX

12620-3 Beach Blvd. Ste. 325, 32246 | (904) 955-1278 | walkoffcharities.com

**President:** Frank Frangie

**Mission & Vision:** Walk-Off Charities of Jax was established to support youth baseball and the growth of the sport through various activities and programs, primarily focused on supporting the North Florida baseball community.

## WE CARE JACKSONVILLE

4080 Woodcock Drive, Bldg. 2400, Ste. 130, 32207 | (904) 674-6450 | wecarejacksonville.org

**Executive Director:** Susan King

**Mission & Vision:** We Care Jacksonville provides primary and specialty care to the uninsured, the homeless, and the medically underserved people of Jacksonville.

## WHITE OAK CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

581705 White Oak Road, Yulee, FL 32097 | (904) 225-3200 | whiteoakwildlife.org

**Mission & Vision:** The White Oak Conservation Foundation is committed to protecting, promoting and preserving endangered species and habitats.

## WILDLIFE RESCUE COALITION

6853 Seaboard Avenue, 32244 | (904) 779-5569 | wildlifecoalition.com

**Founder:** Barbara Tidwell

**Mission & Vision:** To ensure respect for all wildlife through education and conservation, while providing orphaned, injured and displaced animals with a second chance at life.

## THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

1596 Lancaster Terrace #5B, 32204 | (904) 737-4371 | facebook.com/Womansclubjax/

**Mission & Vision:** The mission of The Woman's Club of Jacksonville is civic, literary, philanthropic, scientific and social in nature. The goal is to improve, benefit and advance women's causes as well as reach out into the community and give aid to worthy organizations.

## WOMENADEJAX

(904) 463-2877 | womenadejax.org

**Founder:** Judy Hicks

**Mission & Vision:** WomenadeJax mentors children at Daniel Kids through career development, fun and community service.

## THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

1325 San Marco Boulevard, Ste. 802, 32207 | (904) 202-2866 | womensboardwch.com

**President:** Elizabeth Langley

**Mission & Vision:** The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital strives to further awareness in the community of the services and facilities of Wolfson Children's Hospital and to raise funds to ensure the finest available pediatric care.

## WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

5644 Colcord Ave, 32211 | (904) 722-3000 | womenscenterofjax.org

**Executive Director:** Teresa Miles

**Mission & Vision:** The Women's Center of Jacksonville improves the lives of women through advocacy, support and education.

## WOMEN'S GIVING ALLIANCE

245 Riverside Ave., Ste. 310, 32202 | (904) 356-4483 | jaxcf.org/wga

**President:** Ellen Wiss

**Mission & Vision:** The Women's Giving Alliance makes grants to nonprofit organizations to support critical community services for women and girls.

## WOMEN WRITING FOR (A) CHANGE, JACKSONVILLE

(904) 307-3047 | womenwritingjacksonville.com

**Founder:** Jennifer Wolfe

**Mission & Vision:** To be a diverse community of women creating change in themselves and their worlds one truth, one voice at a time.

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- Debbie Pfeiffer, President,  
Pitney Bowes Presort Services

# EmploymentJAX.org



## INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER

2709 Art Museum Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207  
(904) 399-8484 - info@theilrc.org

The Independent Living Resource Center is a community-based, charitable, not for profit, 501(c)3 organization.



Financial support for the Careers 360 program is provided by The Able Trust, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Administration for Community Living.



# Success Stories



## YOUTH CRISIS CENTER ALEXANDRA LOPEZ

Thanks to the support she received from the Youth Crisis Center, 18-year-old Alexandra Lopez has been able to graduate from high school, prepare to start college, and gain something she never had before – a sense of responsibility and independence.

After moving to the United States from Cuba three years ago with her father, with whom she had a very difficult relationship, Lopez found herself alone and having to deal with many tough issues.

“We didn’t have the best relationship, but he really cares about me and didn’t want me to be on the streets,” Lopez said.

Her father was able to help her find a safe place to stay through the Youth Crisis Center’s transitional living services, Touchstone Village, which provides housing for young adults aged 18 to 21, who might otherwise be homeless. Through its program, residents receive counseling, training in life skills and career development, as well as academic support – all things which have helped Lopez to get her life back on track.

“Touchstone Village has helped me to become more independent and sociable,” she said. “They have helped me a lot with school and were even willing to pay for my cap and gown for graduation.”

Lopez plans to attend Florida State College Jacksonville where she intends to study to become a social worker. “I want to give back in return what I have had done for me,” she said.

## CHARITY REGISTER

### WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF JACKSONVILLE

100 Festival Park Avenue, 32202 | (904) 280-8162 | worldaffairscounciljax.org

**Executive Director:** Trina Medarev

**Mission & Vision:** The World Affairs Council of Jacksonville works to promote an understanding of the world and its people and to engage citizens of Northeast Florida in becoming better informed participants in the global community.

### WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

4899 Belfort Road, Ste. 300, 32256 | (904) 296-7350 | woundedwarriorproject.org

**CEO:** Lt. General Michael Linnington

**Mission & Vision:** The Wounded Warrior Project works to honor and empower Wounded Warriors.

### YEAR UP JACKSONVILLE

101 W. State Street, 32202 | (904) 203-1456 | yearup.org

**Executive Director:** Robin T. Watson

**Mission & Vision:** Year Up’s mission is to close the Opportunity Divide by providing urban young adults with the skills, experience, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education.

### YESHÁ MINISTRIES

9378 Arlington Expressway, Ste. 325, 32225 | (904) 802-2774 | yeshaministries.com

**Founder:** Grandmaster Charles Coker

**Mission & Vision:** Yeshá’s mission is to train and develop Disciples of Christ through sanctioned martial arts with a vision that its disciples would demonstrate Christian leadership principals to positively impact the lives of the individuals they touch.

### YMCA OF FLORIDA’S FIRST COAST

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 210, 32202 | (904) 296-3220 | firstcoastymca.org

**President & CEO:** Eric K. Mann

**Mission & Vision:** The YMCA strives to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

### YOGA 4 CHANGE

P.O. Box 330117, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | (904) 510-2004 | yoga-4-change.com

**Founder/Executive Director:** Kathryn Thomas

**Mission & Vision:** To heal and empower veterans, incarcerated individuals, venerable youth and those dealing with substance abuse through a purpose-driven yoga curriculum.

### YOUNG LIFE JACKSONVILLE

PO Box 2173, Jacksonville 32203 | (904) 387-9633 | jacksonville.younglife.org

**Area Director:** Mike Shea

**Mission & Vision:** Young Life introduces adolescents to Jesus Christ and helps them grow in their faith.

### YOUNG STROKE

PO Box 692, Conway, SC 29528 | (843) 655-2835 | youngstroke.org

**Founder/Executive Director:** Amy Edmunds

**Mission & Vision:** YoungStroke is the first and only American advocacy organization formed to specifically address the unmet needs of young adult stroke survivors and their caregivers.

### YOUTH CRISIS CENTER

3015 Parental Home Road, 32216 | (904) 725-6662 | youthcrisiscenter.org

**President/CEO:** Kim Sirdevan

**Mission & Vision:** The Youth Crisis Center works to build a healthier community by empowering young people and families to rise above adversity, supporting their vision for a stronger community through stronger families.

### DID WE MISS YOU?

If your registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit didn’t make the list, please let us know! Send details (charity name, address, phone, website, leader, and short mission and vision statement) to editor@residentnews.net. Deadline for the 2019-2020 issue is Sept. 1, 2019.



# Ponte Vedra Business Man Credits UF Health Jacksonville for Saving His Life

**B**rian Lynn doesn't remember the helicopter ride to UF Health Jacksonville April 24, 2016. He has no memory of the trauma surgeons or nurses who rushed to stabilize him after he arrived. He can't recall having his brain scanned or being prepped for the emergency surgeries that would ultimately save his life.

The 45-year-old father spent 17 days in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit, but can only remember the last six. Brian relies on his family to fill in the blanks. Although he can't account for a single second of his blackout, he believes the lifesaving care he received immediately following his traumatic brain injury is the only reason he is alive today.

"Had it not been for UF Health Jacksonville, I wouldn't be here right now," Brian said.

Brian is a business owner and retired Marine who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. When not in the office, he spends the majority of his time with his wife, Leslie, and their three sons. Brian's last memory before his injury was exhaustedly getting up after spending a full day with the family in St. Augustine. Nearly two weeks later, he woke up in a hospital room.

**"Had it not  
been for  
UF Health  
Jacksonville,  
I wouldn't  
be here  
right now."**

"I remember telling my wife I felt nauseous before heading to the bathroom," Brian said.

Seconds after he got up, Leslie heard a crash. She found Brian on the floor bleeding from his left ear and immediately called 911. Paramedics arrived soon after and placed him into an ambulance. It wasn't long before they realized he had to be quickly transported to UF Health TraumaOne.

"They said he was declining and wasn't responding to any more questions," Leslie said. "He wasn't in the state he was initially."

Brian was flown to UF Health Jacksonville, where he received treatment within an hour of Leslie's initial 911 call.

"We identified early that Brian suffered a severe traumatic brain injury," said David Skarupa, MD, the on-call trauma surgeon. "One of the things that separate us from other centers is we see such a high number of acute emergencies. We treat these patients within such a narrow margin of time, and Brian is an example of that."

Scans showed Brian had an epidural hematoma — bleeding between the brain and skull that required immediate surgery. He also had fractures in his face and on the left side of his temporal lobe, causing spinal fluid to leak out of his ear.

"We performed a craniotomy, where we drilled holes in the skull to make an opening," said Gazanfar Rahmathulla, MD, the on-call neurosurgeon. "He had a lot of injury to the base of his skull that was a concern. It was a pretty high-risk procedure."

Hours after the surgery, Brian's condition didn't improve. The bleeding didn't stop, and surgeons went in a second time to save his life. The second procedure took hours, but this time, Brian stabilized. He was placed into a medically induced coma that lasted for almost two weeks. His family never left his side.

"He wasn't breathing on his own," said Kate Strickland, Brian's sister. "He had drains coming out of his head, bandages around his head and a scar on his head. He was virtually unrecognizable."

Mike Lynn, Brian's father, spent his mornings at the hospital, only leaving to get coffee. One morning, he returned from his coffee run to a miracle. After 11 long days in a coma, Brian was finally awake.

"I immediately broke down," Mike said. "The nurse asked him, 'Do you know who this is?' He couldn't talk, but he gave me a Brian look, like 'yeah.' And I knew he was in there." It didn't take long for the good news to spread and for the rest of his family to flood his bedside.

"That was the best day of our lives," said Penny Lynn, Brian's mother. "We were hugging



and high-fiving, and poor Brian was just sitting up in the bed looking at us like we were crazy people."

Physicians and nurses continued to monitor Brian's condition. They spent the next five days working to get him strong enough to proceed to the next phase of his treatment.

"It wasn't over yet, but each day you could see him getting stronger," Penny said. "That was just miraculous. It really was."

Brian was released from UF Health Jacksonville and continued his treatment at Brooks Rehabilitation, where therapists spent hours working with him every day to improve his physical and cognitive skills.

"To go through an experience like this really makes you pause and take a step back," Brian said. "I am so grateful and appreciative for the family I have, who were with me by my side every step of the way."

Brian went back to running his business full time in November of 2016. He can no longer smell or taste his food and lost most of his hearing in his left ear, but he is alive.

"There are no words to describe how thankful I am that my husband is still here," Leslie said.

During his time at UF Health Jacksonville, Brian was treated by the trauma team, trauma psychology, neurosurgery, neuro critical care, oral and maxillofacial surgery, vascular surgery, vascular neurology, audiology, pharmacy and other departments.

"You are not going to find more skilled doctors or nurses who can successfully handle an injury of this magnitude," Kate said. "He was with the best."

The most critical moments of Brian's recovery are the ones he can't remember, but he doesn't need those memories to know he owes his life to the men and women at UF Health Jacksonville.

"I owe my recovery, I owe my existence to UF Health," Brian said.

Thank you to UF Health TraumaOne donors, whose generosity has helped purchase lifesaving equipment, fund injury prevention programs and more. Visit [anightforheroes.com](http://anightforheroes.com) to learn about our annual fundraising gala, A Night for Heroes, and other ways you can make a difference in the lives of thousands of people like Brian Lynn.









# FROM TEE TO GREEN

## EVERYONE WINS WHEN PHILANTHROPY AND GOLF PAIR UP

{ BY EMILY LEINFUSS }

With more than 1,260 holes of golf across 70 public and private courses, it comes as no surprise that Northeast Florida is not only a golfer's paradise, but also a fundraiser's dream. There are fun runs and galas, but no other fundraising activity is as popular as a golf tournament as a way for nonprofits to fill their coffers.

The numbers are also big for the charities and opportunities for giving in the community. The two combined makes for a lot of opportunity to play a round of golf with a purpose.

"There is no easier way to raise money than with a golf tournament," said Fred Funk, founder of the Funk-Zitello Foundation. "There are so many around the country – hundreds a day – that raise money for different causes across the board.

"Golf is an equal opportunity sport," Funk continued. "Anybody can come and play golf. No matter how good you are or bad you are, you can have a great time. You're out on the golf course for four or five or six hours, interacting and having a great time for a great cause. You really can't do that on an NFL football field, an NBA court or at a Major League Baseball park."

Judith Zitello, who with her husband Tommy, joins Funk in hosting the annual Champions for Hope Gala and Golf Classic each year, agreed. "We live in a golf mecca," she said. "Jacksonville is the perfect place to throw a fundraising event because the PGA Tour and the TPC Sawgrass Stadium course are right here," she said. Playing on the TPC course is on many golfers' bucket lists, she added.

Donors also like being wooed with food, drink, entertainment and mementos, said Zitello. "One hundred golfers arrive in the morning. They get a golf shirt, hat and swag bag. They start out at the practice range and on the hill above is the JT Townsend Memorial Choir, followed by bagpipes," she describes. "Every hole has a food and beverage vendor from the local community. There's barbecue, craft beer and vodka, and all is completely donated," she adds.

The Champions for Hope event has raised more than \$1 million in the two years it's been held, said Zitello. That's \$500,000 in 2017 and \$625,000 in 2018. The proceeds were donated to Mayo Clinic for pancreatic cancer research and the JT Townsend Foundation.

*Steve Pajcic and his nephew, Curry Pajcic, celebrate Curry's hole-in-one at the annual Yard Course & Back 9 golf fundraiser for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.*



## PLAYING WITH ICONS

Golf is attractive to donors for many reasons. There's the chance to play on a famous course, or any course you would not otherwise have access to. And another huge draw, and big-ticket item – the cost of a foursome in 2017 and 2018 for Champions for Hope was \$25,000 and individual golf slots were \$6,250 — is the opportunity to play a round of golf with a sports star.

One of the largest moneymaking golf tournaments in Northeast Florida, or any place, is the Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Gala & Golf Classic. It has raised more than \$12 million in eight years. Its strength comes from its mission, which is “to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need.” In addition, the charismatic and genuine nature of Tim Tebow evokes loyalty in people. The event is also bursting with the rich and famous.

In 2018 the Tebow Golf Classic's celebrity players ranged from professional athletes and coaches to reality television stars, and included professional golfer Lanto Griffin, retired Major League Baseball player Johnny Damon, University of Florida head football coach Dan Mullen, Chip Gaines of HGTV's “Fixer Upper,” cast members of A&E's “Duck Dynasty” and among others, of course, Tim Tebow himself.

The first Tim Tebow Celebrity Gala & Golf Classic, in 2011, hosted 19 or 20 celebrities and raised half a million dollars. The most recent 2018 event raised \$2.2 million. Its attendance is almost exclusively through foursome sponsorships, which sell for \$25,000, said Jennifer Strickland, vice president of marketing and engagement at the Tim Tebow Foundation.

It takes a lot of velocity to run a successful fundraiser of this size, Strickland explained. “Between the players, the donors, the celebrities and the fact that it is open to spectators, it takes more than 300 volunteers plus staff,” she said, noting around 2,000 spectators showed up this year, at a cost of \$15 per adult and \$10 for those 18 and under.

Another star-studded golf event is the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Golf Classic, which for the past 24 years has provided golfers with the opportunity to meet and play with dozens of sports and entertainment stars, and, of course, the man himself, Tom Coughlin of the Jacksonville Jaguars, in support of families tackling childhood cancer.

The charity event, which is by invitation only, matches each foursome with a celebrity participant on The Players Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. “The tournament is laid back and the donors who come out really are there because of the mission, well, and to see how many times my dad will hit the ball into the water on the 17th hole,” said Executive Director Keli Coughlin. “The casual atmosphere is a nice break from the



*Tim Tebow, center, engages with fans and supporters of the Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Gala & Golf Classic at TPC Sawgrass.*

more formal gatherings, and a bit more relaxing for everyone involved.”

What makes the Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic different from other golf fundraisers are that donors and celebrities mingle with cancer patients and their parents during the event.

“Our mission is right in the room and on the course,” Keli Coughlin said. “Families, patients, caregivers, advocates are all part of the dinner, and we’ve had patients and parents come out the morning of golf and be part of the tee off. We are there for them, and our Jacksonville donors want to feel connected to these families. They want to be an encouraging part of the cancer journey. I think when our donors meet these very young patients and their families, the role our donors are playing and the impact they are responsible for takes on a different and sometimes life-changing meaning for them.”

The Coughlin family started the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund in Jacksonville in 1996 to honor the life and death of Jay McGillis, a young Boston College football player who played for Coughlin when he was the Eagles’ coach. In 1991 McGillis was diagnosed with leukemia while he was on the team and died eight months later at age 21.

Seeing someone so young and talented die like that had a tremendous impact on Tom Coughlin. “My wife and I decided that if we were ever in the position to be able to give back, we would do everything in our power to help families dealing with cancer. That’s what we’ve done,” he said.

During its 20-plus years, the Jay Fund has raised about \$8.5 million. The money comes from its





annual Celebrity Golf Classic, now paired with a gala dinner and auction the night before the games, plus other fundraisers it holds each year. The organization partners with children's charities across North Florida including Wolfson Children's Hospital, Blessings in a Backpack and Community PedsCare to provide project-specific funding and programs. To date it has helped more than 4,000 families in Jacksonville, as well as in New York and New Jersey where the Jay Fund is also active.

This year the 23rd Annual 2018 Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic and Dinner raised more than \$500,000 to help local families tackling childhood cancer. The line-up of sports celebrities was large and memorable. It included the Atlanta Falcon's Matt Ryan and Coach Mike Smith, New York Giants' and Jaguars' alum Pete Mitchell and a large turnout from the Jacksonville Jaguars. Also, there was NBA legend Sam Jones, one of the world's former top tennis players Todd Martin, radio personality Brian Sexton, and local television sports director Dan Hicken.

"Our players lend support to the cause every year, and we feel blessed to have become a leader in charitable fundraising, which has allowed us to provide financial assistance along with support and counseling services for families who have a child battling cancer," Tom Coughlin said.

*"Our players lend support to the cause every year, and we feel blessed to have become a leader in charitable fundraising, which has allowed us to provide financial assistance along with support and counseling services for families who have a child battling cancer."*

— TOM COUGHLIN

### GOLF HAS BROAD APPEAL

Another plus for throwing a fundraising golf event is that it appeals to businesspeople and others who like the competitive aspect of the day, said Kathy Osterer, chief development officer at River Garden Senior Services. Osterer and development associate Michelle Branly are the event's coordinators.

To make competing into a victory for everyone, River Garden makes sure there is at least one 'skill

prize' on every hole. "If you hit a good shot you are sure to win something," said Osterer. "A tournament makes networking possible," she added.

River Garden also has themes for its golf events. For example, a few years back the motif was "full blown Jimmy Buffet," said Branly. "We hadn't even told the board members that we were doing it. We had parrots, volunteers wore tropical attire, and no one said a word about it," she explained. "Themes make a golf event more fun – for the players and the organizations," she said.



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## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

While holding golf tournaments for charity is serious business, they are also an enjoyable way to build relationships. For example, donors who attend the two-day fundraiser for HEAL Foundation, which boasts a celebrity gala and Bobby Weed's Golf Gig at TPC Sawgrass, attend year after year.

HEAL stands for Helping Enrich Autistic Lives. Bobby Weed, CEO of Bobby Weed Golf Design and his wife, Leslie, cofounded it in 2007 to raise awareness and support programs for people with autism. The Weeds' daughter, Lanier, is a person with autism.

"HEAL and the Golf Gig are all about relationships," said HEAL executive director Jason Gurka. "They are made up of the people who have been friends with the Weed family, along with business associates and other people who believe deeply in the cause," he explained. "Many have seen what the Weeds have gone through and Lanier's growth the past few years," he added.

It helps that HEAL is an outreach organization serving those with autism in the community. In the past 11 years HEAL has granted more than \$2 million locally and has assisted

thousands of children, teens and adults through programs, camps, educational enhancements, service dogs, and a life-changing iPad program that has given non-speaking individuals with autism a way to communicate to family, friends and the outside world.

"Our players include a great mix of dedicated HEAL supporters, parents of special-needs children, donors, sponsors and golf-industry representatives," said Weed. "Leslie and I appreciate the strong support and donations to assist our cause here in Northeast Florida."

The HEAL 2018 Gala and Golf Tournament raised \$260,000. There were 300 gala attendees and 84 golfers (21 foursomes). Donors can choose from two primary sponsorship packages.

*"HEAL and the Golf Gig are all about relationships. They are made up of the people who have been friends with the Weed family, along with business associates and other people who believe deeply in the cause."*

— JASON GURKA, HEAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first is a \$5,000 annual sponsorship that gives the donor one foursome, eight gala tickets, logo recognition throughout the year on the gala program, event signage and more. The \$2,000 sponsorship is for one foursome and four gala tickets.

There are additional ways that golf tournaments can earn added dollars for charity. One big draw is to pair the day of golf with a red carpet-style dinner or gala that also boasts a live auction of donated items. Those donations aren't just a day at the movies either. For example, David Caldwell, general manager for the Jacksonville Jaguars, donated a package that included an experience for two to attend the Super Bowl and experience it from the Jaguars' private booth, said Zitello.



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[THEPLAYERSvolunteers.com](http://THEPLAYERSvolunteers.com).





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Jim Furyk tees off at the Furyk & Friends Celebrity Golf Classic at the Sawgrass Country Club.

## SHOW ME THE MUSIC

Another powerful fundraiser add-on that attracts fans of the music lover variety is the Furyk & Friends Concert, which, together with its Celebrity Golf Classic, forms the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation's annual signature event. The Foundation is dedicated to helping those organizations that lend a hand to people who can't fulfill their most basic needs. That includes providing food for underprivileged children, care for children with life limiting or threatening conditions and providing a safe place for them to go after school. "When you know you are affecting people positively it puts a smile on your face," said Jim Furyk.

The Furyk & Friends Concert and Celebrity Golf Classic celebrated its eighth year by raising just over \$500,000 for charities that help local children and families in need in 2018. And it has raised at least \$500,000 per year, for children and families in need, since its inception in 2010.

This year's event was attended by more than 350 supporters, 40 celebrities from all walks of life and corporations from across the country that got to experience an acoustic, off-the-cuff concert on the Sunday evening before the tournament. The show featured Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum, Jordan Davis, Colt Ford, Javier Colon, Drew and Ellie Holcomb, Drew Copeland of Sister Hazel, Patrick Davis and an all-star band featuring Matt Billingslea, David Dorn, Jackson Eppley and Jonathan Trebing. Sunday the fun continued with its Celebrity Golf Classic at Sawgrass Country Club. Both events featured a bevy of amazing local chefs and craft cocktail bar masters.

## ON THE GROUNDS

The Foundations are not the only entities that can benefit from golf tournaments as charity fundraisers. The golf courses and clubs can also glean some pluses – for both organizations.

For example, charitable giving is a big deal at TPC Sawgrass, according to Matt Borocz, Assistant General Manager/Director of Golf, and General Manager Derek Sprague. Together these golf professionals explained that in addition to being home of THE PLAYERS Championship, which just surpassed \$100 million in charitable giving, the club serves as host to a variety of philanthropic causes throughout the year.

"Those who choose to have their event at TPC Sawgrass do so because we're able to provide top-notch services and amenities and a golf experience unlike anywhere else in the area," Borocz said. In return, charities attract top donors and maximize proceeds, "which is why we see a lot of repeat business year after year. Even though we're unable to provide our facilities free of charge, the return on investment outweighs costs, as we're truly helping these organizations advance their missions and continue making a difference for some really important causes," said Sprague.

Holding a charity golf tournament provides multiple benefits for Atlantic Beach Country Club and for all golf properties, said Head Golf Professional Jason Diaz. "It checks all the boxes for us," he said. "It is a good and profitable piece of business, the community outreach has strong value for us, and it provides exposure to the club."

When non-members get to play on the course, "it gives them the opportunity to see the benefits of membership and of hosting other types of events at our facilities," Diaz said.

Atlantic Beach Country Club only holds a limited amount of charity tournaments on an annual basis. The criterion for saying yes, first and foremost, is that the charity be local to the Atlantic Beach or Jacksonville Beach areas. That way the outreach is felt directly in the community that the property serves, he said.

*"When you know you are affecting people positively it puts a smile on your face."*

— JIM FURYK





## A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOLF TOURNAMENT

Each year, when the Pajcic Family Foundation holds its annual golf tournament, donors do not head to a local country club to play. Instead they head to the backyards of Steve and Michael Pajcic's riverfront homes, where 18 holes of golf are set up just for the event.

The Pajcics' annual yard golf tournament developed organically. Originally, the family set up a yard golf course at Steve Pajcic's house to compete against each other. Over time an idea blossomed, and it was transformed into an annual yard golf tournament to raise money for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA). JALA offers civil legal support to those who cannot afford an attorney for matters ranging from fair-housing issues to employment and much more.

Today the yard golf tournament encompasses two nine-hole courses at Steve and Michael Pajcic's houses, plus fun, unusual shots that, if aced, will earn even more money for charity. Celebrities from Jacksonville teams and other places, plus locals, friends, family and more attend the event, and the Law Office of Pajcic & Pajcic matches all donations.

"We like to call it a fun event for a great cause," Michael Pajcic explained. "Imagine a big lawn party on the river, with a little golf thrown in, and a chance to win big prize money. Two years ago, we added a second course and more fun for the whole family with face painting, balloon artists, popsicles, and a bounce house.

"You can either walk between the two courses or hop on a boat. Everyone's favorite is the sixth hole 'island green' where golfers hit off a dock and try to sink a hole in one. Anyone who aces that hole gets \$6,000, and we match each prize for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, so JALA also gets \$6,000," he continued.

"We recently upped the suspense at the sixth hole by adding a celebrity shoot-out where local celebrities try to win \$6,000 for the charity of their

*"Access to justice and the courts should not only be for corporations or those with money. JALA helps people in dire need navigate through the legal system."*

— MICHAEL PAJCIC



Thomas, Michael and Jackson Milton

choice. This year it was Jaguars kicker Josh Lambo taking the prize. He picked an animal rescue facility. Fur Sisters - Furever Urs Rescue, Inc. got the \$6,000 with another \$6,000 going to JALA. We also had two holes-in-one! Next year, we want a big crowd watching, cheering, and celebrating at least three holes-in-one," he said.

This year, the total amount raised, between donations and the Pajcics' matching donations, was a little more than \$150,000, a new record, said coordinator Robyn Sieron. "The cost to attend is \$25 per person and \$50 for attorneys," she said, "Plus so many donors want to be hole sponsors that we ended up with sponsors for both the tees and the greens and then we had sponsors for the pop-sicle stand and the bounce house."

Some hole sponsorships were \$1,000 and others were \$500, and that is where the bulk of the funds were raised. "The Pajcics then matched every single dollar of the entry fees and sponsorships. They also matched the prize money that was won from the hole-in-ones," Sieron explained.

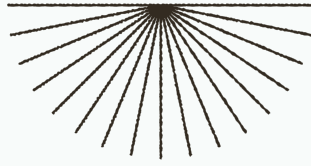
While the yard golf tournament is the epitome of lightheartedness, Pajcic & Pajcic is serious about supporting JALA. "Access to justice and the courts should not only be for corporations or those with money. JALA helps people in dire need navigate through the legal system," said Michael Pajcic. "It does it without any funding from the State of Florida or the City of Jacksonville. That's why members of our family and The Pajcic Law Firm are so committed to this cause," he added.

Commitment to each and every cause is surely the motivating factor for all of these Foundations' tournaments and events. It's golf with a purpose, for sure, and the purpose is to make a difference in the lives of people in Northeast Florida. All that, plus a great experience that goes beyond just playing a game of golf, is what keeps donors coming back for more.





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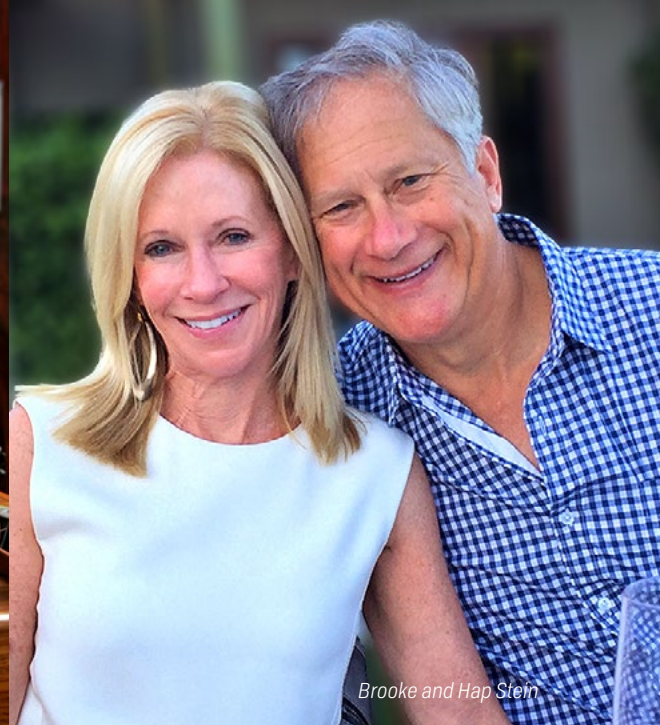




Hugh and Susan Greene



Dr. Lewis Obi



Brooke and Hap Stein

# Importance of the *Arts*

BY MARCIA HODGSON

Charitable arts enthusiasts share insights and motivations for funding of their favorite mediums, artists, and collections

There is no question art and philanthropy go hand in hand, for there are few museums, art galleries, creative educational programs or theaters that could survive without the financial support from well-heeled donors. As a main fundraising staple, pricey artworks, donated to nonprofits by wealthy collectors or the artists themselves, are often used in silent or live auctions to raise money for a raft of worthy causes.

Few things in life make an impression on the soul or can dramatize the human condition as acutely as a work of art, yet it is an area many philanthropists often seem reluctant to go,

preferring instead to cast their dollars toward more pressing and tangible community concerns such as healthcare, education, women or children's programs, or food insecurity.

On a national scale, for the first time ever, charitable giving overall exceeded the \$400 billion mark in 2017, spurred by growth in giving by individuals, foundations, bequests, and corporations. According to statistics compiled by the Giving USA Foundation, giving to the arts in 2017 was up 8.7 percent over the previous year, making the sector the second fastest in growth behind foundations. But even with the tremendous upswing in giving, funding for the arts, culture,

and the humanities made up only \$19.51 billion, 5 percent of the total.

Although to many the direct benefit of the arts may seem intangible, some donors see value in fostering creativity through arts education or supporting craftsmen who choose to make art a profession. Six prolific Northeast Florida philanthropists – Heather Moore, Hap and Brooke Stein, Dr. Lewis Obi, Marilyn and Charles Gilman, Hugh and Susan Greene, and Lawrence DuBow – choose to spend their time, energy, and treasure to champion the arts on the First Coast and have agreed to share their feelings on the importance of funding art as a way to give back to the community.





Marilyn and Charles Gilman



Lawrence DuBow



Heather Moore

## Q: Why should philanthropists invest in the arts?

**A:** “The arts are indispensable to a vibrant community. They are an essential element of a city’s soul,” said Regency Centers CEO Hap Stein, who with his wife, Brooke, partners with the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville to establish the museum’s annual Emerging Artist Prize. “Vibrant communities with strong art institutions also make important contributions to economic development,” Hap said. “The arts play a crucial role in well-rounded education for the children in our community. We can’t imagine students not being exposed to the arts, just like a world without athletics is unimaginable,” he said. “And from a personal basis, the arts inspire our humanity and grow our appreciation of the beauty in the world in which we live.”

World-renowned plastic surgeon and art collector Dr. Lewis Obi agreed. “I love the arts. I love beauty. When someone accumulates wealth they often want to validate their wealth by collecting art. Many see it as validating your status and joining the club, however that is the opposite of me,” he said. “I was very poor when I started out, but I love art because I love beauty. Philanthropists should invest in art because they love beauty and aesthetics.

“Art is an important resource in the community that is too often neglected,” Obi continued. “It is essential for my environment to have art, and I think it is essential for most humans, so it is important for philanthropists to donate to enhance that. Giving to the arts is a way to fund dreams. Every day I enjoy my art, and all the paintings that I have, I feel they are, in a way, loaned to me temporarily. I can pass them down to my children, but eventually they will end up somewhere else.”

Lawrence DuBow, also an avid supporter of the arts, has among his many gifts to the community through the DeBow Family Foundation underwritten the Artist-in-Residence program at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and has a theater on the DA campus named in his honor. “There are different interests, desires, and passions for the arts that are displayed by donors who have funded the arts community,” he said. “Ours vary from music to sculpture, to paintings to dancing – all forms of art – all performed by varying levels of accomplishment, but still, art. That is what inspires us to continue to support those who are making a difference in the lives of people who view the various forms of art.”

Providing the public with the opportunity to observe art is also important to Heather Moore, who has funded the Heather Moore Community Gallery through the Cathedral Arts Project. Her gallery provides a unique venue for emerging and established artists to exhibit original works of art. Moore also serves as immediate past chair for CAP, board president of Phase Eight Theater Company, and is co-founder and the sponsor of the Essential Culture Podcast Network (ECPN).

“Investing in the arts gives back to the donor while allowing them to give to multitudes of others at the same time,” she said. “My investments in the arts have provided opportunities for children as well as adults to create and contribute to our community both short- and long-term. The community gets to experience works of art firsthand that enrich our lives with their beauty and our enjoyment of the experiences they provide. We reap the rewards of younger people exposed to the arts, who are learning about the world and history, expanding their reach and finding ways to positively express themselves.”

For Hugh and Susan Greene, investment in the arts means investing in the “wholistic health” that a culturally-vibrant community helps achieve. The Greenes have set up two endowments, the Art in Healing at Baptist Health to continue support of art at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Susan and Hugh Greene Endowment for Cathedral Arts Project at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. They also have a small personal collection of art that has been displayed at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church.

“Current public policies minimally fund art education therefore depriving our community of the next generation of future artists, audiences, and public square vibrancy,” said Susan. “Investment in the arts increases success in schools, especially for those students who come from economically challenged homes,” she said. “We consider the arts to be the soul of the community. When people visit a city, they most remember the cultural landmarks and feelings of wellbeing because of music heard, murals and sculptures prominently placed, and even dancing in the streets or parks. Happy places create happy people, people who are more tolerant of one another and are inspired to work together for the community’s sake.”

Charles Gilman, who serves as a trustee of MOCA, and his wife, Marilyn, also seek to support creativity and inspiration. “Art is basically about people making things,” he said. “Often it is about creating something that did not exist prior. We find that pursuit of thought, creativity and execution to be a fascinating human endeavor. While we all like different flavors of artistic expression, who doesn’t want to invest in inspiration whether it be your own or someone else’s?”



## Q: What fuels your passion for the arts?

**A:** For the Steins, who support the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, MOCA, Douglas Anderson and symphonies in both Jacksonville and Vail Valley, where they have a second home, inspiration comes from great art and great music. “When I listen to Gershwin and Beethoven, my soul is stirred,” said Hap.

For DuBow, who supports many diverse forms of art at all levels of accomplishment, from pre-school children to accomplished professionals, satisfaction comes from knowing he is fulfilling a commitment he made to his mother. “She encouraged me to understand, enjoy, and support all forms of art. It was her desire for me to do what I could to make a difference in the lives of those who make art truly enjoyable for us,” he said.

For the Gilmans, who are happiest living in the setting of inclusiveness, open-mindedness and creativity that art provides, being involved with the arts helps them to survey the landscape of their past, present and future lives.

“We think it is important to renew oneself along the way, and art can be a mechanism for such growth. That is what we receive from being a part of the art scene. It just energizes us,” Gilman said, noting he and his wife are primarily interested in non-edition photographs. “Each image is an original, and the artists we collect tend to be anything but point-and-click photographers. They employ self-specific techniques, and they are all alive and have bills to pay,” he said. “From an institutional standpoint, we support MOCA for the same reason. ‘Now’ is generally more interesting to us than ‘then.’”

For Susan Greene, love of the arts has served as a coping mechanism for her dyslexia.

“I love the arts because the feelings, ideas, and questions that the arts pose are so much more accessible to me than long texts or other complex reading material. Because art making is multi-sensory, people with dyslexia benefit as do all students. Art exercises the brain in significant and measurable ways that positively improve academic outcomes. I am also passionate about the arts because I have seen them transform the lives of students of all socio-economic levels and learning styles. Artistic expression improves mood and builds bridges between generations and cultures.”

Meanwhile, Obi said his passion for art’s creative elements is fed by paintings, sculpture and 3-dimensional works – especially creations of Manierre Dawson, Daniel Samuels, and Salvador Dali, all artists whose work he collects, as well Renaissance artists, impressionists, cubists and classical craftsmen. “I have very diverse tastes,” he said. “I was not exposed to much art until later in life. There was not much art in Jacksonville when I was growing up, but as soon as I left Jacksonville I went crazy over it.”

Feeding Moore’s passion for art is her own “transformative” experience as an artist and writer as well as the art practiced by her son and two daughters. “As a child, I found my talent focused toward the arts, and I was encouraged by my parents and community to develop my gifts,” she said.

“The arts formed my unique identity in how I related to the world around me and gave me a sense of pride and accomplishment. I learned from an early age that artists and writers were integral to the development of society. My passion for the arts today is reflective of my childhood experiences and those of my children,” she continued. “Many children are not given those same gifts unless people like me, who can afford to give others those same opportunities, make it possible. I want all children to have the same opportunities my own children experienced through arts education in our public schools. It’s my mission to make sure I do all I can, whether it’s through donations of my time, financial support, or spreading the word that to give to the arts community is to give and receive great joy.

*“Art exercises the brain in significant and measurable ways that positively improve academic outcomes.”*

*~ Susan Greene ~*

**Q: With budget shortfalls within the community and education, are we overlooking the importance of art and its role in community placemaking and identity? Is it important for philanthropists to step in when the government decides to cut funding?**

**A:** “When it comes to education, if the community demands the arts be promoted, then they will be,” said Gilman. “Faced with shortfalls, we think it is very important for private donors to lead the way, hoping that public funding will follow. Just look at LaVilla and Douglas Anderson School for the Arts. Look at the Cathedral Arts Project. Look at the University of North Florida acquiring MOCA several years ago. We are in the middle of a positive trend for art education in Jacksonville, but positive trends have temporary setbacks, so an all-hands-on-deck approach makes sense to us.”

The Steins agreed that “generously funding the arts should always be a priority for both the public and private sectors in good and bad times. When the economy is good, it’s particularly important to build reserves for the lean years,” they said. “Great cities have great art institutions, and taking those institutions and others devoted to the arts from good to great should be an important priority. It is incumbent on civic leaders and large companies to be generous and to use their influence to strongly encourage government to adequately participate in the funding of the arts.”

Communities that don’t fund the arts properly overlook the importance of art and its role in community placemaking and identity, said Moore. “Think of what it says to the student whose strengths lie within the arts,” she said. “Is their inherent creativity less valuable than the student with an aptitude for math and science? When we cut funding in the arts community and education, we are directly communicating to professional artists and students that their talent and work is less important and not as high a priority to the community. It also sends a clear signal to those outside of our community that the arts are not valued here,” she continued. “This shortsighted approach to budget decision-making makes it extremely important for philanthropists to step in. And how they step in is just as important. Their support allows programs, organizations and artists to continue to operate. And while their contributions are much needed, so is their power and influence.”

Obi agreed that philanthropists should step in where they see a need. “Forty years ago, I built a museum for Edward Waters College,” he said, noting he paid for the construction of the facility and supplied 90 percent of its art from his private collection of African artifacts. “My dad had a grocery store and Edward Waters College was literally right across the street. It meant a lot to the college for me to build the museum because it didn’t have the resources, and it was the first black college in the state.”

Since then, Obi has donated many pieces from his art collection to museums in Jacksonville and throughout the United States, as well as to several local religious institutions including Holy Family Church in Baymeadows, San Jose Catholic Church and St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

The Greenes also agree that philanthropists should and must fill funding gaps due to underfunding of the arts by government officials. “We would encourage philanthropists to consider contributing part of their giving to fund advocates and lobbyists for arts funding,” said Susan. “Our fear is that the more the private sector does, the less politicians will do to fund the arts. When we share in the funding as a tax base, we more fully own the challenges and successes of art education and community vibrancy.”



**Q:** What tangible return do you expect to see from investing in the arts?

**A:** Keeping the needs of the community in mind is important when considering the return on investment of giving to the arts, said DuBow. "In an attempt to satisfy the charitable and philanthropic needs of the 'Art Community' it is important for donors to understand and clarify their particular and specific fields of interest within that community," he said. "The 'return on investment' will vary and may not always fulfill the donors' requirement, but the important issue is what and how did it fulfill the needs of the community?"

For the Steins, being able to personally enjoy art exhibitions and symphony concerts by talented artists is thanks enough. "We also are extremely gratified to watch our fellow citizens, especially our young people, enjoy those exhibitions and concerts," they said.

Improved school success is the tangible return the Hugh and Susan Greene see in their support of the arts. "We have established the Susan and Hugh Greene Endowment for the Cathedral Arts Project at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. CAP provides free art lessons, which include the visual and performing arts at Title 1 schools. Our students manage their emotions in positive

*"It is essential for my environment to have art, and I think it is essential for most humans, so it is important for philanthropists to donate to enhance that. Giving to the arts is a way to fund dreams."*

*~ Dr. Lewis Obi*

ways, improve communication skills and strengthen task completion. CAP students' behavior influences the rest of the school. Principals are constantly asking for these classes in their schools, particularly as state support of the arts has dwindled."

Recognizing that artists need to make a living, the Gilmans feel it is reward enough to know they are helping support the art industry. "Our living artists need the attention and support now, not when they are no longer with us," Gilman said. "This is why contemporary art is so vital, and why we support MOCA directly. From a collecting standpoint, the primary tangible return on art investment for us would be in the joy of having acquired a powerful artwork that we get to live with."

Obi, who has a vast art collection, said he does not acquire art unless he loves it. "I buy

pieces I like. I buy for beauty, technical skills, and composition," he said. "I don't invest in what I don't like, even if it seems to be a good investment," Obi said, noting his greatest return came from the purchase of Mainerre Dawson's entire collection in the 1970s. "His art work has appreciated greatly," he said. Obiarts has donated Dawson's work to dozens of museums throughout the U.S., including his favorite Dawson painting, 3 Graces, to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art 10 years ago so that "millions of people" could see it.

In contrast, investing in the arts has a more intangible return for Moore. "I see Jacksonville defining its soul through the arts," she said. "The arts allow us to go beyond the surface level of glass and steel buildings and begin to tell our story. Who

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lives here? Why do they live here? What's important to us here?" she said, citing as the perfect example the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, which, by showcasing the work of local artists, demonstrates that a major healthcare provider in the community has a "heart and soul."

"Art will move us all forward to what's new and what's next for our city and present a visual image to all about what life here in Jacksonville actually feels like," she said. "Investing in the arts reflects who we are as a community and what we value. Jacksonville can and should be the next arts destination to hit the map, and we can only do this if we continue to tell our story to the world through collaborative efforts."

## Q: Do you see the arts as a vehicle for social change?

A: "I do see the arts as a vehicle for cultural and social change," said Moore, while explaining that art provokes emotional reactions and connections, which are "physical manifestations of thought," the source of all creativity.

"We experience so much heated rhetoric in our everyday life that simply assaults the senses without helping to persuade a change of thought through storytelling. The arts have the added measure of allowing us to witness visual images or to read about the human experience while gaining greater understanding for the why and how of the person, people, or cause at hand. The arts give us context and initiate wider perspectives to learn and grow. They let us 'walk a mile in someone else's shoes,'" Moore continued.

"I support the arts financially to cultivate this culture of understanding and to promote intellectual dialogue. My work volunteering with nonprofits has given me opportunities to interact with people living in Jacksonville neighborhoods far removed from my affluent beachside community. It's through the lens of multiple perspectives that I'd like my financial support of the arts to facilitate and help build relationships forged by mutual honor, respect, and awareness of each other's life circumstances," Moore said.

Susan Greene agreed that promoting a dialogue between people through art is important. "Art can effect cultural change in a multitude of ways if it is the beginning of a conversation about community challenges," she said. "Art is a way to

tell personal, family, institutional, and historical stories. Conversations for cultural change must begin with the owner of the story and proceed with sensitivity, stakeholder buy-in, and a high quality of promotion and presentation. Quality art sharing for cultural change often costs more than some would imagine. If I had a million dollars, I would give it to the expert who knows how to facilitate positive cultural change through artistic expression," she said.

Meanwhile, Obi said he has seen changes in the arts through the generations that reflect social change over the years, and DuBow said he does not think the arts should be used to impact society in this way. "I do not know if the arts will be and/or can be a vehicle for cultural or social change," he said. "Nor do I believe that we should impose the arts onto the community with that in mind. What we can and should continue doing is to bring the best possible forms of art to our community on a consistent and regular basis to keep people advised, informed, and entertained. And we should be sure to include all levels of our social and educational population. Change will come if we keep people informed and entertained," DuBow said.

Although the Gilmans said they believe art can be a force for change, that change is always an "inside job" for the observer. "Art has the ability to reveal to its audience different perspectives and alternate outcomes to which it is usually accustomed," they said. "Art can help us to find truth and meaning in our lives. It is the difference between 'show me' and 'tell me.' Art which aims to coerce another's truth-seeking is not on our agenda. That is called propaganda."

## Q: Is there a certain piece of art, literature, or music that has inspired you?

A: The Gilmans enjoy non-edition photographs by Alison Rossiter, Chris McCaw and John Chiara, while Obi favors paintings and sculpture – especially 3 Graces by Dawson, Olympian Light by Daniel Samuels and Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh.

Music is DuBow's chief inspiration. "I grew up listening to music, all music, symphonic, classical, popular, jazz, spiritual, both instrumental and vocal. Music is a 'language' and like any language, you must listen to it continually to learn it. When you do, you will be able to 'speak' it with intelligence

and understanding," he said. "I am fortunate to have learned the language of music."

Meanwhile, contemporary art inspires the Steins. "Hap's and my interest in contemporary art started many years ago when we worked with Jackie Holmes," Brooke said. "She sold us our first contemporary art, which were by Syd Solomon and Robert Natkin. Our dear friend Bruce Dempsey, who was the former director of MOCA, has played a key role in our journey to where viewing and collecting contemporary art has become one of our passions. We also really like modern photography," she said.

"The contemporary art that is displayed in Regency's corporate offices has helped set the tone for our offices, which were recently recognized as the 'coolest office space' in Jacksonville," said Hap. "Those artists include Helen Frankenthaler, Frank Stella, Damien Hirst, and Julian Opie. My passion for art was started by my fascination for the work of Goya when I studied Spanish at Bolles."

Mark Rothko is Susan Greene's "most influential" artist. "Rothko's pieces are deceptively simple. He created enormous canvases of glowing colors meant to draw us in for meditative moments," she said, noting her favorite piece is "Orange and Yellow." "When I view his work, I stand speechless, feeling ecstatic and calm at the same time. I don't think, I only feel. Artistic expression mirrors my faith experience. Just as my experiences with God are full of wonder, awe, and mystery, so is good art."

Moore said she adores paintings created by the juvenile boys who are being detained at the John E. Goode Pre-Trial Detention Facility. The boys, some of whom will be tried as adults for their crimes, do wonderful collaborative art work through their participation in the visual arts program provided by the Cathedral Arts Project.

"CAP's visual arts program is a calming creative outlet for the boys. The class teaches abstract expressionism, and the boys do not need prior arts experience," she said, adding decision-making, team-building, and trust are taught through painting. "Using these tools, the boys learn that through creative self-expression and reflection they can show mood and thought in positive and productive ways. Their painting brings me great joy! It shows me the power of art to transform lives and how the power of giving to others makes dreams become a reality."



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# SCIENCE AND ART BLEND TOGETHER FOR HEALING WITHIN NEW BAPTIST MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

{ BY MARCIA HODGSON }

**P**erhaps there is no better example of the world of science meshing with art than the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in San Marco.

The unique \$184 million, 330,000 square-foot, nine-story, outpatient clinic, which officially opened in September 2018, has wed cutting-edge medical technology and the know-how of the finest cancer specialists in the country with the design expertise of a host of prominent fine artists, all with the goal of creating an integral environment to promote healing.

It's been three years since Baptist Health partnered with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, one of the country's leading cancer centers, to transform cancer care in the Southeast. And two years ago, construction began on a new facility at 1301 Palm Avenue to replicate the same model of care used in Houston. The healthcare partnership links – operationally and clinically – Jacksonville's world-class team of cancer specialists with their colleagues in Texas on a day-to-day basis, giving patients in Northeast Florida and the surrounding region the opportunity to access the latest research, clinical trials, and treatment protocols close to home.

“Our board and senior leadership team wanted to do something that was distinguished in this community. As we like to describe it, this is an extraordinary facility for an even better group of caregivers and clinicians,” said Keith Tickell, vice president of Strategic Assets and Real Estate at Baptist Health.

The new building functions as a hub for every facet of cancer care including physician appointments, imaging, radiation and infusion therapy, spiritual support, counseling, nutrition, social services and art therapy. It also features the nation's first cancer-specialized Walgreen's Pharmacy, a café that offers healthy food selections especially suited for cancer patients, and the Life Wellness Center, a retail shop that offers wellness services and specialty-care products for cancer patients and survivors – everything needed to support Baptist MD Anderson's whole-person approach to fighting the disease.





In the construction of the new facility, Baptist Health called upon the aid of an advisory board comprised of architects, designers and prominent local art professionals, including Carl Beers, Rupert Brown, Ben Thompson, Frank Brooks, David Engdahl, Leigh Walker and Hope McMath, as well as several cancer patients so that specific artistic elements, which are meant to provide an atmosphere of comfort, hope, and healing, would be incorporated within the design of the building as it was built.

Working underneath the direction of the art advisory committee was Baptist's leading art consultant, Hillary Whitaker of Stellers Gallery in Ponte Vedra Beach, who was tasked with curating the majority of the building's interior art.

"Art moves you away from the issues that you have and takes you somewhere else," said McMath, referring to the cancer clinic's clientele. "It makes you feel that someone else in the world understands you and that you can connect."

Engdahl, her colleague, agreed. "Art isn't about art itself. Art is about the expansion of thinking. Most of the people who use this facility are not artists. Art will help them better deal with what they are dealing with," he said.

"Art is about more than aesthetics," said Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene. "Art is integral to healing. From the very beginning, art was incorporated into this building and the artists have told us this is relatively unique. We are very sensitive to the fact that people are facing incredible stress and anxiety in their lives after a cancer diagnosis," he said. "We set out to create an entire environment that promotes healing. Science

*Art is about the expansion of thinking. Most of the people who use this facility are not artists. Art will help them better deal with what they are dealing with.*

- DAVE ENGAHL





tells us the response to images and even the way the brain responds has an effect physically of reducing stress and anxiety. It was very, very critical for us to have created an environment that promotes healing.”

Because a focus on art was inherent in the design of the building from the start, many in the art community found Baptist Health’s approach unusual and refreshing, particularly Baptist Health’s insistence on supporting local artists.

“Because our cancer center serves not only the greater Jacksonville area but also the Southeastern United States, our art collection reflects a focus on local and regional artists,” said Melanie Husk, Baptist Health’s senior vice president of marketing and communications, noting that the majority of the more than 500 pieces strategically positioned throughout the center were made by artists from Northeast Florida. “While many of the larger works are visible in public areas, original works can be seen everywhere patients and families travel throughout the cancer center,” she said.

Not to be missed are the signature creations that reside in the alcoves near the elevators on six of the nine floors currently in use in the medical facility.

On the first floor is Virginia Scotchie’s ceramic sculptures entitled, “Objects.” Tickell and his wife, Cathy, donated “Flying Away,” a Hydrocal cast made by Valeria Yamamoto, which rests on the second floor. Highlighting the third floor is a spectacular blown-glass installation by Thomas Long, “Sanibel II,” which was given by PNC Bank. Attorney Alan Howard and his wife, Gwen Gallagher-Howard, donated Sistema, a screenprint on hand-cut mylar created by Sheila Goloborotko, which resides on the sixth floor. Joe Segal’s wood and aluminum “Center XXV” is installed on the seventh floor.

Near the ninth-floor elevator close to where the infusion therapy pods are located is “Flock of Wonder,” a multi-colored swirl of hand-cut, hand-silk-screened butterflies made of paper and aluminum with steel, which was given by Catharine and Jay Bowling. To create this magnificent piece, Avondale artist Sarah Crooks held a butterfly-making workshop in the Baptist Outpatient Center, with the assistance of Patty McGee, a nurse with special training in art therapy, who leads the healing arts therapy program at Baptist MD Anderson. “Our hope is for every patient to emerge from infusion therapy, spread their wings, and thrive. This piece truly helps bring an uplifting and supportive environment,” said LeeAnn Mengel, administrator of Baptist MD Anderson.

In addition to featuring the work of nearly 100 artists in every room and on every floor of the center, five nationally recognized artists – Linda Howard, Will Clift, Frank Swanson, Konstantin Dimopoulos and Enid Blechman – were commissioned to create signature pieces for the entrance, lobby, courtyard, and Hope Park, a special gift from Baptist Health to the community that rests on the southeast corner of the campus.

“A lot of times we come to the artists after the building is designed, but here we began with the planning of the art in the actual creation of the building, so it would be incorporated and integrated into the physical facility,” said Greene. “We wanted to create a variety of texture and color, and in the case of sculpture – tactile works where patients and family members, especially in the courtyard, can actually touch the work of art.”

Having the artists on site and discussing the placement of their work at the design stage was critical to the success of the project, said Tickell. “We took a page from the Renaissance, with sculptors, designers, and architects all working together to integrate the art into the building design,” he said, noting that each of the five commissioned artists came to the building site so the Baptist planning team could spend time with them working with 3-dimensional models. “We talked with them about the materials and the exterior elements that were going to be used on the building. We actually re-designed portions of the building to appropriately frame and capture the intent of different works of art.”

Videos at [endcancerjax.com](http://endcancerjax.com) document the inspiration and the process these five artists went through to create their magnificent pieces.



**“TRANSITION” – ILLUSTRATING  
A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY**

When visitors approach the cancer center’s main entrance, they are immediately captivated by a large sculpture created by Linda Howard of Bradenton, Florida, titled, “Transition,” that is meant to capture the “transformative experience” of the cancer journey.

Donated by SEL, Howard’s sculpture, made of two approximately 900-pound sections, is comprised of progressively-sized rectangles made of square aluminum tubing, powder-coated white. It stands 14-feet high, 25-feet wide and 7-feet deep and visually unites the science and art inherent within the building. “Within Linda Howard’s piece I see a DNA strand. It has a molecular feel to its structure and organization that is very attractive,” said Tickell.

Howard spelled out her approach in a proposal she sent to Baptist Health. “My sculptural work stems from structures in nature and architecture. The artistic forms are simple geometric shapes, stacked and rotated in space to form shapes delineating space and movement. These ‘wire frame’ forms are then repeated and rotated creating a complete organic form with a timeless feel,” she explained. “The cancer journey is many things – physical, emotional, spiritual. I wanted to capture this as a transformative experience and convey a feeling of hope.”

McMath said the committee knew Howard’s piece would be perfect at the entrance of the new cancer center. “Her work seemed so right from the minute that we saw it,” she said. “It set the tone and the mood for the rest of the collection, which was important because this was going to be the first piece people would see. The sculpture has an airiness and life to it, and it says what we hope people’s experience will be as they move through their own journey of healing.”

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– HUGH GREENE





### “NESTED” – A BEACON OF HOPE

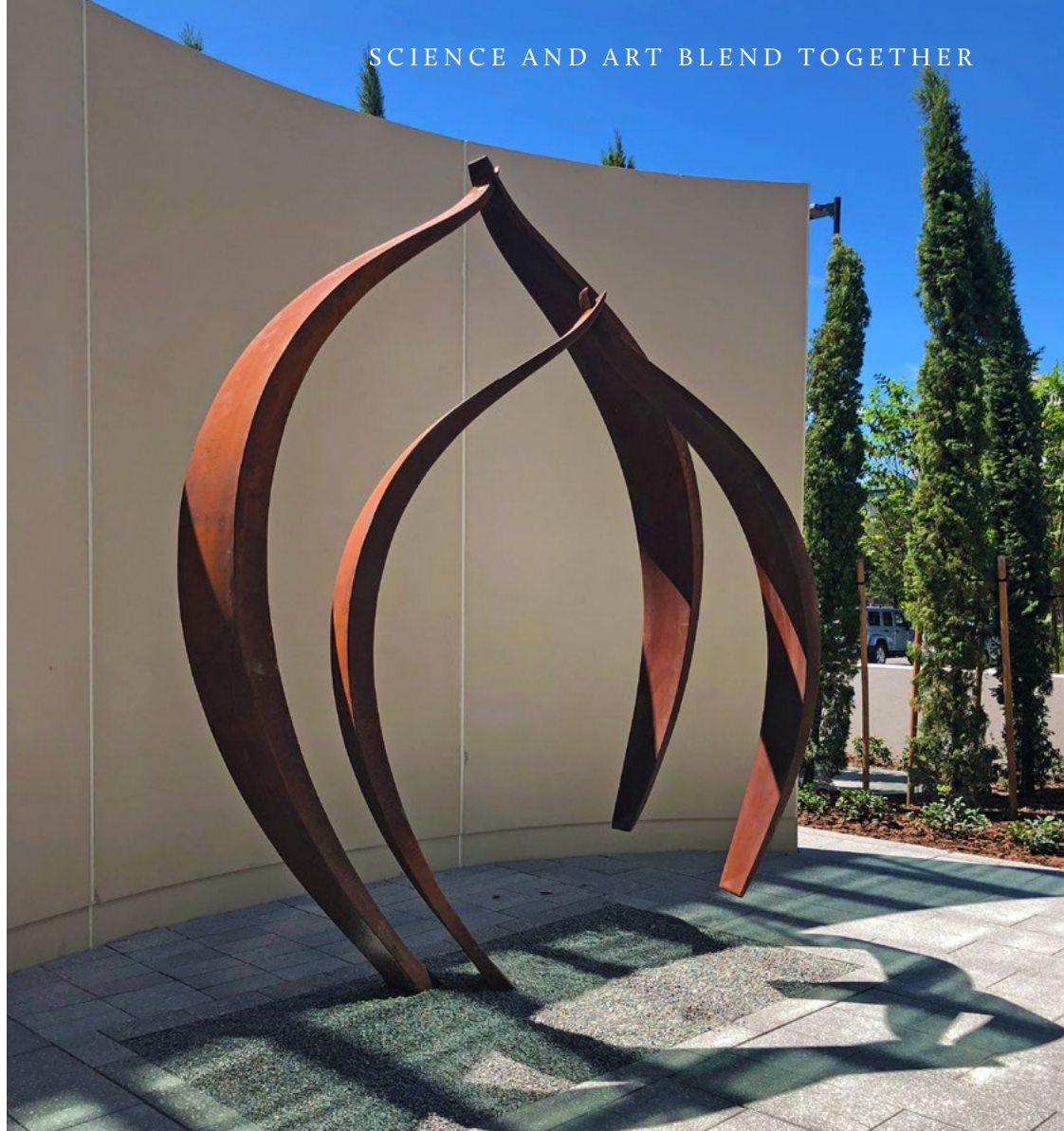
Although the criteria for each work of art was different depending upon the space it would eventually occupy, the overall goal was to enrich the patient and caregiver experience.

“We wanted to make sure we were supporting a spectrum of needs, whether conveying a sense of comfort and calm, or providing a source of vitality, energy, and hope,” said Husk.

One such example, which adorns the exterior lobby, is Will Clift’s sculpture, “Nested,” a work of art comprised of two large archways made of weathering steel that are meant to illustrate a “beacon of hope.” Clift’s work was donated by Gresham Smith, a design firm.

“I created this form to convey a sense of potential energy, balance, and resilience. These nested forms, balanced on small points, are ready to leap up into the air and soar, said the Santa Fe, New Mexico-based artist.

“I wanted to make a piece that contained this energy but gave the people who were at the cancer center a sense of peace,” Clift continued. “I’m trying to create work that hits people intellectually, emotionally and physically. That’s something in sculpture that’s a little bit more unique. There is this inherent physicality to it.”



Kimberly and Richard Sisisky

### THE CIRCLE

Having something that would be touchable, appeal to families in crisis and stand the test of time was what the Art Advisory Committee recommended for the courtyard, an indoor/outdoor space that provides patients and their caregivers a tranquil area to meet and visit.

Frank Swanson’s red granite sculpture, “The Circle,” fit the bill in spades.

Donated by Baptist Health Board Chairman Richard Sisisky and his wife, Kimberly, in memory of The Honorable Norman Sisisky and Terry R. Sisisky, Swanson’s masterpiece is made from what was once a solid block of red granite. The sculptor, who hails from Littleton, Colorado, based his work on a circle and cut the solid rock in such a way to symbolize people embracing, helping, and supporting one another, as in a caring community.

Noting Swanson’s use of stone provided the “weightiness” the committee was looking for, McMath said it appropriately fit in a space where families would often interact with each other. “His piece looks like abstracted figures are getting ready to embrace or pulling away from an embrace. The objects are important, but the negative space between them is equally important when you are looking for the healing process,” she said.

A quote from Hermes Trismegistus – “God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere” – may have inspired Swanson’s courtyard contribution. Having used this quote from Trismegistus in his proposal, Swanson said he hoped his sculpture would stimulate questions that have not yet been asked but might be in the future.



## ENID BLEICHMAN – “SLICES OF THE SEA”

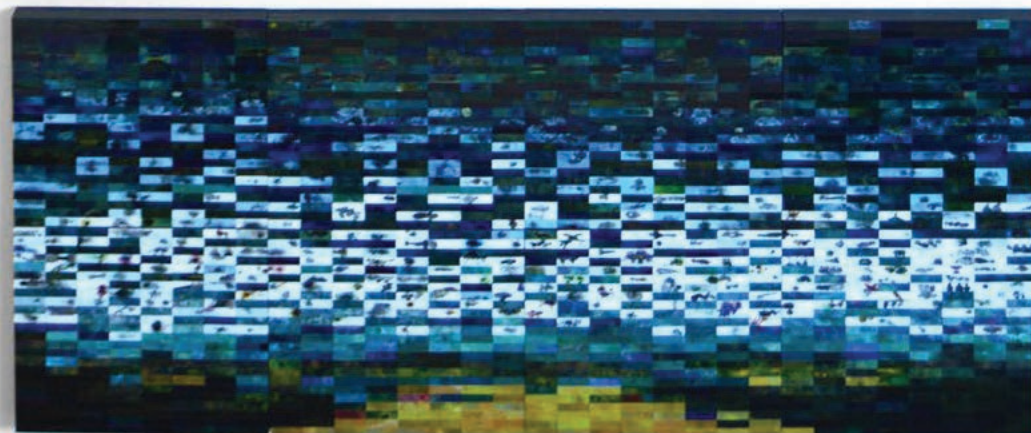
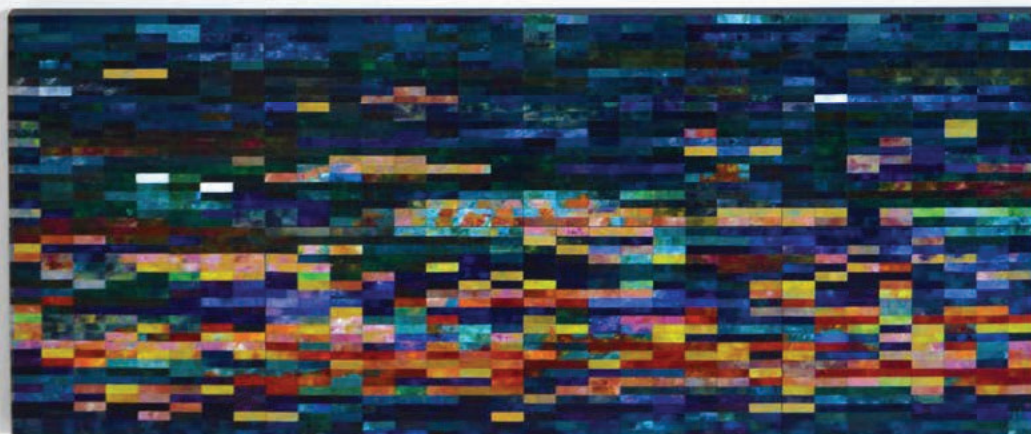
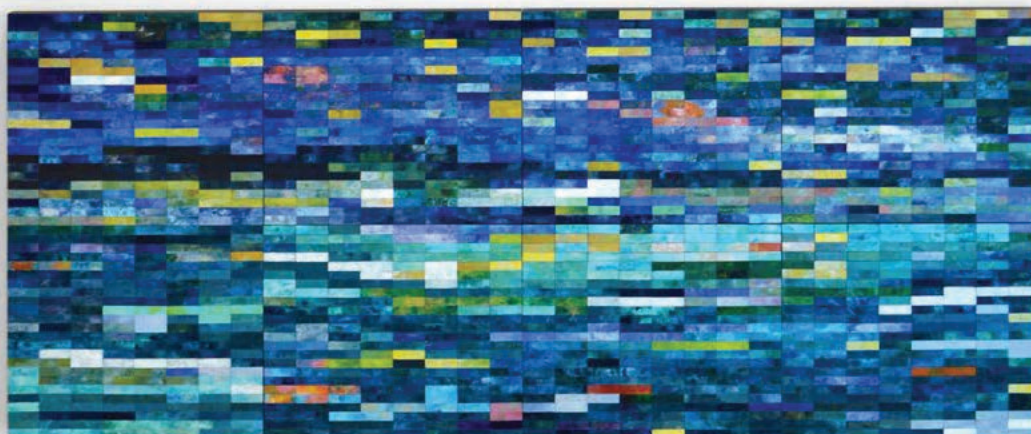
Enid Bleichman’s “Slices of the Sea,” which was donated by Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene and his wife, Susan, is a magnificent display of color, which brings the ocean’s comfort, strength, continuity and healing process to the lobby of the new cancer center.

“As an artist and a woman who has lived in the shadow of cancer, I find peace at the ocean’s edge,” said Bleichman in her proposal. “The sea humbles and amazes, while reminding us that we are just a speck of something great and wondrous.”

Recognizing the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center would be a place where science and art mingle freely to co-exist to create a healing environment, she used between 9,000 and 10,000 microscope slides in the large four-section hybrid of sculpture and painting she designed. Her creation is an abstract work that not only connects with the environment but also literally connects with the medical profession, said Bleichman.

“It was a no-brainer for me when I was approached by Baptist to do something with the ocean,” she said. “I was looking for materials that would combine science and art. I had flasks, tubes and the material things of science and one of those things was microscope slides, which I decided to paint by color and then use like a palette for painting, so it’s more like I am painting a picture with the slides,” she said.

In this, she successfully illustrates the surface of the ocean as it changes in the light of different times of day. In her night section, she depicts deep-sea creatures that scientists are only beginning to discover. “These life forms have developed and flourished in complete darkness, independent of light. They have adapted to life without the resources and richness that light brings, allowing scientists to speculate whether these strange resilient creatures hold clues as to how life might have started on our planet and whether life might exist in outer space,” she said in her proposal. “In this way, the piece will allow viewers to see and feel that there are worlds yet unexplored and unexplainable.”





*“We actually re-designed portions of the building to appropriately frame and capture the intent of different works of art.”*

— KEITH TICKELL



#### KONSTANTIN DIMOPOULOS – “AND I STILL RISE”

With its thoughtful focus on healing, it comes as no surprise Baptist Health paid as much attention to the artistic detail of the exterior of its building and its surrounding campus as it did to its interior. This is especially evidenced in Hope Park, the health system’s gift to the San Marco community, that lies on the southeast corner of the campus where San Marco Boulevard meets Children’s Way.

In the 8,000 square-foot park, 11 lily-like trellises shade benches which provide the perfect focal point for passersby and cancer center visitors to view “And I Still Rise,” a magnificent sculpture by Konstantin Dimopoulos, given by Joan and Preston Haskell.

The perfect manifestation of hope, “And I Still Rise” is constructed of more than 300 vibrant red carbon-fiber rods, up to 28-feet in length that resonate with saturated color by day and richly glow by night.

“Who’d have thought that carbon fiber rods with integral color would be art?” asked Tickell. “They move, they interact, so there will be sound there as well. It is extraordinarily uplifting, and the color is extremely vibrant. It captures your attention,” he said.

“The rods move very gently back and forth under the influence of the wind, rather like seagrasses in their pulsating movement,” explained the New York artist in his proposal, noting they make a gentle sound as they move in the breeze.

“The concept of hope – Hope Park – needs to be voiced through the sculpture, soaring up through space to reflect the idea of aspiration, of hope. It’s a form that speaks of both human fragility and the human determination to rise up during times of adversity,” said Dimopoulos. “Every person who comes toward that piece will bring their own history, their own make-up to the site. They will effectively look at that and respond to that.”

Greene said sometimes he worries that onlookers will think that Baptist Health wanted to construct an attractive building strictly for decorative purposes. “This goes way beyond that. We believe this building provides a sense of well-being and healing for people who are facing incredible stress and anxiety in their lives, and we are grateful to all who have helped us enrich our environment of care with original works of art.”

Yet, through the harmonization of science and art within its new structure, perhaps Baptist Health has accomplished both as it realizes its quest to provide a cancer care destination within the Southeast. With its shimmering ceiling-to-floor windows, aluminum exterior panels that change color depending upon the time of day, and exterior glass panes that denote all the colors of cancer, there is no question the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center is also one of the prettiest and most iconic buildings – inside and out – to ever rise within the Jacksonville skyline.



A pair of hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, are shown holding a large, glowing, golden heart. The heart has a textured, metallic appearance and is emitting a bright light. The background is a dramatic sky with white and grey clouds. The title 'Fundraising' is written in a large, red, cursive font across the heart.

# Fundraising

MORE THAN A JOB, IT'S A  
PASSION AND A PROFESSION

BY KATE A. HALLOCK





**A**cquiring donations for a good cause is about more than just asking for money. The art of fundraising has come a long way, much of it due to the birth of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) nearly 70 years ago.

In 1960, Dr. Abel Hanson said it was “probably too early to identify fundraising as a true profession.” However, as the first president of what was to become the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Abel made clear an organization was necessary to enhance the skills of those seeking donations on a grass-roots level. “It is clear that among those who serve the agencies of our free society as fundraisers, the desire to improve their work efforts is strong, and positive steps are being taken, of a professional nature, to enhance the effectiveness of the agencies they serve,” he said.

Today, a development career can typically require not only a college degree but also a master's degree in nonprofit management. Belonging to AFP can give an edge to those who have made fundraising a career. The national organization has its own philanthropic foundation to support programs that train and educate more than 30,000 professional fundraisers in 240-plus chapters, while also increasing public awareness.

Career fundraisers who belong to AFP send an important message to the world that the fundraising profession is united and cares about issues such as ethics and public trust. AFP members are known to be committed to the highest level of service to their donors and the people they serve.



Dave Cогnetta, Anthony Sutton, Alyce Lee Stansbury, master trainer with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Trish Bautista



## FLORIDA FIRST COAST CHAPTER

As the national organization approaches its 70th anniversary, the AFP Florida First Coast Chapter, founded in 1986, proudly carries the banner of philanthropy on the local level, representing over 160 fundraising professionals at more than 95 organizations in Northeast Florida.

The chapter has consistently been recognized as a Ten Star AFP Chapter, an annual recognition given for accomplishing many of the key objectives outlined in the AFP's strategic plan, said Jeffrey Davitt, chapter past president.

“Around 2010, we started sponsoring collegiate chapters, which help educate college students about fundraising/nonprofit careers,” he said, noting chapters exist at the University of North Florida and Flagler College. “There are approximately 40 collegiate chapters nationwide, and we sponsor two of them. Students from the collegiate chapter at Flagler College host a food pantry for students in need.”

Two years ago, the Florida First Coast Chapter created a mentorship program to pair novice fundraising professionals with those who have more experience, enabling them to meet a few times a year to go over career advice, CFRE certifications, and best practices in the fundraising profession, Davitt said.

To further its mission, the chapter also hosts the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. National Philanthropy Day acknowledges the entire spectrum of services that the nonprofit and civic service sectors provide, as well as the profound impact that philanthropy has on the fabric of society.

“The power of philanthropy is how it creates hope and improves lives,” said 2018 President Annie Tutt, of AFP Florida First Coast Chapter. “National Philanthropy Day is an opportunity to recognize the collaboration that takes place in our community every day to create positive change. I am honored to be part of such an amazing group of professionals that not only recognize the nonprofits they work or volunteer for, but also lift up others that are helping to improve our communities.”

The luncheon also serves as a chapter fundraiser, helping to fund membership, education, and diversity scholarships to further individual members' professional development. “Being awarded the Diversity Scholarship allowed me to meet individuals within the field and view aspects of diversity which are different from my own,” said Michelle Drinks.

Another grateful scholarship recipient is Dave Cогnetta, who received the Chamberlain Scholarship, which helps fund first-time attendees at national and international conferences. “The Chamberlain Scholarship provided me the opportunity to listen to and learn from some of the great minds in our field who are doing some amazing things for their organizations and for the nonprofit sector,” he said. “It afforded me the chance I would not have otherwise had to attend the 2018 AFP International Conference where I was able to grow my fundraising skill set while also networking with fundraising professionals from all over the country.”

This year's luncheon event honored five organizations and four individuals for their gifts of time, expertise and resources which contributed significantly to the quality of life on the First Coast.

*“The power of philanthropy is how it creates hope and improves lives. National Philanthropy Day is an opportunity to recognize the collaboration that takes place in our community every day to create positive change.”*

— ANNIE TUTT, AFP 2018 FIRST COAST CHAPTER PRESIDENT







### OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST

**MEREDITH CHARTRAND FRISCH** [Nominated by The Discovery School]

For the past decade, Meredith Chartrand Frisch has consistently demonstrated principled, conscientious, and selfless philanthropic leadership in Northeast Florida. Meredith currently serves on the board of The Chartrand Foundation, is a member of The Women's Giving Alliance, Chair of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Birth and Newborn Advisory Council, and Chair of The Discovery School Board of Trustees. In each of these roles, Meredith generously serves with passion and an authentic commitment to support the mission and vision of each organization. Meredith's philanthropic investment – and that of her entire family – in The Discovery School has been transformational. Meredith's volunteer service has resulted in more than \$1.5 million dollars of support for Discovery, and the Frisch and Chartrand families have positioned the school to be a nationally recognized leader in progressive education, driving enrollment, strategic expansion, and regional and national partnerships like the Alt School – a learner centric education model.



### OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING/DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

**KIT THOMAS** [Nominated by The Arc Jacksonville and North Florida School of Special Education]

Kit Thomas is a champion for local nonprofits, passionately giving her time and resources to help further their missions. She understands that fundraising is about relationships, not just dollars raised, and helps to connect donors to the causes they are most passionate about.

Kit joined the United Way of Northeast Florida team in 2002, leading major gifts fundraising, developing affinity groups, and leading a fundraising team, until her retirement in 2013. After retirement, she joined The Arc Jacksonville as a board member to help with the capital campaign for The Arc Jacksonville Village, and was essential to raising the \$22 million needed to complete the project. Presently, she is the Director of Annual & Capital Campaigns for The North Florida School of Special Education, leading the annual giving campaign as well as the \$6 million capital campaign for a new lower-school campus and therapeutic equestrian center.



### OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER

**J.C. "JAY" DEMETREE, JR.** [Nominated by St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, and Sulzbacher]

Well known throughout the community for his extraordinary efforts, tremendous impact, and compassion for the underserved, Jay Demetree, president and CEO of Demetree Brothers, Inc., has taken an active role in fundraising for St. Vincent's Foundation since he joined the Board of Directors in 1991. He was instrumental in securing the lead gift for St. Vincent's Clay County in the "Expanding Our Mission Campaign." Combined with his family's philanthropic support, Jay's leadership contributed to raising more than \$11 million for the new St. Vincent's Medical Center in Clay County. During his tenure as board chair for the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Jay led and completed a successful capital campaign for a new building for the Health Clinic, raising close to \$5 million over two years. For almost 30 years, the Demetree family has been deeply invested in the mission of Ronald McDonald Charities of Jacksonville, serving on the board, as well as providing meals for its families for more than 20 years.



### OUTSTANDING FOUNDATION

**BERG FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** [Nominated by University of North Florida, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, and Jacksonville Symphony]

Gilchrist Berg, founder of the Berg Family Charitable Foundation, primarily focuses his outside activities and philanthropic efforts on education, healthcare, and local cultural organizations.

In supporting the Jacksonville Symphony for the last 25 years, Mr. Berg honors the work of his opera-singing grandmother, Greta Challen Berg, a founder of the Symphony; and his father, Randall, a former chairman of the board. The Berg family was also instrumental in developing Berg's Bistro with St. Vincent's Foundation, in honor of Mr. Berg's parents, Randy and Margaret Berg, who counted on St. Vincent's for their medical care. After much collaboration and \$1.2 million in gifts, Berg's Bistro opened in 2003 and is the gold standard for not just "hospital food," but quality food. In 1998, Mr. Berg established the Gladys Prior Excellence in Career Teaching Awards and the Gladys Roddenberry Graduate Fellowship, named after two of Mr. Berg's elementary school teachers at Ortega Elementary School. Managed by the University of North Florida on his behalf, at \$15,000 each, the Gladys Prior Awards are among the largest monetary awards for teachers in the nation.





### OUTSTANDING CIVIC ORGANIZATION

**RIVERSIDE ROTARY CLUB** [Nominated by Community Hospice & Palliative Care]

Founded in the spring of 1986, the Riverside Rotary Club has been serving the community of Northeast Florida, and Jacksonville's Riverside and West Side neighborhoods, for more than 30 years. They have proven to be an outstanding club that embraces the community, cares about the wellbeing of those who live there, and works towards improving the overall quality of life in all they do. In 2014, capturing the energy of the booming craft beer movement, the Riverside Rotary Club held its first Riverside Craft Beer Festival. In 2016, the Club decided to direct a majority of funds raised by the festival to Community Hospice & Palliative Care's pediatric program for medically-complex children with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses. Now planning its sixth annual festival for 2019, the Club's fundraiser has become a signature community event with a history of over \$255,000 funds raised.

### OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS

**STEVE CHAPMAN'S ALL AMERICAN AIR** [Nominated by Community Hospice & Palliative Care]

Founded in St. Augustine in 1980, Steve Chapman's All American Air has been installing and servicing home and commercial HVAC systems in Northeast Florida for nearly 40 years. In 2009, Steve and Christine Chapman created the All American Air Table Tennis Classic, initially planned as a one-time event to help support the Junior Service League. The All American Air Table Tennis Classic has become one of St. Augustine's most successful fundraising events and has supported over 80 different charitable organizations. In 2010, Steve and Christine decided to establish a charitable giving arm for the company, the All American Air Charitable Foundation. To date, Steve and Christine have raised over \$500,000 through the event to support charitable organizations in Northeast Florida. Over the last two decades, All American Air and the Chapmans have contributed nearly \$750,000 to support Community Hospice & Palliative Care's programs and to help the organization grow its capacity to serve residents of St. Augustine and St. Johns County. The company was instrumental in helping Community Hospice & Palliative Care establish a physical presence in St. Augustine and St. Johns County, by contributing a \$75,000 gift to the organization's capital campaign to build the Bailey Family Center for Caring in 2010.



### NEXT GENERATION

**HARRISON SNOWDEN/TEENS TAKE A STAND CLUB - PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL** [Nominated by Betty Griffin Center and Hubbard House]

Teens Take a Stand was formed in 2016 by Ponte Vedra High School student Harrison Snowden. The primary focus is to spread awareness of the issue of domestic violence in the community, and to raise money for Betty Griffin Center in St. Johns County and Hubbard House in Duval County. It is the only high school club of its kind in the area. Through two of the club's fundraisers, they have raised a total of \$30,000 to benefit these organizations.



### COMMUNITY AWARD

**AT&T PIONEERS JACKSONVILLE LIFE MEMBERS CLUB** [Nominated by PACE Center for Girls of Jacksonville]

The AT&T Pioneers volunteer their time with over 25 organizations in Northeast Florida. Last year, they logged over 7,500 project hours in the Northeast Florida region. Since 2007, they have spent countless hours at PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville, donating and assisting with everyday clothing and prom attire, providing graduation gifts, donating library books, helping with fundraisers, cultivating new donors and volunteers, and offering one of the graduates the AT&T Pioneer Scholarship to assist with continuing/higher education.



### OUTSTANDING CORPORATION

**SWISHER INTERNATIONAL** [Nominated by Jacksonville University]



The Swisher name has a long-standing history with Jacksonville University since its charter in 1934. Carl S. Swisher was the University's first major donor and benefactor. The Swisher Gymnasium, Swisher Library, and Swisher Theater all illustrate just some of Mr. Swisher's philanthropy. His investment in the University, no matter how large or small, enabled it to become a cultural and intellectual asset to Northeast Florida. Both Swisher International Group, Inc. and the Carl S. Swisher Foundation have continued to significantly invest in the vision Mr. Swisher had for the University. Today, Swisher International's executives and employees lead by example and have been active volunteers across Jacksonville University's campus for the past 75 years.



For a sneak peek inside  
the magical place we're  
creating for you,  
visit [tagmuseum.org](http://tagmuseum.org)



tag!

Children's Museum





# BELIEVING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
FOR KIDS AT RISK

{ BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG }

Northeast Florida boasts having the state's youngest population and "one of its hippest," according to Visit Jacksonville, which touts "a different side of Florida" that includes 22 miles of beaches, extensive park system, world-class fishing, historic neighborhoods, a vibrant streets art scene, etc., and, of course, the hometown of the Jacksonville Jaguars National Football League team.

Jacksonville, indeed, is a wonderful city and that is why it is so important that all of its citizens share in its advantages. For those who face poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, mental health and substance abuse issues, there are many resources available – a great number of them partnering with one another to increase their effectiveness. Each of these organizations is dedicated to reaching out to the youth of our community and making a positive difference in their future.





## THE SANCTUARY ON 8TH STREET

“Hope happens here” says the sign on the wall at The Sanctuary on 8th Street, which has worked to encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social and intellectual needs for over 25 years.

More than 100 of Springfield’s youth, many of whom face lives that are often filled with challenges, find a place of refuge at the Sanctuary. Offering afterschool and summer programs for children in grades kindergarten through fifth, the Sanctuary provides a safe, nurturing environment rich in positive relationships and experiences to give children hope for the future and a path out of poverty.

“The Sanctuary on 8th Street is a small organization with a big heart. It has and continues to have a tremendous impact on my son’s life. Our lives wouldn’t be as productive without our Sanctuary family,” said Lucille Jones, whose son Henry Caine started attending the Sanctuary in second grade and now works as a part-time coach there.

» [Sanctuaryon8th.org](http://Sanctuaryon8th.org) | (904) 424-5368



## TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Take Stock in Children has a 23-year history of successfully graduating low-income students, many from minority families, and often the first to attend college. Through the guidance of a caring Take Stock in Children mentor, deserving students receive in-school support through an imbedded college success coach and a two-year Florida prepaid scholarship.

Proven success rates have earned the program state recognition and legislative financial support as the premier mentoring/college readiness program in the state. Currently, the program serves over 300 students in grades 6-12. One hundred percent of students enrolled live in a household which falls below the federal poverty guidelines.

Volunteer mentors are the key to the success of Take Stock in Children. Mentors, who follow students through high school graduation and the transition into college, encourage students to make choices that will help them graduate high school. They are heroes who commit to meeting with a student at their school once a week during the school year and help guide students toward a brighter future.

» [TakeStockJax.org](http://TakeStockJax.org) | (904) 384-1361, ext. 4257



## THE CARPENTER’S SHOP CENTER

A bright light in the Arlington community, The Carpenter’s Shop Center, founded by Pastor Clint Wilder and his wife, Dr. Cheryl Doro Wilder, sponsors powerful positive programs that are proven to lower juvenile crime rates and enhance family relationships. The faith-based after-school and summer camp program serves 120 elementary and middle school students, providing youth programs such as Survival Kids that is uniquely designed to teach children that life is to be enjoyed and not feared and that one’s decisions in life always have consequences.

Building leaders of tomorrow as well as enhancing the social, spiritual and academic skills of youth (many of them at-risk), The Carpenter’s Shop Center has an after-school enrichment program that includes 50 minutes of homework help, healthy snacks, S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities, peer mentoring, reading and computer labs, and hands-on learning through Sports Club, Robotics Lab, Cooking Club and Girls Club.

» [TheCarpentersShopCenter.org](http://TheCarpentersShopCenter.org) | (904) 226-2056





## MALIVAI WASHINGTON YOUTH FOUNDATION

Working to develop champions in classrooms, on tennis courts and in the community for the past 21 years, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation (MWYF) is an after-school program in Jacksonville's urban core that promotes achievement and positive life skills through the game of tennis for students in kindergarten through high school.

Since being founded by tennis pro MaliVai Washington, the nonprofit has impacted more than 20,000 children and their families in Jacksonville. By correlating success on the court with success in life, MWYF fosters leadership, sportsmanship, self-esteem, confidence, discipline, accountability and the value of hard work, teamwork and individual effort.

- » [MalWashington.com](http://MalWashington.com)
- » (904) 359-KIDS (5437)

# NOW RECRUITING



**Help build up the life of a child today.**

Give of your time, talent or treasure to help build great futures for Northeast Florida children.

**VISIT: [www.bgcnf.org](http://www.bgcnf.org) | CALL: (904) 396-5254**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA





## CITY YEAR JACKSONVILLE

City Year Jacksonville, a local affiliate of a national nonprofit that places young adult AmeriCorps members in high-need urban schools to serve as tutors, mentors and role models, also provides volunteers for Read USA bookfairs. “Students First, Collaboration Always,” is one of 10 organizational values at City Year.

“For me, it is the value that drives our external partnerships,” noted Tom Caron, Development Director for City Year Jacksonville. “When City Year was approached to volunteer at Read USA bookfairs, it was direct alignment to our mission as we strive to achieve educational equity. City Year aims to blunt the effects of poverty by mentoring, tutoring and advocating for thousands of students in Duval County Public Schools, including our Read USA partnerships.”

The City Year Red Jacket, worn by more than 100 young mentors in Jacksonville, is a distinctive identifier of caring and quality.

» [CityYear.org/Jacksonville](http://CityYear.org/Jacksonville) | (904) 423-2104



## READ USA, INC.

Attacking illiteracy, Read USA, Inc. – co-founded by Ellen Wiss and Vanessa Tussey in 2011 – partners with Scholastic Books to present book fairs at elementary schools in high poverty areas, providing each student with three brand-new books of their own choosing, free of charge.

In 2018, Read USA served 16 Title 1 elementary schools in Duval County and one community center (BEAM – Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), with over 7,000 students choosing more than 26,000 new books. Read USA has aims in 2019 to serve 42 high poverty area schools that feed into Ribault, Raines and Jackson High Schools.

One hundred percent of the events are volunteer-driven, and 100 percent of the contributions go to purchasing new books for students. “Readers are leaders,” said Wiss, adding that literacy and leadership go hand-in-hand toward reducing poverty.

» [ReadUSAInc.com](http://ReadUSAInc.com) | (720) 256-6143



## GENERATION

Not to ignore the needs of young adults, Generation, a global organization now working in nine countries to enhance the quality of life for all, focuses on career training for young people (18-24) who are unemployed or under-employed. A nonprofit career training organization founded in 2014 by McKinsey & Company, Generation helps bridge the worldwide gap of more than 75 million young people who are unemployed.

Jacksonville is privileged to be one of only 13 cities across the nation that Generation has chosen to serve by providing 60 hours of training (six weeks) in information technology, customer service and retail at no charge. Recently, Generation partnered with The Carpenter’s Shop Center, utilizing the campus in morning hours for special programs, recruitment and in the future, planning to offer career training on site.

“The Carpenter’s Shop Center has a huge heart for their community – they really look at the whole family,” said Generation Customer Service Program Coordinator Lauren Pfanenstiel. “They serve the children and their families. We hope to expand our customer service and retail opportunities to include older adults, including the parents of the kids we’ve met at The Carpenter’s Shop Center.”

» [Generation.org](http://Generation.org) | (904) 299-5894





## CREATING PHILANTHROPIC LEGACIES

# *One Family at a Time*

**BEFORE WE OPEN A FUND, WE OPEN A CONVERSATION. MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR YOUR FAMILY TO TALK.**

We have been helping Northeast Florida families explore legacy giving for decades. Whether you want to help your children become more active in your family's charitable giving, or perhaps set up separate funds so they can begin their own philanthropic journey, we can help you start or guide that conversation so they can share in your joy of giving.

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*Giving Back. Giving Forward.*

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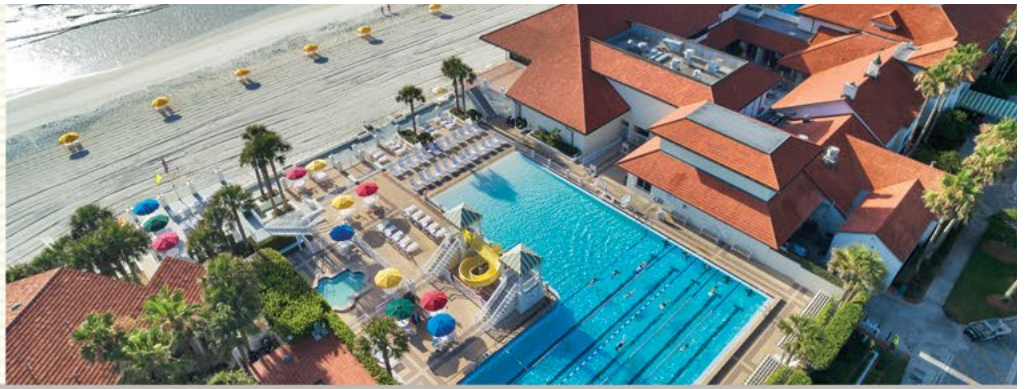


**THE COMMUNITY  
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245 Riverside Ave | Suite 310 | Jacksonville, FL 32202 | Phone: (904) 356-4483 | Email: info@jaxcf.org

[www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)





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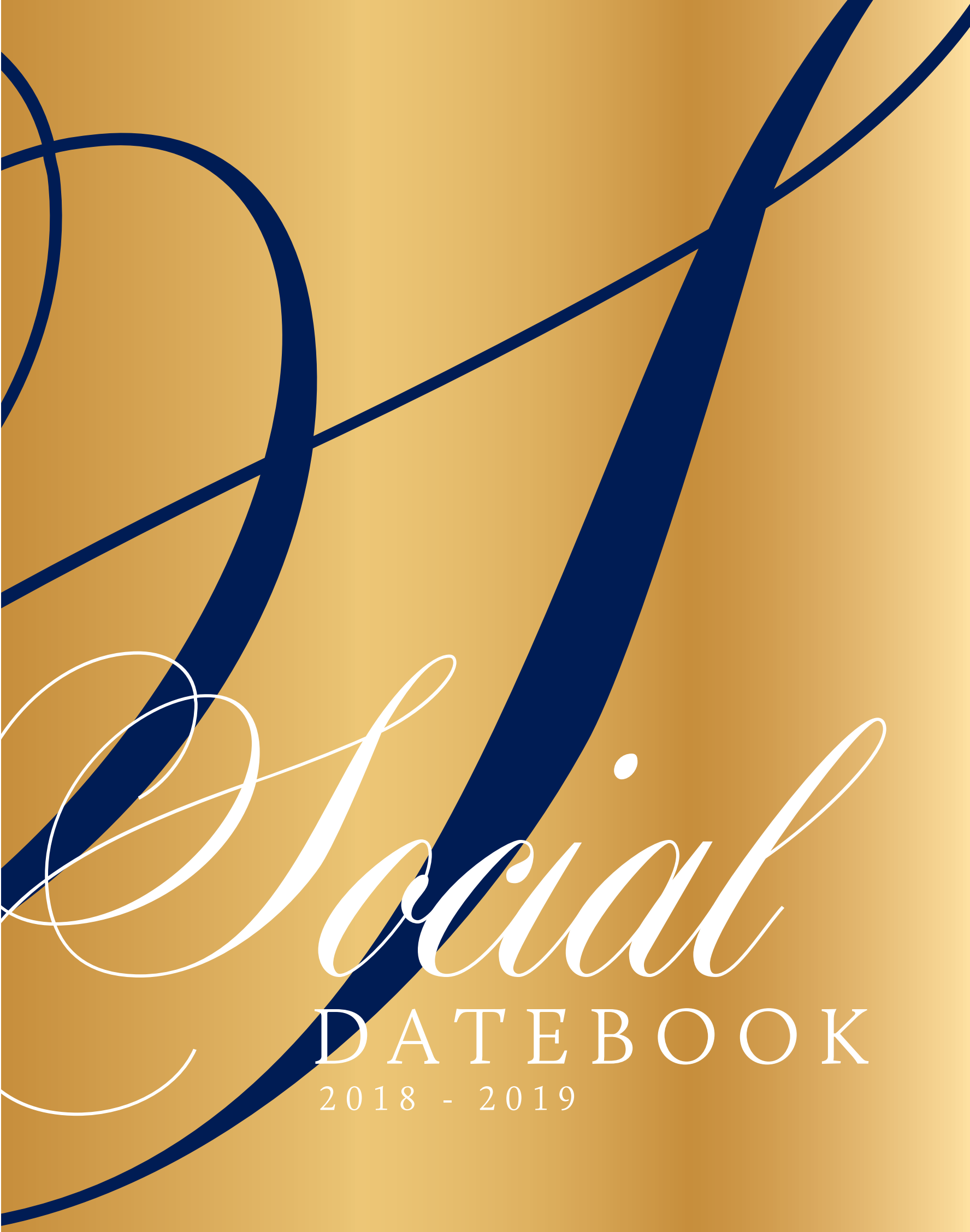
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*Special*  
DATEBOOK  
2018 - 2019







# November 2018

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### 26TH ANNUAL RIVER GARDEN GALA

**When:** November 17, 2018, 7-10:30 p.m.

**Where:** Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, 1000 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

A Night Under the Big Top will be a magical evening of exotic animals and flamboyant performers. The black-tie gala begins with cocktails and a silent auction, and continues with dinner, dancing and amazing entertainment to benefit the River Garden Foundation. Event chairs are Rachel and Colman Brodsky.

Visit [rivergarden.org](http://rivergarden.org) for more information.



Dr. Barry Setzer and Ellen Setzer with Marjie and Dr. Abe Rogozinski

## 1st

### GREAT GATSBY CHARITY BASH

6-10 p.m., Friday Musicale, 645 Oak Street

An evening of glitz and glam! Roaring Twenties attire encouraged but not required. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, raffle, dancing and entertainment to help support Epilepsy Foundation.

[epilepsyfi.com](http://epilepsyfi.com)

### 10,000 YEARS: AN EXHIBITION

Through Jan. 16, 2019, Cathedral Arts Project  
Heather Moore Community Gallery, 207 N.  
Laura Street

Andrew Kozlowski is a Jacksonville artist and assistant professor of printmaking at the University of North Florida who has been living and working in the Southeast for more than a decade. His works, as much as they reflect a complacent embrace of planned obsolescence, focus on a playful narrative of how objects define our culture and our time.

[capkids.org/hmcg](http://capkids.org/hmcg)

## 2nd

### ARTSCAPADE 2018

6:30-10:30 p.m., Jacksonville Executive at  
Craig Airport, 855-14 St. Johns Bluff Road

Artscapade is an annual event where art, music, fun, and love for children meet. Each year guests celebrate the new lives of the children served by Patrons of the Hearts and the donors that make it possible. Raise funds to continue to provide life-saving surgery to children with congenital heart defects from around the world.

[patronsofthehearts.com](http://patronsofthehearts.com)

### FESTIVAL D'VINE

6-9 p.m., Treaty Oak/Jessie Ball duPont Park,  
1123 Prudential Drive

Enjoy a night of great food and a large variety of wines from local restaurants to help support Catholic Charities.

[ccbjax.org](http://ccbjax.org)

## 3rd

### 6TH ANNUAL RYAN'S RUN

8 a.m., Ortega United Methodist Church,  
4807 Roosevelt Blvd.

A 1-mile fun run and 5K takes participants through the wooded streets of historic Old Ortega and raises funds for the Ryan D. Perry Endowment, to support the church's goal to grow children's ministries in the community. Post-race celebration includes refreshments and games for the entire family.

[1stplacesports.com/races/ryansrun/](http://1stplacesports.com/races/ryansrun/)

### 14TH ANNUAL PEARLS & CUFF LINKS GALA

6-9 p.m., WJCT Studios, 100 Festival Park Avenue

Themed "Egyptian Nights," the charitable event begins with a reception; the program will be hosted by Melanie Lawson and Odette Struys, and includes live and silent auctions, and live music.

[clarawhitemission.org](http://clarawhitemission.org)

### 18TH ANNUAL JDRE MIRACLES GALA

6-11 p.m., Marriott Sawgrass,  
1000 PGA Tour Blvd.

One Night in Old Hollywood includes cocktail hour, silent and live auctions, inspirational program, dinner and dancing to support Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

[jdrcf.org/northflorida/](http://jdrcf.org/northflorida/)

### PASSPORT TO RIVERSIDE & AVONDALE

12-6 p.m. at participating shops

Purchase a ticket and hop on a shuttle to participating shops throughout 5 Points, Park & King and the Shoppes of Avondale where you can pick up totes with goodies and treats while supporting DLC Nurse & Learn. Kick-off Party Nov. 1, 6 p.m., Fishweir Brewing Company, 1183 Edgewood Avenue S.

[dlcni.org](http://dlcni.org)

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NOVEMBER 2018

## 3rd

### PURPLE STRIDE

8 a.m., University of North Florida, 1 UNF Drive

PurpleStride walks are among the largest sources of funding for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Join a vibrant community of survivors, impacted families, loved ones, researchers and advocates committed to rewriting the future of this deadly disease. [support.pancan.org](http://support.pancan.org)

### ROYAL PALM VILLAGE WINE & TAPAS TASTING FESTIVAL

5-8 p.m., Royal Palm Village, 296 Royal Palms Drive

Featuring over 200 wines, ticket includes a keepsake wine glass and event T-shirt (while supplies last). Proceeds benefit the Child Cancer Fund.

[childcancerfund.org](http://childcancerfund.org)

### WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

8 a.m. registration; Times-Union Center for Performing Arts; 300 Water Street

All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Goal: \$300,000 [alz.org](http://alz.org)

## 4th

### 35TH ANNUAL CARING CHEFS

7-9:30 p.m., The Avenues Mall, 10300 Southside Blvd.

Food and wine tasting event raises much-needed funds for the Children's Home Society to help keep children safe. [chsfl.org](http://chsfl.org)

### SALUTE TO VETERANS 5K

8 a.m. - Noon, Riverside Arts Market, 715 Riverside Avenue

This event honors veterans, benefits the effort to bring home the USS Adams and supports K9s For Warriors. Includes the 3rd annual Patriotic Paws Parade.

[1stplacesports.com](http://1stplacesports.com)

## 5th

### 3RD ANNUAL BEACHES BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

10:30 a.m. - 4:40 p.m., Atlantic Beach Country Club, 1600 Selva Marina Drive

Support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and enjoy a day on the links. Shotgun start at noon, day ends with awards ceremony. [bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)



Gary and Terry Roberts

### A NEW DEFINITION OF DANCE: ILL-ABILITIES

6-7:30 p.m., Ritz Theatre & Museum

Join the Cathedral Arts Project for a special performance of ILL-Abilities, an all-star team of differently-abled dancers from around the world. General admission tickets are \$10 each and all proceeds directly support the Cathedral Arts Project's CAPabilities program for students with specialized needs.

[capkids.ejoinme.org/ill-abilities](http://capkids.ejoinme.org/ill-abilities)

## 6th

### NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

11 a.m., Hyatt Regency Riverfront, 225 E. Coastline Drive

A fundraiser for the First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the event honors five organizations and four individuals for their gifts of time, expertise and resources which contributed significantly to the quality of life on the First Coast.

[community.afpnet.org/afpffirstcoastchapter/home](http://community.afpnet.org/afpffirstcoastchapter/home)

## 8th

### \$SMART WOMEN MAKE CHANGE!

12-1:30 p.m., Citi Campus, 14000 Citicards Way

\$Smart Women Make Change! is Junior Achievement's signature event to benefit JA Girl\$, an initiative that has educated girls and young women in financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship since 2006. The annual event brings together those in the community whose unwavering support impacts what JA Girl\$ and Junior Achievement are able to accomplish now and into the future. [jajax.com](http://jajax.com)

### COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION BANQUET

6-10 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.

Support Florida waterways conservation at the Jacksonville Chapter's annual banquet. Price includes open bar, steak dinner and one-year CCA membership. [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org)



## 9th

**5TH ANNUAL HUNGER FIGHT  
THANKSGIVING EVENT**

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Florida Blue Conference Center,  
4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy

Two days, Nov. 9-10, to pack half a million meals  
for children and seniors, plus collect 20,000  
books for preschoolers in the literacy program.  
[support.hungerfight.org/5thTGC0](http://support.hungerfight.org/5thTGC0)

**BREW AT THE ZOO**

6 – 10:30 p.m., Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens,

Jacksonville's wildest food and fundraising  
festival with live music and more. All  
proceeds from the 12th annual event will  
benefit the care and feeding of 2,000  
animals and over 1,000 plants.  
[jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org)

**CHAMPION OF THE YEAR**

7-11 p.m., TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse,  
110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach

Celebrate the candidate who has raised the  
most in donations for Best Buddies  
International, to support people with  
intellectual and developmental disabilities.  
[bestbuddies.org](http://bestbuddies.org)

**EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON**

11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Atlantic Auditorium,  
2500 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach

To raise awareness and funds to combat  
hunger and crisis in Nassau County, local  
restaurants donate a simple meal of soup,  
bread and dessert. Neighbors, students, and  
senior citizens paint ceramic bowls so  
attendees have a permanent reminder of the  
many bowls still needed to be filled to provide  
nourishment to those who struggle with hunger.  
[barnabasnassau.org/emptybowls/](http://barnabasnassau.org/emptybowls/)

**MARGARITA J'VILLE**

6-10 p.m., Casa Marina Hotel,  
691 1st Street N, Jacksonville Beach

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida is  
bringing the island flare and fun of Duval Street,  
in Key West, to Duval County with its signature  
Margarita J'Ville fundraiser event. Tickets include  
unlimited margaritas and signature drinks,  
island-inspired cuisine, live music, live and silent  
auctions, raffles and more.  
[bbbsnefl.org](http://bbbsnefl.org)

**TAILS AT TWILIGHT**

5-7 p.m., Adam W. Herbert University Center,  
UNF, 12000 Alumni Dr.

Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres while mingling  
with therapy animal handlers and supporters of  
the mission to grow the therapy animal teams.  
[therapyanimalcoalition.org](http://therapyanimalcoalition.org)

**TRINITY RESCUE  
MISSION SHOOTOUT**

8 a.m., Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, 12125  
New Berlin Road

Join the TRM Team and special guests for a  
great day of bustin' clays to Out-Shoot Hunger  
for Trinity Rescue Mission in 2018.  
[trinityrescue.org](http://trinityrescue.org)

## 10th

**10TH ANNUAL ADAMEC  
HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
RIDE FOR DREAMS**

9 a.m., Adamec Harley-Davidson, 8909  
Baymeadows Road

The event kicks off with breakfast, then  
kickstands up at 11 a.m., and post-ride  
celebration at 2 p.m. Since 2009, the Adamec  
Harley-Davidson Ride for Dreams has raised  
over \$50,000 for dreams of local children  
through Dreams Come True.  
[ridefordreams.com](http://ridefordreams.com)

**WAYNE WOODSTOCK**

2-8 p.m., 2821 Riverside Avenue

To benefit the North Florida Land Trust, a  
private music fest features 11 of Jacksonville's  
best bands and performers for six hours of  
non-stop music, channeling the spirit of the  
world's greatest outdoor concert of all time in  
the summer of 1969.  
[eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## 12th

**4TH ANNUAL LITTLE  
BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE**

Participants wear same black dress each day,  
Nov. 12-16, to spread awareness about the  
effects of poverty in Jacksonville. The  
campaign goal is to raise \$12,140 – the  
federal poverty line for an individual.  
[jljacksonville.org](http://jljacksonville.org)

**HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**

Through Dec. 15, the Boys & Girls Clubs of  
Northeast Florida will hold a toy drive. Donate  
unwrapped \$25 value gift or let the Club  
shop for you.  
[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

**SHOP FOR A CAUSE**

6 p.m., Swoozies, The St. Johns Town Center,  
4866 Big Island Drive

Light food and spirits will be served and a  
portion of the sales will come back to benefit  
the Junior League of Jacksonville.  
[jljacksonville.org](http://jljacksonville.org)

CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
Jacksonville

Save The Dates



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLACK & WHITE BALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

US Assure Club West - TIAA Bank Field



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019

904-899-5505

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you find  
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## 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

### MY FAIR LADY

7:30 p.m., Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, 2445 San Diego Road

The Tony Award-winning musical will be performed by students from across several artistic disciplines, directed by Joseph Kemper, in the Dubow Theatre.

[datheatreboosters.org](http://datheatreboosters.org)

## 15<sup>th</sup>

### 28TH ANNUAL SIGNATURE CHEFS

6 - 10 p.m., Omni Hotel, 245 Water Street

Jacksonville's premier culinary event features a mix of the area's top culinary talent in support of the mission of March of Dimes. Enjoy a lively cocktail reception, tasting event and then dessert and wine in the grand ballroom.

[marchofdimes.org/florida/](http://marchofdimes.org/florida/)

### CHAMPIONS OF HOPE—NIGHT OF INSPIRATION

5:30-8 p.m., 841 Prudential Drive

This extraordinary event will celebrate giving back to two important local charities in an exceptionally moving event hosted by the Funk-Zitiello Foundation, benefiting The JT Townsend Foundation and pancreatic cancer research at Mayo Clinic.

[eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

### COOLSIDE OF YULETIDE HOLIDAY CONCERT

2 p.m. & 5 p.m., Hendricks Avenue Baptist, 4001 Hendricks Avenue

This Jacksonville Children's Chorus annual holiday concert will feature Christmas, Hanukkah, sacred and secular songs with performances by the JCC choirs.

[jaxchildrenschorus.org](http://jaxchildrenschorus.org)



Pam Sorenson,  
Eunice Mathis,  
Lynne Ferguson

## 16<sup>th</sup>

### 8TH ANNUAL CARDBOARD CITY

4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. Nov. 17, Southside United Methodist Church, 3120 Hendricks Avenue

Help raise awareness of homelessness in the city and raise funds for Family Promise of Jacksonville. Make the commitment to spend the night in a cardboard box, a tent, or even in your car. A meal, activities, and entertainment provided.

[familypromisejax.org](http://familypromisejax.org)

### LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK

5-7 p.m., TIAA Bank Field, 1 TIAA Bank Drive

Gather together to celebrate, honor and remember those touched by cancer.

[lightthenight.org](http://lightthenight.org)

### RIVERKEEPER OYSTER ROAST

7-11 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue

This popular, annual event is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the St. Johns Riverkeeper featuring delicious oysters and seafood, live music and a silent auction.

[stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

## 17<sup>th</sup>

### 3RD ANNUAL COLLARD GREEN FESTIVAL

11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Woodland Acres Boys & Girls Club, 191 Pecan Street

\$5 entry per family group, includes fresh collards, live entertainment, collard green cooking competitions, bounce houses, petting zoo and more!

[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

### 5TH ANNUAL OPERATION NEW UNIFORM HEROES DINNER

5:30-9:30 p.m., World Golf Village Renaissance Resort, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine

The Heroes Dinner and Show is Operation New Uniform's annual fundraiser where supporters, donors, and ONU Alumni gather together under one roof to celebrate the organization's achievements and the opportunities to come. Includes silent auction and a raffle with items from Kendra Scott, Top Golf, and many more from favorite brands.

[onuvets.org](http://onuvets.org)

**Mardi Gras**  
**PARTY FUNDRAISER**  
*to benefit the*  
**Jacksonville**  
**CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019**  
**PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** 🎵 **FOOD** 🍷 **BEVERAGES**  
**SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION** 🎁 **PRIZES** 📸 **PHOTO BOOTH**

\$75 per person. All guests must be 18 and older.

**Tickets:** [JaxChildrensChorus.org](http://JaxChildrensChorus.org) or call 353-1636, ext. 2

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[info@depaulschool.com](mailto:info@depaulschool.com)

3044 S. San Pablo Road,  
Jacksonville, FL 32224



## 9TH ANNUAL MCKENZIE'S RUN 5K

9:30 a.m., TIAA Bank Field

McKenzie's Run is an event aimed at raising awareness about The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation and promoting unity within the Jacksonville community.

[mckenziesrun.org](http://mckenziesrun.org)

## 15TH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE WINEFEST

6-9 p.m., Riverside Liquors, 1251 King Street

Enjoy one of the largest wine festivals in the historic districts during this charity fall festival which benefits Riverside Avondale Preservation and includes live entertainment, food vendors and WineFest wine glass.

[riversidewinefest.com](http://riversidewinefest.com)

## 26TH ANNUAL RIVER GARDEN GALA

7-10:30 p.m., Marriott Sawgrass,  
1000 PGA Tour Blvd.

A Night Under the Big Top will be a magical evening of exotic animals and flamboyant performers. The gala begins with cocktails and a silent auction, and continues with dinner, dancing and amazing entertainment.

[rivergarden.org](http://rivergarden.org)

## FEED THE CITY

11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Clara White Mission,  
613 W. Ashley Street

Volunteer to serve a Thanksgiving meal to the homeless and low-income families, give away clothes, provide haircuts or repair bicycles.

[clarawhitemission.org](http://clarawhitemission.org)

## PINTS FOR PETS

6-11 p.m., Bold City Brewery,  
2670-7 Rosselle Street

Benefiting Friends of Clay County Animals, this event will feature a silent auction, food and 50/50 raffle! \$1 from the purchase of each pint, growler and glass of wine will be donated.

[friendsofclaycountyanimals.org](http://friendsofclaycountyanimals.org)

## WHERE'S BUBBA?

5:30 – 9:30 p.m., Haskell Building,  
111 Riverside Ave.

Annual benefit to support Downtown Ecumenical Services Council includes live music, cocktails, dinner, dancing and indoor fishing simulators.

[descjax.org](http://descjax.org)



Lindsay and Scott Meyer  
with Anne Meyer

# 18<sup>th</sup>

## MY FAIR LADY

2 p.m., Douglas Anderson School of the Arts,  
2445 San Diego Road

The Tony Award-winning musical will be performed by students from across several artistic disciplines, directed by Joseph Kemper, in the Dubow Theatre.

[datheatreboosters.org](http://datheatreboosters.org)

# 20<sup>th</sup>

## FALL JAZZ NIGHT

7:30 p.m., Douglas Anderson School  
of the Arts, 2445 San Diego Road

Jazz it up at Fall Jazz Night featuring the LaVilla School of the Arts Jazz band and Douglas Anderson's Jazz Ensembles, sponsored by the Douglas Anderson Band Boosters.

[eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

# 23<sup>rd</sup>

## DECK THE CHAIRS

Through Jan. 1, 2019,  
Jacksonville Beach Sea Walk Pavilion

In True Florida holiday style, local artists and business come together to decorate the iconic life guard chairs on Jacksonville Beach. This historic beach tradition helps to support the Volunteer Life Saving Corps. of Jacksonville Beach.

# 29<sup>th</sup>

## ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

Through Dec. 2, Prime Osborn Convention  
Center, 1000 Water Street

A Place in the Sun – a nod to the glamour and elegance of old Palm Beach. Jacksonville's most anticipated social event of the year, black-tie gala, three days of dealers, lectures, celebrities, culminating with a fashion show featuring Wolfson Children's Hospital patients.

[womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com)

## GINGERBREAD EXTRAVAGANZA

Through Dec. 28, Old St. Andrew's Church,  
317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.

Visitors enjoy gigantic, creative gingerbread creations built by chefs, bakers, architects, engineers, culinary school students, families, young people and other individuals. This charity event benefits the educational programs and archival repository of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

[jaxhistory.org](http://jaxhistory.org)

# Hearing Help for Africa

## Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute Opens Up A World Of Sound



Since 2010, the Hearing Help for Africa nonprofit organization continues to serve profound hearing impaired children and adults in Jos, Nigeria. Founded by Jacksonville physician J. Douglas Green Jr., MD, his wife, Kelley, and their friend, Joel Anthis, MD, the foundation provides for the surgical implantation of cochlear implants to improve ear-related medical conditions as well as the expansion of medical education opportunities for African physicians.

Through the years, the Foundation has developed remote telemedicine connections between U.S. physicians and their counterparts to offer more specialized training, including consultation and televised medical education conferences. It also provides improved facilities and equipment, as evidenced by this year's opening of a Temporal Bone Lab at the ECWA Evangel Hospital to aid in the surgical implant process. Advanced technology allows for the implant to be programmed back in the U.S. at Dr. Green's Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute.

[www.HearingHelpForAfrica.org](http://www.HearingHelpForAfrica.org)



*"Truly I tell you, whatever you  
did for one of the least  
of these brothers and  
sisters of mine,  
you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40



# December 2018

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### 42ND ANNUAL ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

**When:** November 29 through December 2, 2018

**Where:** Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

A Place in the Sun – a nod to the glamour and elegance of old Palm Beach. This four-day show and sale, annually produced by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, begins with an opening gala, which is the much-anticipated highlight of Jacksonville's social season will host 1,200 to 1,400 patrons and guests. The black-tie gala is followed by three days of dealers, lectures, celebrities, culminating with a fashion show featuring Wolfson Children's Hospital patients.

Visit [womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com) for more information.



The 2018 Art & Antiques Show Chairs: Claudia Adams, Marleigh Gullford, Holland Gibbs, Lisa Barnett Emmet



Agnes Danciger with Dick and Marcia Morales



2017 Art & Antiques Show Chairs Jan Kirby, Kelly Kunz and Frances Hutto

2018 ART & ANTIQUES SHOW CHAIRS PHOTO BY TANNER DEPRIN, FIGURE 8 STUDIO

## 1st

### ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

Through Dec. 2, Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

A Place in the Sun – a nod to the glamour and elegance of old Palm Beach. Jacksonville's most anticipated social event of the year, black-tie gala, three days of dealers, lectures, celebrities, culminating with a fashion show featuring Wolfson Children's Hospital patients. [womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com)

### CIRCLE OF ANGELS

6-9 p.m., 904 Ocean Palm Way, St. Augustine

A benefit for Community Hospice & Palliative Care in St. Johns County. This festive gathering will take place at the home in St. Augustine, FL. Proceeds fund vital patient care and community-focused programs in St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

[communityhospice.com](http://communityhospice.com)

### LIGHT UP THE HOUSE 5K & FAMILY DAY

8 a.m., Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, 824 Childrens Way

The event will feature a Christmas Village in the parking lot, as well as an opportunity to tour the House. The funds raised from this fun, family event will help provide temporary lodging for over 1,200 families of critically ill, chronically ill and seriously injured children receiving medical treatment in Jacksonville.

[1stplacesports.com](http://1stplacesports.com)

### JJ GREY AT CONGAREE AND PENN

Noon-4 p.m., Congaree and Penn Farm and Mills, 11830 Old Kings Road

The North Florida Land Trust will present JJ Grey, described by fans as the "north Florida sage and soul-bent swamp rocker," who hails from Jacksonville and has gained worldwide acclaim with his band, JJ Grey and Mofro. The concert brings Grey back home to his beloved roots and will feature him in a solo performance.

[northfloridalandtrust.org](http://northfloridalandtrust.org)

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Dr. Sonya Dominguez with Diya and Dev Acharya

## KIDNEY CANCER SYMPOSIUM

8 a.m. – 4 p.m., University of North Florida,  
1 UNF Drive

Join patients, families, professional caregivers and medical professionals for a free educational symposium focused specifically on kidney cancer in Jacksonville.

[jnfkidneycancer.org](http://jnfkidneycancer.org)

## READ & ROMP

1-4 p.m., St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center,  
2627 Riverside Avenue

12th annual free reading event for children 10 and under includes games, music, snacks, giveaways, photos with Santa and more. Sponsored by St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center.

[jaxhealth.com](http://jaxhealth.com)

## ST. AUGUSTINE REINDEER RUN

8:30 a.m., Visitor Center Lawn,  
10 S Castillo Dr, St. Augustine

A true one-mile run along the St. Augustine Christmas Parade route just before the parade begins at 9 a.m. is sure to provide large, cheering crowds.

[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

## TOUR DE CURE

6 a.m. – 2 p.m., World Golf Village,  
305 WGV Blvd., St. Augustine

Join cyclists, runners and walkers to fight diabetes and its burdens.

[diabetes.org](http://diabetes.org)

## VISION IS PRICELESS STRIDES FOR SIGHT

8 a.m., Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

The 2nd Annual Strides For Sight Awareness Walk brings attention to the importance of vision health and ensure the underserved has access to eye care. The two-mile walk and event will feature a kid-friendly DJ, face painting, fun family activities, free raffles, and more. All ages and pets are welcome.

[visionispriceless.org](http://visionispriceless.org)



Beth Tresca and Victoria Dulaney

# 2nd\_7th

## FREED TO RUN 2.0

From the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee to the Duval County Courthouse in Jacksonville.

Freed to Run 2.0 is six marathons in six days point-to-point relay, with teams covering the distance, taking turns throughout the day. Freed to Run donations will go to the JALA Endowment for the Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership. The Baptist Health Foundation will match all donations by 125 percent.

[jaxlegalaid.org](http://jaxlegalaid.org)

# 6th

## 2ND ANNUAL HO HO HOLD 'EM CELEBRITY POKER TOURNAMENT

6-10 p.m., bestbet Jacksonville,  
201 Monument Road

Mingle with guests, players and enjoy complimentary food and drinks. The evening ends with a prize ceremony and trophy presentation. Benefits Kaye's Kids a Special Times program of Dreams Come True.

[dreamscometrue.org](http://dreamscometrue.org)

## 26TH ANNUAL CHARITY FUN SHOOT

Jacksonville Clay Target Sports,  
12125 New Berlin Road

The St. Vincent's Charity Fun Shoot exists to support the work of the Good Samaritan Fund which was created in 1959 in order to assist patients with items and services they need in order to be discharged safely from the hospital.

[jaxhealth.com/foundation/funshoot/](http://jaxhealth.com/foundation/funshoot/)

## CHAMPAGNE & SHOPPING

10 a.m. – 8 p.m., The Cummer Museum,  
829 Riverside Avenue

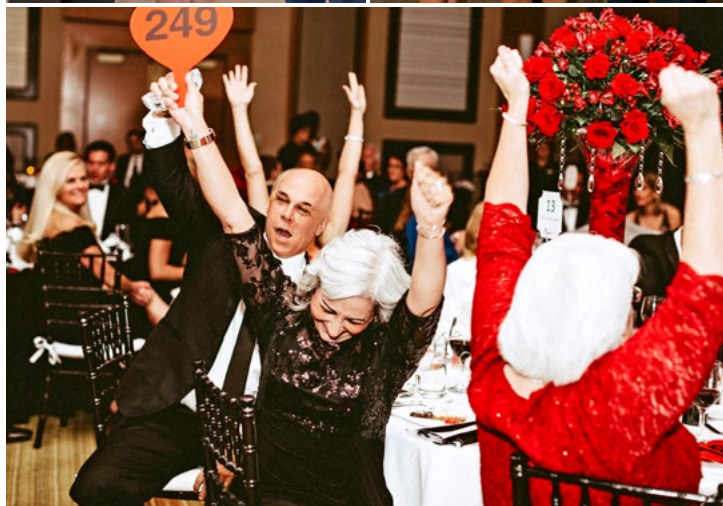
Enjoy complimentary champagne and appetizers while shopping special artisan merchandise brought in just for this two-day event, Dec. 6-7. Free admission. Additional discounts available each day.

## TREE OF LIFE & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

5-7 p.m., Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring,  
4266 Sunbeam Road

The Annual Tree of Life and Candlelight Service of Remembrance honors the memory of the loved ones we have lost in a beautiful, inspiring program of music, verse and reflection. The Mandarin Campus is illuminated with lights representing each patient Community Hospice & Palliative Care has served since 1979.

[tol.communityhospice.com](http://tol.communityhospice.com)







Community Nutcracker's Dr. George Trotter (center) with grant recipients

## 7th

### COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER

8 p.m., Florida Theatre, 128 E Forsyth Street

Enjoy this delightful First Coast holiday tradition, with performances also Dec. 8, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. During the community service night performance Dec. 6, proceeds go to various nonprofit organizations.

[jaxnutcracker.org](http://jaxnutcracker.org)

## 8th

### 23RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 5K & FAMILY FUN RUN

5:30-9:30 p.m., San Marco Square

Luminaries light the way for runners and walkers throughout beautiful San Marco for this holiday fundraiser to support the Children's Miracle Network. Holiday festivities include horse drawn sleigh rides and of course, a visit from Santa.

[cmnjax.com/events](http://cmnjax.com/events)

### THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY OF JACKSONVILLE

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Prime Osborn, 1000 Water Street

This Jacksonville area holiday tradition has brightened the holiday season for children in Jacksonville who might not receive toys for Christmas. Kids ages 12 and under are treated to a fun holiday celebration.

[ccpoj.org](http://ccpoj.org)

### ZOOLIGHTS AT JACKSONVILLE ZOO

December 15-January 5, Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway

The holidays are the perfect time to tour the Jacksonville Zoo as it is transformed into a winter wonderland with thousands of holiday lights.

[jaxzoo.org](http://jaxzoo.org)



Will, Ryan, Maggie and Lindsey Riggs



Joanna and Curt Pajcic

## 10th

### TASTE OF THE NFL

6-9 p.m., TIAA Bank Field, 1 TIAA Bank Field Drive

Join the Jaguars Foundation in their fight against hunger. Local chefs from some of the best rated restaurants in Jacksonville donate their time to provide an elegant five-course meal paired with complimentary wine for each course.

[universe.com/tasteofthenfljacksonville](http://universe.com/tasteofthenfljacksonville)

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13<sup>th</sup>**HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Time TBD, Ponte Vedra Concert Hall,  
1050 A1A North

Nearly 500 volunteers pack more than 3500 holiday bags for kids in need for two dozen Duval and St. Johns County schools and charities. Sponsored by the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation.

[jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com](http://jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com)

14<sup>th</sup>**NUTCRACKER IN A NUTSHELL**

10:30 a.m., Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF  
Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Drive

A sweet, abbreviated performance designed to introduce children to ballet as a performance art. This 45-minute performance will feature select excerpts from the full-length production providing a fun-filled opportunity for families with young ones.

[floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/](http://floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/)

14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**THE FLORIDA BALLET'S  
NUTCRACKER**

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Lazzara Performance Hall,  
UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Drive

Whether you're seeing it again, or for the first time, this holiday classic will capture your imagination and transport you to a magical world of swirling snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and dancing bonbons. From the captivating dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy to the iconic snow scene, this enchanting ballet – set to the beloved music of Tchaikovsky – continues to be a tradition with family and friends.

[floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/](http://floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/)



*Ballerina Grace Renner  
with an admirer*



*Jim and Tabitha Furyk*

15<sup>th</sup>**AMERIS BANK  
JACKSONVILLE MARATHON**

7 a.m., The Bolles School, 7400 San Jose Blvd.

In its 36th year, the oldest marathon in Jacksonville celebrates the beauty of the city while providing a course that provides shade and flat planes. Voted one of the fastest marathon courses in the U.S.

[amerisbank.com/Jacksonville-marathon/](http://amerisbank.com/Jacksonville-marathon/)

**BGCNF HOLIDAY GIFT  
WRAPPING PARTY**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Boys & Girls Club,  
555 W. 25th Street

Join the Club for food, fun, holiday music and lots of gift wrapping as Santa's little elves (volunteers) help to make the holidays special for all of the Club kids!

[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

16<sup>th</sup>**SOCIETY OF HEALERS  
BRUNCH**

10 a.m. – Noon, Congregation Ahavath Chesed,  
8727 San Jose Blvd.

Guest speaker is Sigmund J. Kharasch M.D., attending physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital Pediatric Emergency Department, speaking about his experiences treating Israeli and Arab children at Hadassah Medical Center in Israel. The Society of Healers is a group comprised of Jewish Healthcare professionals in the Jacksonville community.

[jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)

# JEWISH FEDERATION OF JACKSONVILLE

## ALL TOGETHER NOW

### 2019 Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Jacksonville's annual campaign raises funds to support:

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**  
**JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
**RIVER GARDEN SENIOR SERVICES**  
**MARTIN J. GOTTLIEB DAY SCHOOL**  
**TORAH ACADEMY OF JACKSONVILLE**  
**AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT  
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE**  
**JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL**

Over the past 10 years, Federation has allocated over \$16 million dollars to these outstanding agencies and schools. The programs and services they provide touch the lives of Jewish and non-Jewish people of all ages living in Jacksonville, Israel and more than 70 countries throughout the world.

**To learn more and support our  
2019 campaign call 904-448-5000  
or visit [jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)**





# January 2019



Alex and Deborah Rey, Lois Ann Bumgarner, Danny Chu



Lori Ann Whittington, Marty Jones, Sally Baldwin

## 6<sup>th</sup>

### WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

10 a.m., Location TBD

This year's event will feature Sharon Tal of Maskit, a luxury clothing brand designed in Israel. Sharon is an entrepreneur and fashion designer who has brought back prominence to an iconic brand. She is formerly head of embroidery at Alexander McQueen and interned under Alber Elbaz at Lanvin.

[jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)

## 10<sup>th</sup>

### ARTFUL UMAMI: A JAPANESE DINNER

6-9 p.m., The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue

Join the Cummer Museum for an homage to Japanese culture with an evening filled with beautiful music, colorful performances, umami-packed food, and of course, sake. Guests are invited to dress in their favorite hue to celebrate the Museum's Fields of Color: The Art of Japanese Printmaking exhibition. All Dinner Party guests will enjoy beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, themed music, artful experiences, and dinner. VIP guests will enjoy a private art tour with selections chosen to complement each event, along with a signature cocktail prior to the start of the evening, from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

[cummuseum.org/events](http://cummuseum.org/events)

## 25<sup>th</sup>

### HALOS DANCE

Time TBD; St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Hosted by the Angels for Allison Student Leadership Council to benefit our mission. Tickets are \$20 per child. All students Grades 1-6 are welcome to attend.

[angelsforallison.org](http://angelsforallison.org)

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# CUMMER BEACHES CELEBRATE! GALA: SWING INTO THE NIGHT

**When:** January 27, 6 p.m.

**Where:** TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach

The gala will include cocktails, dinner, dancing, a pop-up shop from the Cummer Shop, an auction to support the museum's mission-based programming, and entertainment by the Jacksonville University Music Department's Jazz Orchestra.

For further information, contact Brittany Nazario at [bnazario@cummuseum.org](mailto:bnazario@cummuseum.org) or (904) 899-6007.



26<sup>th</sup>**10TH ANNUAL WOLFSON CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE**

8 a.m., Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville

The 55-kilometer ultramarathon is great for long-distance runners, and there is also a 55-kilometer ultra-relay perfect for teams. Individuals can also sign up for a 30-kilometer run, and the 1-mile fun run is ideal for kids or unseasoned runners who want to give back to Wolfson Children's.

[wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com](http://wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com)**BOWTIE BALL**

7-10 p.m., Manifest Distillery, 960 E. Forsyth Street

A VIP tasting and tour, followed by the Bowtie Ball, will support the Shircliff Society's beneficiary, the Family Birth Place at St. Vincent's Medical Center—Riverside.

[jaxhealth.com](http://jaxhealth.com)

Paul Lucey, Tom Welchans,  
and David Jaromillo

**FIRST COAST HONORS CHOIR FESTIVAL**

5 p.m., Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Road

The Jacksonville Children's Chorus sponsors a day-long program to honor 4th-7th grade children who have been recognized by their music educators. The children spend the day rehearsing with nationally-recognized clinicians and conductors. The event culminates in a concert performance featuring the Honors Choir and guest JCC choirs.

[jaxchildrenschorus.org](http://jaxchildrenschorus.org)27<sup>th</sup>**CUMMER BEACHES CELEBRATE: GALA! SWING INTO THE NIGHT**

TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse

Cummer Beaches hosts its annual Celebrate! Gala fundraiser, which includes cocktails, dinner, dancing, a pop-up shop from the Cummer Shop, an auction to support the Museum's mission-based programming, and entertainment by the Jacksonville University Music Department's Jazz Orchestra.

[bnazario@cummERMuseum.org](mailto:bnazario@cummERMuseum.org) or  
904.899.6007

28<sup>th</sup>**FLORIDA FORUM - BRYAN CRANSTON**

7 p.m., Times-Union Center, 300 Water Street

Featured speaker for this night is Bryan Cranston, acclaimed actor, writer, producer, director, and author. Winner of four Emmy® Awards, four SAG Awards and a Golden Globe Award.

[womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com](http://womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com)31<sup>st</sup>**MOCA NYE PARTY OF OUR TIME**

6 p.m. - 1 a.m., Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, 333 N. Laura Street

A downtown New Year's Eve bash for anyone who likes to kick off the New Year in style. The event kicks off with the VIP Catalyst Cocktail Hour and Dinner in the second floor gallery, followed by the Countdown Bash: an indoor/outdoor dance party featuring Mama Blue, DJ Catharsis, live art performances, fabulous eats by NOLA MOCA and an open bar throughout the night.

[mocajacksonville.unf.edu](http://mocajacksonville.unf.edu)

# MOMENTUM

**Men's Leadership Luncheon****12:00-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019****Adam W. Herbert, University Center****12000 Alumni Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32224****<https://give.womenscenterofjax.org/momentum>; 904-722-3000****This is our moMENT, our moveMENT.**

**The MoMENTum Conference** led by the Women's Center of Jacksonville, is a 90-minute luncheon event to empower community leaders and influencers on how men can join women to become powerful allies and voices for change. Learn how you can use your power and position to improve the lives of women.

**#NOTINMYCITY** is a community initiative led by the Women's Center of Jacksonville dedicated to exploring inclusive leadership and mutual benefits through partnership. In supporting men's engagement, we celebrate the cultural, social aspects and personal values that determine positive pathways to champion change. That which does not divide us, leads us. Join us for an insightful event of model leadership for a modeled City.

The Women's Center of Jacksonville is the leader for women's issues in Northeast Florida. Throughout our 20+ year history, we have been a powerful advocate for social change on a broad range of women's issues. **NOW** is the time for women and men to work together to end violence against women and promote equality.

**WOMEN'S  
CENTER**  
of JACKSONVILLE



# February 2019



Bobbie Gittings with  
Dr. Joe and Jean Tepas



Amy Meyer with Leon Haley

Joanne and Stephen Tan with Andy Kerwin

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# 12TH ANNUAL NIGHT FOR HEROES GALA

**When:** February 23, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 E. Coastline Drive

The 12th annual gala to benefit UF Health's TraumaOne and to honor the medical professionals and first responders who care for trauma victims is presented by Perry-McCall Construction. The black-tie optional gala includes cocktails, dinner, dancing and a silent auction, as well as the Heroes Presentation. Funds raised by the A Night for Heroes gala go to benefit the critical needs of the trauma center.

Visit [anightforheroes.com](http://anightforheroes.com) for more information.

## 2nd

### ART & ARCHITECTURE TOUR

9 a.m. - Noon, The Cummer Museum,  
829 Riverside Avenue

Explore where architecture, art, and nature meet with this 3-hour personally guided tour by Architect Richard Skinner. Visit three beautiful homes on the First Coast with commentary by Acting Director Holly Keris on private collection pieces and the Museum's tradition of marrying architecture and the natural environment.

[cummermuseum.org](http://cummermuseum.org)

### FIGHT FOR AIR CLIMB

8 a.m., Bank of America Tower, 50 N. Laura St.

Raise funds to support the American Lung Association's mission while climbing the stairs of a skyscraper. Every step counts in the fight for healthy lungs and clean air.

[action.lung.org](http://action.lung.org)

### HENRY'S RUN 5K

8 a.m., Oakleaf High School, Plantation Oaks Blvd.

Organized by Run 4 Kids Davis-Flick Foundation to open a playground accessible to all children, regardless of ability.

[1stplacesports.com](http://1stplacesports.com)

## 3rd

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA SCHOLASTICS GOLD KEY EXHIBITION

Through March 6, Cathedral Arts Project,  
Heather Moore Community Gallery,  
207 N. Laura Street

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards annually recognize the vision, ingenuity and talent of our nation's youth and provide opportunities for creative teens to be celebrated. This year, the 8th annual Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards will be presented and the work of the Gold Key portfolio winners will be exhibited at the Cathedral Arts Project. Opening reception, Feb. 2, 1-3 p.m.

[capkids.org/hmcg](http://capkids.org/hmcg)

## 5th

### 34TH ANNUAL WOMEN FOR CHRIST LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Prime Osborn,  
1000 Water Street

This annual luncheon hosted by Women For Christ provides the community with an opportunity to hear Christian speakers. Scheduled speaker for the luncheon is Jodie Berndt, a national speaker and writer of books, including the "Praying the Scripture" series.

[jaxwomenforchrist.org](http://jaxwomenforchrist.org)



Front: Jan Andrews, Peggy Allcorn, Susie Marshall, Janice Brinker, guest speaker Whitney Capps, Vicky Yong and Colleen White; middle: Roseanne Ennis, Kim Joel, Katy Towers, Christy Mobley, Dianne Diffenderfer; back: Anne Tyre, Gail Brent, Linda Stowell, Kathy Story, Allene Zvara and Sheri Cheek



## 7<sup>th</sup>

### 4TH ANNUAL DIFFERENCE MAKERS BANQUET

5:30 p.m. VIP reception; 6:30 p.m. banquet seating, Lexington Hotel, 1515 Prudential Drive

City Rescue Mission's annual banquet celebrates those who make a difference in the community to provide hope, healing and change to those who need it most. Former Major League Baseball player Darryl Strawberry, founder of the Darryl Strawberry Recovery Center in St. Cloud, Florida, will be the guest speaker.

[crmjax.org/banquet](http://crmjax.org/banquet)

### NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

Noon-1 p.m., Location TBD

North Florida Land Trust's Annual Meeting is the nonprofit organization's report to the community. It is a business luncheon intended to engage and unite supporters, inform about yearly accomplishments and goals, and inspire ongoing support.

[northfloridalandtrust.org](http://northfloridalandtrust.org)

### A NIGHT OUT WITH THE FEDERATION

6-9 p.m., Marriott Southpoint, 4670 Salisbury Road

This inaugural event will celebrate the Jacksonville Jewish Community, with special opportunities for its \$1,000 donors, Lions of Judah and Major Donors. A Night Out with Federation will feature BeatleBeat, four talented musicians who re-create the look, style and sound of the most famous rock and roll band in the world - The Beatles!

[jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)

## 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

### DONNA MARATHON WEEKEND

The marathon weekend will start and finish in the heart of Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach, and will include a 5K, Half Marathon, Marathon, Ultramarathon and Event Challenges.

[breastcancermarathon.com](http://breastcancermarathon.com)

## 11<sup>th</sup>

### ANGELWOOD SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

8 a.m., Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, 12125 New Berlin Road

Try this fun and exciting sport to benefit Angelwood which helps children and adults with developmental disabilities. Ammo and a BBQ lunch will be provided.

[angelwoodjax.org](http://angelwoodjax.org)

### 11TH ANNUAL MORNING STAR GOLF TOURNAMENT

10 a.m., San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Blvd.

Enjoy a day of golf at the beautiful and challenging San Jose Country Club while supporting the mission of Morning Star School. Lunch at 11 a.m., followed by shotgun start at noon; dinner and awards ceremony follows end of tournament.

[morningstar-jax.org/golf-tournament/](http://morningstar-jax.org/golf-tournament/)

## 12<sup>th</sup>

### MOMENTUM: MEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

12-1:30 p.m., Adam W. Herbert Center, 12000 Alumni Drive

The MoMEntum Conference will empower community leaders and influencers on how men can join women to become powerful allies and voices for change.

[womenscenterofjax.org/momentum](http://womenscenterofjax.org/momentum)

## 14<sup>th</sup>

### HEART OF THE RUNWAY

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Linda Cunningham Boutique, 1049 Kings Avenue

Annual fashion show and art sale at upscale Southbank boutique benefits North Florida School of Special Education.

[northfloridaschool.org](http://northfloridaschool.org)



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[www.DreamsComeTrue.org](http://www.DreamsComeTrue.org) | 904.296.3030

## 15<sup>th</sup>

### 28TH ANNUAL EDDY AWARDS

6 p.m., Hyatt Regency Riverfront,  
225 Coastline Drive

This annual event sponsored by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund helps to celebrate Duval County teachers who inspire students and work to improve our schools.

[jaxpef.org](http://jaxpef.org)

### 38TH ANNUAL RED ROSE BALL

7 p.m., Jacksonville Marriott Southpoint,  
4670 Salisbury Road

This popular ball is an elegant night of cocktails, dinner and entertainment to help raise funds for the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation which provides healthcare to those in need.

[jaxhealth.com/foundation/](http://jaxhealth.com/foundation/)

## 16<sup>th</sup>

### CHARITY CHILI COOKOFF

4-8 p.m., Riverside Arts Market,  
715 Riverside Avenue

The Jacksonville Bar Association hosts this annual chili cookoff event with proceeds being donating to various local charities each year. Come out and enjoy some of the best chili ever along with live music, drinks and fun for the whole family.

[jaxbar.org](http://jaxbar.org)

### MT. ACOSTA CLASSIC

3-6 p.m., Haskell, 111 Riverside Avenue

This running and cycling event is designed for pure athletes and helps raise funds for the Jared Bynum Foundation.

[1stplacesports.com](http://1stplacesports.com)



Andy Underkofler and Brad Russell

### SOUTH SEAS SOIREE

6 p.m., Friday Musicale, 645 Oak Street

Friday Musicale's annual fundraiser presents a musical South Pacific adventure for the whole family. A Blue Hawaiian cocktail hour will be followed by a dinner show featuring Prince Pele's Polynesian Review.

[fridaymusicale.com/schedule](http://fridaymusicale.com/schedule)

## 18<sup>th</sup>

### 16TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Blvd.

Join the San Jose Rotary Club for a day of golf during this annual tournament which helps to raise funds for local charities.

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2155/>

## 21<sup>st</sup>

### HEAL VALLEY OF DREAMS GALA

Time TBD, TPC Sawgrass,  
110 Championship Way

This gala kicks off a two-day event to support the HEAL Foundation projects across the First Coast.

[healautismnow.org](http://healautismnow.org)

## 22<sup>nd</sup>

### BOBBY WEED'S GOLF GIG

Time TBD, TPC Sawgrass Dye's Valley Course,  
110 Championship Way

On Day Two of HEAL's annual major fundraiser, participants enjoy a day of golf at the magnificent TPC course to help support the HEAL Foundation.

[healautismnow.org](http://healautismnow.org)



Leslie and Bobby Weed



23<sup>rd</sup>**41ST ANNUAL ORTEGA RIVER RUN**

8 a.m., Start/finish at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, 4114 Oxford Avenue

An event that has become a long-standing tradition in Jacksonville that includes a 1-mile fun run and 5-mile run/walk with prizes and fun all along the route. Proceeds benefit the financial aid and scholarship program at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.

[stmarksdayschool.org](http://stmarksdayschool.org)

**A NIGHT FOR HEROES**

6 p.m., Hyatt Regency Riverfront, 225 East Coastline Drive

The 12th annual gala to benefit UF Health's TraumaOne and to honor the medical professionals and first responders who care for trauma victims. Black-tie optional gala includes cocktails, dinner, dancing and a silent auction.

[anightforheroes.com](http://anightforheroes.com)

**DOWNTOWN JAX GALA**

6-9 p.m., Novel Coworking, 25 N Market Street

Cocktails, dining, dancing, silent auction presented by Downtown Vision Inc. to raise funds for the Lively And Beautiful Sidewalks (LABS) program.

[downtownjacksonville.org](http://downtownjacksonville.org)

**EXTRAVAGANZA BY DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

7:30-9:30 p.m., Moran Theater, Times-Union Center for Performing Arts, 300 Water Street

Extravaganza is a Broadway-style Night of Artistry & Entertainment – featuring exciting performances in Dance, Jazz, Vocal Chorale, Musical Theatre, Classical Music, Visual Arts, Film, and Spoken Word – all performed by the talented students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

[datheatreboosters.org](http://datheatreboosters.org)

**GARDEN CLUB FLEA MARKET**

8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue

One of the biggest sales around, where you can find hidden treasures and great bargains from household items and furniture to decorations and jewelry.

[gardenclubofjacksonville.org](http://gardenclubofjacksonville.org)

**JCA ANNUAL GALA**

7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Alliance, 8505 San Jose Boulevard

Join the Jewish Community Alliance for their 31st annual gala.

[jcjax.org](http://jcjax.org)

**LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING CONCERT**

2 p.m. matinee, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Avenue

Jacksonville Children's Chorus performances celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[jaxchildrenschorus.org](http://jaxchildrenschorus.org)

**RIVERSIDE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL**

4-7 p.m., Riverside Arts Market, 715 Riverside Avenue

More than 100 craft beers from local, regional and national breweries. Proceeds benefit Community PedsCare® that provides comfort, care and support for children with life-threatening conditions, as well as the charitable causes of the Riverside Rotary Foundation.

[riversidecraftbeerfestival.com](http://riversidecraftbeerfestival.com)

28<sup>th</sup>**11TH ANNUAL KELSI YOUNG GIFT OF CARE CELEBRATION**

6-10 p.m., Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.

The Kelsi Leah Young Respite Care Fund provides the gift of respite care to parents or guardians of children in Community PedsCare, the pediatric care program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. In recognition of the event's 10th anniversary, this milestone celebration will honor the individuals and organizations that have done so much to provide families with access to this invaluable care.

[kelsi.communityhospice.com](http://kelsi.communityhospice.com)

## TBD

**CHARIOTS OF FUR BEACH RUN & FESTIVAL**

Typically held at the Seawalk Pavilion, 1st Street North, the morning run and festival supports Francis Animal Hospital.

[chariotsoffur5k.org](http://chariotsoffur5k.org)

**TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION NIGHT TO SHINE**

This global event with local participation brings a special prom night experience to young people with special needs.

[timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org)

**BRASS WINES FOR MUSIC**

Sponsored by Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony (BRASS), the evening offers a wine tasting, an intimate chamber concert and an auction.

[brassonline.org](http://brassonline.org)



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# March 2019

## 1st-2nd

### WHALE OF A SALE

8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairground Place

Jacksonville's largest pop-up rummage sale with over 30,000 square feet of shopping. Proceeds to benefit the community projects supported by Junior League of Jacksonville. [jljacksonville.org](http://jljacksonville.org)

## 2nd

### 8TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST FLORIDA VEG FEST

11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

The day-long event will feature vegan eats, live music, cooking demonstrations, a beer garden, kids' zone, exceptional freebies, raffles, and more.

[nfvegfest.org](http://nfvegfest.org)

### 9TH ANNUAL BOZARD FORD ROCK & ROLL BASH

6 p.m. – Midnight, Bozard Ford, 540 Outlet Mall Blvd, St Augustine

This rockin' party is jam-packed with live music, cocktails, auctions and other festivities, with all proceeds benefitting the local St. Augustine Boys & Girls Club's THE PLAYERS Championship Club.

[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

### 37TH ANNUAL CAMP I AM SPECIAL FASHION SHOW

Noon, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 1773 Blanding Blvd.

Hosted by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the event raises funds for the Camper Scholarship Fund. During the show, attendees will enjoy a delicious lunch served by the Italian American Club.

[campiamspecial.com](http://campiamspecial.com)

### CLAWS FOR A CAUSE

6:30 p.m., Cool Moose Café, 2708 Park Street

Annual spring lobster bake to benefit Memorial Park Association, often includes silent auction.

[memparkjax.org](http://memparkjax.org)



Laurie Jarvis with Rob Middleton, Joanna Pajcic and Danielle Ramirez

### CUMMER SPRING OPENING DAY & PLANT SALE

10 a.m., Cummer Museum, 829 Riverside Avenue

Kick off a tribute to the gardens with a free family day and plant sale. Celebrate the coming of spring by purchasing new plants from local vendors on the front lawn of the museum. Enjoy "plein air" painting, live music, a family art activity and garden tours throughout the day.

[cummuseum.org](http://cummuseum.org)

### JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY GALA

7-9 p.m., Times-Union Center for Performing Arts, 300 Water Street

Join the Symphony for the 2019 Gala, featuring superstar cellist Alisa Weilerstein and music director Courtney Lewis.

[jaxsymphony.org](http://jaxsymphony.org)

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# EQUALITY FLORIDA JACKSONVILLE 2019 GALA

**When:** March 9, 7-10 p.m.

**Where:** 240 Talleyrand Avenue

Creative cocktail attire is encouraged for a night of "Glitz & Graffiti" to benefit Equality Florida. This year's program will feature a State of the State address and celebration of a special guest with the Voice for Equality Award. Enjoy full open bars, delicious hors d'oeuvres by Bread & Board/Derby on Park and music by The Chris Thomas Band.

Visit [eqfl.org](http://eqfl.org) for more information.



Lauren and Sara D'Amico



Ryan Ali with Ben Crumley



Glenn Jones and Ron Episcopo



Austin Browning with Emory Conrad





Melanie Cost Young and Ken Young with Dianne and George Scanlon, Stephanie and Tim Cost

### MARDI GRAS FOR JAX CHILDREN'S CHORUS

6:30-10 p.m., Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North

Guests will enjoy live entertainment, food, beverages, silent and live auction, prizes and a photo booth.

[jaxchildrenschorus.org](http://jaxchildrenschorus.org)

### RETHREADED ANNUAL MUKTI BALL

Time & Location TBD, 601 N. Myrtle Street

Join Rethreaded as the celebrate Mukti or "freedom" at this annual gala. The evening includes dinner, shopping, music and poetry readings.

[rethreaded.com](http://rethreaded.com)



Brooke Cockrell, Chelsea and Lawson Carr, Josh Cockrell

### TIM TEBOW CELEBRITY GALA

6 p.m., TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, 1120 Championship Way

Tim Tebow hosts this special weekend of celebrities beginning with an exclusive star-studded, red carpet gala on Friday night.

[timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org)

### THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K

8 a.m., PLAYERS Stadium Course, TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

Help the Donna Foundation in its support for breast cancer patients by participating in this great 5K event.

[theplayersdonna5k.com](http://theplayersdonna5k.com)

### THERAPY ANIMAL EXPO

University of North Florida, Adam Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive

The Expo provides all the resources needed for those interested in volunteering with their pet, continuing education opportunities for registered pet therapy teams and assistance for facilities and organizations that wish to start pet therapy programs.

[therapyanimalcoalition.org](http://therapyanimalcoalition.org)

## 3rd

### TIM TEBOW CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

9 a.m. Gates open to spectators, 10 a.m. Shotgun start, TPC Sawgrass, 1120 Championship Way

Tim Tebow hosts this special weekend of celebrities to raise funds for the Tim Tebow Foundation's W15H program, Timmy's Playrooms, Tebow CURE Hospital, Orphan Care, Adoption Aid, Night to Shine and Team Tebow.

[timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org)

## 7th

### 3RD ANNUAL WOMEN OF VISION CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

11 a.m.-1 p.m., WJCT, 100 Festival Park Avenue

The fundraising luncheon for Girls Inc. raises awareness about girls' issues and challenges, while celebrating the achievements of the girls it serves and the women honored for their contributions.

[girlsincjax.org](http://girlsincjax.org)

## 8th

### ALICE IN WONDERLAND ABBREVIATED

11 a.m., Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Drive

Audiences will be swept away by the music and magic of ballet's most famous story, "Alice In Wonderland." Follow an exuberant, young girl as she plunges down a rabbit hole into an extraordinary, imaginative world. The ballet is filled to the brim with delightful characters brought to life with creative sets, elaborate costumes, and expressive dance. This is one-hour abbreviated performance is designed for younger audiences, schools and families.

[floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/](http://floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/)

### TOM COUGHLIN WINE TASTING GALA

6 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, corner of Bay & Laura Streets

Join Tom Coughlin for this special event and sample cuisine from top restaurants and fine wines as you bid on auction items to help raise funds for the Jay Fund.

[tcjayfund.org](http://tcjayfund.org)



Tom Myslinski, Amy Myslinski, and Tom Coughlin

## 8th-10th

### THE AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island and the Golf Club of Amelia Island

This top automobile event draws nearly 300 rare vehicles from collections world-wide to the Golf Club of Amelia Island and The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. Since 1996, the show has contributed millions of dollars to local charities, including Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

[ameliaconcours.org](http://ameliaconcours.org) or [communityhospice.com](http://communityhospice.com)



Ben and Paige Hakimian

## 9th

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES' BLACK & WHITE BALL

7 p.m., TIAA Bank Field, US Assure Club East, 1 TIAA Bank Field Drive

All proceeds from this elegant Gala go to benefit local families in crisis through Catholic Charities. Black tie optional.

[ccbjax.org](http://ccbjax.org)

### EQUALITY FLORIDA JACKSONVILLE GALA

7-10 p.m., 240 Talleyrand Avenue

Creative cocktail attire is encouraged for a night of "Glitz & Graffiti" to benefit Equality Florida. Enjoy full open bars, delicious hors d'oeuvres and music by The Chris Thomas Band.

[eqfl.org](http://eqfl.org)

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Jane Lanier, Nancy Jo Duncan, Jessica Waugaman, Geretha Terrell, Debra Hodgins, Lauren Corley

## 9th-10th

### **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Drive

Audiences will be swept away by the music and magic of ballet's most famous story, "Alice In Wonderland." Follow an exuberant, young girl as she plunges down a rabbit hole into an extraordinary, imaginative world. The ballet is filled to the brim with delightful characters brought to life with creative sets, elaborate costumes, and expressive dance. [floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/](http://floridaballet.org/2018-2019-season/)

## 12th-17th

### **46TH ANNUAL THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

THE PLAYERS is one of the most anticipated tournaments on the PGA Tour and boasts the largest purse as well as the strongest field. Proceeds from THE PLAYERS benefit Northeast Florida charities and have totaled nearly \$84 million since the event moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1977. [theplayers.com](http://theplayers.com)

## 14th

### **18TH ANNUAL SHOOT FOR A CURE**

11 a.m., Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, 12125 New Berlin Road

This annual event to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation includes a round of sporting clays, lunch and festivities. Fund raised will help the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation support those with the disease so they can live full and productive lives while also funding research. [cff.org/northfl/](http://cff.org/northfl/)

## 16th

### **ST JOHNS RIVER CLEANUP DAY & CELEBRATION**

50 sites throughout Jacksonville

Join in this annual event to help keep the St. Johns River beautiful as volunteers at over 50 sites throughout Jacksonville take part in this cleanup effort which is part of the Florida Great American Cleanup. [stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

## 22nd

### **CORKS & FORKS**

7 p.m., Hilltop Club & Restaurant, 2030 Wells Road

Enjoy a delightful evening at this anticipated annual fundraiser with elegant wines and culinary delights created by the area's best chefs. Proceeds benefit St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County. [jaxhealth.com/foundation](http://jaxhealth.com/foundation)

## 27th

### **FLORIDA FORUM - TONY DUNGY**

7 p.m., Times-Union Center, 300 Water Street

Featured speaker for this night is Tony Dungy, Pro Football Hall of Fame member, former Pittsburgh Steeler, former head coach for the Indianapolis Colts and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. [womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com](http://womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com)



**Giving hearts and healing hands provide the care our community needs...for God loves a cheerful giver**

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

The generous gifts of donors are helping build our beautiful heart pavilion. These gifts are truly changing lives - supporting Ascension® care teams at St. Vincent's HealthCare as we provide compassionate, personalized care to all. And getting our patients back to the people they love.

Thank you to all those who truly live the Mission of St. Vincent's HealthCare.



**JNKCF GOLF TOURNAMENT**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Atlantic Beach Country Club,  
1600 Selva Marina Drive

The Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation is hosting an Open Event to raise awareness of Kidney Cancer and funding financial aid grants for survivors of Kidney Cancer.

[jnfkidneycancer.org](http://jnfkidneycancer.org)

**28<sup>th</sup>****33RD ANNUAL CELEBRITY CHEFS TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION**

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

This annual spring event is a major fundraiser for the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. Guests are treated to local celebrities serving up their favorite recipes at several dining stations, a silent auction and a free cookbook of the featured recipes.

[salvationarmynefl.org](http://salvationarmynefl.org)

**30<sup>th</sup>****7TH ANNUAL KILWINS ICE CREAM RUN**

8 a.m., St. Johns Town Center,  
10281 Midtown Parkway

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and timed 5K race around the St. Johns Town Center Benefit for Clarke Schools for Speech and Hearing; participants rewarded at finish line with all-you-can-eat ice cream.

[clarkeschools.org](http://clarkeschools.org)

**RELAY FOR LIFE NASSAU COUNTY WEST**

10 a.m.; Nassau County Fairgrounds

Goal: \$20,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

**VISION IS PRICELESS BBQ & WESTERN**

5-9 p.m., Jacksonville Fairgrounds,  
510 Fairground Place

Don't miss this countrified event that includes home cooked BBQ, silent and live auctions plus, live entertainment – all to benefit Vision Is Priceless.

[visionispriceless.org](http://visionispriceless.org)

**WALK TO DEFEAT ALS**

8:30 a.m. check-in; Seven Bridges/Tinseltown;  
9735 Gate Pkwy N.

Participation in the Walk to Defeat ALS has a direct impact on people living with ALS and their families at the local level. This year's goal: \$380,000.

[webfl.alsa.org](http://webfl.alsa.org)

**TBD****8TH ANNUAL GOLF FORE HOMES**

The charity golf scramble benefits Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville (Habijax) and helps them fulfill their mission and goals in the year ahead.

[habijax.org](http://habijax.org)

**13TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARDS GALA**

Episcopal Children's Services honors community members, organizations and business who support early childhood education.

[ecs4kids.org](http://ecs4kids.org)

**BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**

Support the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida and enjoy cosmic bowling, raffles, contests, food and drinks.

[bbbsnefl.org](http://bbbsnefl.org)

**FURYK & FRIENDS CONCERT AND CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC**

The 9th annual two-day event offers two back-to-back events kicking off with a concert on a Sunday evening and following up with a round of golf on a Monday.

[jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com](http://jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com)

**HAVEN ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Get ready to tee off for this spectacular golfing event at the beautiful Fleming Island Golf Club to support Haven.

[beyourhaven.org](http://beyourhaven.org)

**MASTERS OF DISASTERS GOLF INVITATIONAL**

Support the Red Cross at an event that includes lunch, shotgun start, silent auction, dinner, awards and prizes.

[redcross.org/local/florida](http://redcross.org/local/florida)

**MUTT MARCH**

Pet walk and festival brings together thousands of animal lovers and their pets to raise funds for the Jacksonville Humane Society.

[jaxhumane.org](http://jaxhumane.org)

**STAND UP & STRIDE**


Hubbard House's Awareness Run/Walk is a fun, family-friendly event to raise awareness about domestic violence.

[hubbardhouse.org](http://hubbardhouse.org)

**WALK THE TALK FOR EPILEPSY**

Signature event raises funds for the Epilepsy Foundation who helps those facing the challenges of living with epilepsy.

[efof.org](http://efof.org)



**Ante Up for AUTISM Gala**

Join us for an evening of Vegas-style fun benefiting the



*A night out has never been more rewarding.*

JSA board members, staff, parents and friends invite you to an evening of dining, dancing, gaming and auctions celebrating JSA's achievements over the past decade. Proceeds from the event will ensure the school's ability to serve the numerous and growing needs of the autism community for years to come.



1 in 50 children will be diagnosed with Autism

We are racing against the odds everyday

**15th Anniversary Gala & Golf Classic at Deerwood Country Club**

Gala  
Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 6:30pm

Golf Classic  
Monday, April 8, 2019 at 9:00 am

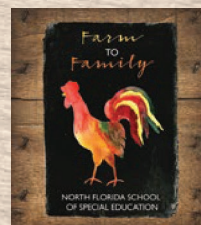
[www.JSAKIDS.org](http://www.JSAKIDS.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**

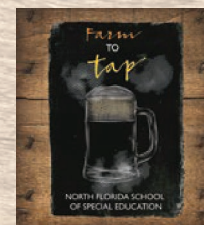
**APRIL 5, 6 & 7, 2019  
NFSSE Campus**

The Berry Good Farms Festival dishes up a culinary weekend filled with live music and entertainment, delicious fare prepared by Jacksonville's trend-setting chefs, craft beer from local breweries, and an al fresco dinner paired with wine. The inaugural three-day fundraising event is the

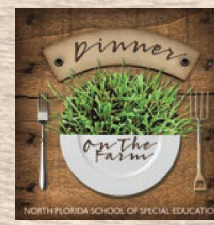
school's innovative collective effort to support the programs of the North Florida School of Special Education by celebrating the spirit of community with the power of food.



**Farm to Family**  
Fri., April 5, 2019  
4 to 8 p.m.



**Farm to Tap**  
Sat., April 6, 2019  
4 to 8 p.m.



**Dinner on the Farm**  
Sunday, April 7, 2019  
4 to 8 p.m.

Interested in sponsorship opportunities and tickets, please contact Jessica Vaugaman, Director of Advancement at 904.724.8323 ext.222 or [jvaugaman@northfloridaschool.org](mailto:jvaugaman@northfloridaschool.org)



# April 2019



Marisa Martire with Heather Moore



Fitz Pullins, Ward Lariscy and Steve Williams



Anthony Jabbour, Delores Barr Weaver, Wayne Weaver and Jim Johnson

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### 15TH ANNUAL SPRING FOR THE ARTS

**When:** April 26, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** The River Club, 1 Independent Drive

Spring for the Arts is the signature fundraiser for the Cathedral Arts Project. Generating more than \$5 million since its inception, it is one of the most visible events supporting arts education along the First Coast. This year, Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock will be honored with the Guardian of the Arts award for their work to safeguard and advance the arts along the First Coast and their commitment to unleashing the creative spirits of children in our community. Auctions, award-winning wines, gourmet food and live music by The Chris Thomas Band will be a crowd-pleaser.

Visit [capkids.org/sfta](http://capkids.org/sfta) for more information.

## 3rd

### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NORTH FLORIDA GOLF CLASSIC

Shotgun start 8:30 a.m., THE PLAYERS Championship, 100 PGA TOUR Blvd.

The JA of North Florida Golf Classic is a high-end tournament to support Junior Achievement of North Florida, which provides students with programs in financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce preparation. Treat yourself, key staff, and your clients to the TPC Course and reserve a foursome for the tournament.

[jajax.com](http://jajax.com)

## 4th

### HEROES AMONG US - TRANSFORMING TOMORROWS

5:30 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

Join Jewish Family & Community Services for cocktails, networking and dinner as event chairs Sheryl and Todd Johnson host a presentation on mental health.

[jfcjsjax.org](http://jfcjsjax.org)

## 5th

### GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE GALA

6 p.m., TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, 110 Championship Way

Enjoy a special themed evening with music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live and silent auctions to benefit Gabriel House.

[gabrielhouseofcare.org](http://gabrielhouseofcare.org)



Sarah Brown with Monica Jacoby and Kathryn Peyton

### SUBARU BASCA GOLF CLASSIC

1 p.m., Eagle Harbor Golf Course, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy.

Premier annual fundraiser for Building Abilities of Special Children & Adults (BASCA) to fund items for BASCA programs and services. Sponsored by Subaru of Jacksonville, which will have a Hole-in-One contest for a brand-new Subaru.

[bascainc.org](http://bascainc.org)

## 5th-7th

### BERRY GOOD FARMS WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Farm to Family, April 5, 4-8 p.m., 223 Mill Creek Road

Hosted by Black Sheep Restaurant Group, featuring games, live entertainment, dancing, petting zoo, homemade barbecue, fish fry, and so much more.

Farm to Tap, April 6, 4-8 p.m., 223 Mill Creek Road

Hosted by Top Chef Kenny Gilbert, Executive Chef and Owner of Gilbert's Underground Kitchen, Gilbert's Social, Gilbert's Southern Kitchen & Bar, & Gilbert's Hot Chicken Fish + Shrimp, along with the area's top chefs and breweries, the event will also feature some of Jacksonville's most notable musicians, as well as regional and national acts.

Dinner on the Farm, April 7, beginning at 4 p.m., 223 Mill Creek Road

Hosted by Berry Good Farms Chef, Brett Swearingen, along with Matthew Medure, Executive Chef and Owner of Medure, Rue St. Marc, Matthew's and M Shack. A delicious dinner will be served by North Florida School of Special Education Transition and Post-graduate students who participate in the culinary arts program. The evening also features the beautiful works of art created by Transition and post-graduate students in painting, sculpture and mosaics.

[northfloridaschool.org](http://northfloridaschool.org)



6<sup>th</sup>**12TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE**

Time TBD, Prime Osborn Convention Center,  
1000 Water Street

Dads and daughters are sure to have a special time together at this fundraiser for Girls Inc. of Jacksonville. The dance will feature a fun photo booth and a candy station.

[girlsincjax.org](http://girlsincjax.org)

**ANTE UP FORE AUTISM GALA**

6 p.m., Deerwood Country Club,  
10239 Golf Club Drive

The Ante up for Autism gala will be a Vegas-themed event complete with gaming, showgirls, dancing and a private VIP lounge area, with proceeds benefiting the Jacksonville School for Autism, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

[jsakids.org](http://jsakids.org)

**BLOOMS GALORE & MORE PLANT SALE**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville,  
1005 Riverside Avenue

Annual plant sale and festival gives shoppers the opportunity to purchase at exception prices plants grown by Garden Club members.

[gardenclubofjacksonville.org](http://gardenclubofjacksonville.org)

**CUPCAKE RUN & CAKE WALK**

8 a.m., St. Johns Town Center,  
10281 Midtown Parkway

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk and timed 5K race around the St. Johns Town Center, to benefit Girls On The Run. Costume contest and prizes.

[gotrnefl.org](http://gotrnefl.org)

**GREENSCAPE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Treaty Oak Park/Jessie Ball duPont Park, 1207 Prudential Drive

The celebration includes a tree giveaway, first-come, first-served; mixed species in 3-gallon containers include Bald Cypress, Live Oak, American Elm, Dahoon Holly and Red Bud

[greenscapeofjacksonville.com](http://greenscapeofjacksonville.com)

8<sup>th</sup>**ANTE UP FORE AUTISM CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

Time TBD, Deerwood Country Club,  
10239 Golf Club Drive

This tournament brings in over \$70,000 annually with all proceeds directly benefiting the Jacksonville School for Autism to serve its students and families for the upcoming school year.

[jsakids.org](http://jsakids.org)

**24TH ANNUAL EXZOOBERATION**

6 p.m., Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens,  
370 Zoo Parkway

Annual evening fundraiser to benefit the zoo and gardens, raising funds for the care and feeding of the animals and plants, educational programs and conservation projects.

[jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org)



Christine McFadden, Andrew Hambige and Laura Wheeler

11<sup>th</sup>**A CAPTIVATING CAPER: MYSTERY DINNER PARTY**

6-9 p.m., The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue

Take a step into a world of intrigue while experiencing The Crime of Art exhibition. Whether you come dressed as a dapper detective or a busy burglar, this festive fête is sure to delight. There will be thrilling melodies and eats, and a tantalizing case to solve. Hats, monocles, and (non-smoking) pipes encouraged. An evening filled with so much fun it's almost criminal!

[cummuseum.org/events](http://cummuseum.org/events)



Eric Gregory, Andrew Decker, Brianna Rivas, Leslie and Jorge Barcardi and Grace Gregory

**ONEJAX 2019 HUMANITARIAN AWARDS**

5:30 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center,  
1000 Water Street

Help celebrate the people making a difference in the community who will be honored by OneJax at this special dinner.

[onejax.org](http://onejax.org)

13<sup>th</sup>**6TH ANNUAL RUN FOR PEACE 5K**

8 a.m., St. Augustine Beach Pier,  
350 A1A Beach Blvd.

Come for a family-friendly 5K and help support your local community. All proceeds will go towards helping Betty Griffin Center save the lives of domestic and sexual abuse victims in St. Johns County.

[bettygriffincenter.org](http://bettygriffincenter.org)

**BETTY GRIFFIN HOUSE RUN FOR PEACE 5K**

8 a.m., St. Augustine Beach Pier Pavilion,  
350 A1A Beach Blvd.

Event to benefit Betty Griffin House, in its 26th year providing free services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. All proceeds are used to help end domestic and sexual violence. Visit website to register.

[bettygriffinhouse.org](http://bettygriffinhouse.org)

**DAILY'S FIT-4 LIFE KIDS DUATHLON**

8 a.m., Riverside Presbyterian Day School,  
830 Oak Street

This event hosted by Riverside Presbyterian Day School, helps to teach children about living healthy and active lifestyles and features a run, bike, run duathlon for children ages five to 15.

[rpds.com](http://rpds.com)

**FIRST COAST HEART BALL**

6:30 p.m., Sawgrass Marriott Hotel,  
1000 PGA Tour Blvd.

The evening festivities will include dinner, a silent auction, an opportunity to open your heart and further support the mission of the American Heart and Stroke Association, and an exciting live auction.

**JDRF ONE WALK: WALK TO CURE DIABETES**

8 a.m., UNF Hodges Stadium, 1 UNF Drive

Lace up your walking shoes and gather a team for this fun 5K walk while you help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation fund life-changing research.

[jdrf.org/northflorida](http://jdrf.org/northflorida)

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF SOUTHEAST JACKSONVILLE**

Time & location TBD

Goal: \$47,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

In River or Ocean presents

12TH ANNUAL

**Clay Roberts Memorial**  
INSHORE SLAM FISHING TOURNAMENT

June 15, 2019

A Day of Fishing,  
Family, Food & Fun!

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13<sup>th</sup>**TAKE STEPS WALK**

10 a.m., Memorial Park, 1620 Riverside Avenue

There's nothing better than a walk along the beach on a spring morning as you help raise funds for the Crohns & Colitis Foundation.

[cctakesteps.org/Jacksonville](http://cctakesteps.org/Jacksonville)

16<sup>th</sup>**CELEBRATION 2019 LEADERSHIP JAX**

6-9 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center, 40 East Adams Street

Join Leadership Jacksonville at their annual Celebration as they honor Alberta Hipps, David Miller and Darnell Smith as outstanding community leaders. Proceeds support Leadership Jacksonville's youth programs.

[leadershipjax.org](http://leadershipjax.org)

26<sup>th</sup>**15TH ANNUAL SPRING FOR THE ARTS**

6:30 p.m., The River Club, 1 Independent Drive

Spring for the Arts is the signature fundraiser for the Cathedral Arts Project. Generating more than \$5 million since its inception, it is one of the most visible events supporting arts education along the First Coast. This year, Michael Ward & Jennifer Glock will be honored with the Guardian of the Arts award for their work to safeguard and advance the arts along the First Coast.

[capkids.org/sfta](http://capkids.org/sfta)

27<sup>th</sup>**8TH ANNUAL STRIDES FOR PRIDE 5K**

8 a.m., Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

This annual run/walk sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) helps to show support for LGBTQ young people in our community. Join the event as an individual or put together a team for the event.

[jasmyrn.org](http://jasmyrn.org)

**16TH ANNUAL NEFAR CHARITABLE BASS TOURNAMENT**

Typically held at the Palatka City Dock, the charity bass fishing tournament benefits Haven Hospice with 100 percent of all sponsorships, donations and tournament proceeds going to the organization.

[nefarcharitablefoundation.org](http://nefarcharitablefoundation.org)

**DANCING WITH THE STARS**

8 p.m., Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center

Local celebrity dancers partner with professional ballroom instructors to learn to dance, then compete for the mirror ball trophy and be named Jacksonville's favorite dancer. Benefits Jacksonville Children's Chorus.

[jaxdwts.com](http://jaxdwts.com)

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF CLAY COUNTY**

Time TBD, Town Hall Park, 2042 Park Ave., Orange Park

Goal: \$45,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTH ST JOHNS COUNTY**

Time TBD, Nease High School, 10550 Ray Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach

Goal: \$125,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF RIVERSIDE**

Time TBD, Memorial Park, 1620 Riverside Ave.

Goal: \$75,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

**SPRING TOUR OF HOMES**

April 27-28, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5

This annual spring event includes touring some of the most beautiful and historic homes in the Riverside/Avondale Historic District. The tour helps raise funds for the Riverside Avondale Preservation.

[riversideavondale.org](http://riversideavondale.org)

28<sup>th</sup>**HEAL AUTISM WALK AT THE ZOO**

7:30 a.m., Jacksonville Zoo, 370 Zoo Parkway

Join thousands of participants as they walk around the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to help the Heal Foundation assist individuals in Northeast Florida who are living with Autism.

[healautismnow.org](http://healautismnow.org)



Randy Swift, Frank And Marisa Martire, Senator Aaron and Abby Bean

29<sup>th</sup>**18TH ANNUAL KB HOME SAM KOUVARIS DREAMS COME TRUE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

9 a.m., San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Boulevard

Join Sam Kouvaris as he hosts the annual tournament to support programs and services of Dreams Come True. Lunch, shotgun start, cocktail party, live and silent auctions, awards.

[dreamscometrue.org](http://dreamscometrue.org)

30<sup>th</sup>**5TH ANNUAL MARY AWARDS**

6:30 p.m., Jacksonville Marriott Southpoint, 4670 Salisbury Road

The Mary Awards honor the courage and willingness of young women (seniors in high school) who are serving God through their faith community and serving their neighbor.

[jaxhealth.com/foundation/the-mary-awards/](http://jaxhealth.com/foundation/the-mary-awards/)



Alana Midas

## TBD

**4TH ANNUAL DUCK RACE**

Every rubber duck purchase and donation benefits the treatment, cure, and prevention of autism. Sponsored by the HealthyUNow Foundation.

[jaxduckrace.org](http://jaxduckrace.org)

**16TH ANNUAL TASTE OF CHOCOLATE**

Support the Family Nurturing Center and enjoy chocolate delights, a silent auction, plus many fun and interesting gift baskets to bid on.

[fnccflorida.org](http://fnccflorida.org)

**29TH ANNUAL GIRL SCOUTS WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS**

Support the Girl Scouts Gateway Council as it recognizes role models for young girls by honoring women from the Northeast Florida community for their professional accomplishments.

[girlscouts-gateway.org](http://girlscouts-gateway.org)

**ACE FOR KIDS GOLF CLASSIC**

Enjoy a day of golf at the beautiful St. Johns Golf & Country Club by joining this scramble format tournament to benefit The Children's Miracle Network.

[aceforekidsgolfflclassic.com](http://aceforekidsgolfflclassic.com)

**AN EVENING OF TASTE**

This annual fundraising event benefiting the Children's Home Society is a true culinary delight with an exclusive selection of food, fine wines and elegant music.

[chsfl.org/buckner](http://chsfl.org/buckner)

**ANNUAL KYDS & JAFFI'S DREAMS COME TRUE FASHION SHOW**

Enjoy some of the latest spring fashions provided by Kyds & Jaffi's boutiques while enjoying live music, prizes, food and drinks to support a local child's dream through Dreams Come True.

[dreamscometrue.org](http://dreamscometrue.org)



**BOB SNODGRASS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

This annual tournament helps to support Greyhounds As Pets in their mission to find homes for hundreds of Greyhounds each year.  
[greyhoundpetsjax.org](http://greyhoundpetsjax.org)

**BRASS ANNUAL DINNER AND CONCERT**

The Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony (BRASS) annual Dinner and Concert is the most anticipated event of the season.  
[brassonline.org](http://brassonline.org)

**DANIEL BACKYARD BBQ CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Get ready to eat some of the best BBQ around as amateur and professional teams compete in this recipe contest to raise funds for Daniel Memorial.  
[danielkids.org](http://danielkids.org)

**GREAT UNDERWEAR CHALLENGE**

Help Captain Underpants and Princess Pantaloons raise funds to purchase socks and underwear for families served by Downtown Ecumenical Services Council.  
[descjax.org](http://descjax.org)

**JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

Have a great day of golf and lunch at the beautiful Deerwood Country Club to support the Jacksonville School for Autism.  
[jsakids.org](http://jsakids.org)

**JOSEPH A. STRASSER BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL**

This wonderful nature festival includes butterfly release, vendors and more to benefit Tree Hill Nature Center.  
[treehill.org](http://treehill.org)

**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME**

Junior Achievement's annual Hall of Fame event recognizes individuals, companies, and supporters who have substantially contributed to Junior Achievement's success since 1963.  
[jajax.com](http://jajax.com)

**KATIE RIDE FOR LIFE**

This outstanding cycling event is a nine-island coastal ride through beautiful Amelia Island which helps to support the Katie Caples Foundation's organ donor education program.  
[katiecaples.org](http://katiecaples.org)



Susan Humes and Salli Solow



Roderick Lacerna, Lashlee Morris, Sammyr Ch and Tyler Lasher Morris

**MYSTERY TRIP SUITCASE PARTY**

This unique fundraiser for the Independent Living Resource Center is a mystery fun-filled evening with a chance to win a surprise dinner destination by airplane, boat or limo.  
[theilrc.org](http://theilrc.org)

**RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNUAL HAT LUNCHEON**

This elegant luncheon features the world-class Ritz Chamber Players, and supports the Ritz Chamber Music Society as they bring appreciation of chamber music to the community through performances and educational outreach.  
[ritzchamberplayers.org](http://ritzchamberplayers.org)

**SHERIFF'S ROUND-UP BALL**

Kick up your heels at this western-themed event with great food, gaming tables, dancing and silent auctions, all to benefit the Police Athlete League of Jacksonville.  
[jaxpal.com](http://jaxpal.com)

**ST. MARK'S FESTIVE EVENING & AUCTION**

Enjoy an evening of fun, fine dining and an auction with hundreds of items to benefit St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.  
[stmarksdayschool.org](http://stmarksdayschool.org)

**SWEETHEART DADDY/ DAUGHTER DANCE**

Dads and daughters are sure to have a special time together at this fundraiser for Girls Inc. of Jacksonville at an elegant and fun-filled evening.  
[girlsincjax.org](http://girlsincjax.org)

**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

An exciting night to benefit volunteer recruitment and training for the Guardian ad Litem program.  
[galfirstcoast.org](http://galfirstcoast.org)

**WALK TO DEFEAT ALS - JACKSONVILLE**

Gather some team mates and take a two-mile walk to bring hope to those living with ALS.  
[walktodefeatal.org](http://walktodefeatal.org)

**WALK MS JACKSONVILLE**

This annual fundraising event brings the community together for a day of fun outdoors to help those living with MS and work toward ending MS.  
[walkms.org](http://walkms.org)



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Rated #1 in the state of Florida by **U.S. News & World Report**, River Garden delivers the highest quality care with the greatest attention to every detail. We are sincerely grateful to our donors for their financial support. Your caring enables us to do what we do today and will help make us even better in the future.



  
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# May 2019

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### GREENSCAPE ROOT BALL

**When:** May 4, 6-11 p.m.

**Where:** Bowing Oaks Plantation, 7743 Alphons Street

Derby Evening Under the Oaks will be a fun-filled evening to support Greenscape and celebrate the Kentucky Derby. Wear your most fun Derby attire – don't forget the bonnet! – and enjoy a bourbon tasting, Derby fare and music at this highly-anticipated annual event.

Visit [greenscapeofjacksonville.com](http://greenscapeofjacksonville.com) for more information.



Jennifer King and Doris Leach  
with Twane Duckworth and Ron King



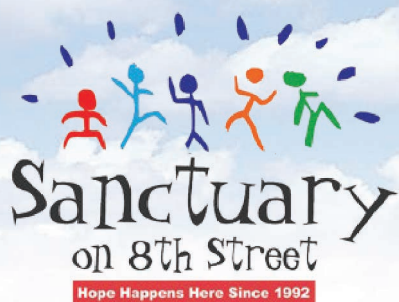
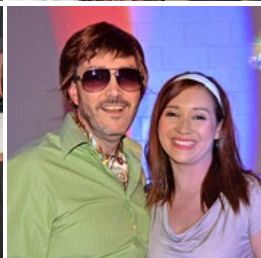
Laura Byres with Chad and Andrea Shaw



Julia and John Taylor with Peggy Bryan



Lisa Rinnan with Maureen Mickler and Susan Caven



Since 1992, the Sanctuary on 8th Street has encouraged and empowered Springfield's youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs. Our after school and summer camp programs expand opportunities for children through education, social services, recreation and the arts.

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[Sanctuaryon8th.org](http://Sanctuaryon8th.org) ~ [info@Sanctuaryon8th.org](mailto:info@Sanctuaryon8th.org) ~ [facebook.com/sanctuaryon8thstreet](https://facebook.com/sanctuaryon8thstreet)





# 1<sup>st</sup>

## 23RD ANNUAL RIVER GARDEN GOLF CLASSIC

May 1, 10 a.m., Deerwood Country Club, 10239 Golf Club Drive

The Annual River Garden Golf Classic raises funds to benefit The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center at River Garden. The Training Center provides continuing education, training and professional advancement for staff. [rivergarden.org](http://rivergarden.org)

# 2<sup>nd</sup>

## RISING STARS

6-9 p.m., The Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St.

The Communities in Schools event includes a cocktail hour, silent auction and student talent show, with a local celebrity emcee and a student emcee, where students of all ages perform. The event helps continue dropout prevention programs in 37 Duval County Public Schools and helps over 7,500 at-risk students. [cisjax.org/rising-stars/](http://cisjax.org/rising-stars/)

# 4<sup>th</sup>

## 4TH ANNUAL JOCKEYS AND JULEPS

3-7 p.m., Location TBD, 4840 Big Island Drive

This fun event offers participants a chance to enjoy a fun Derby Day party to benefit the Junior League of Jacksonville. Enjoy your favorite signature Derby cocktails, Derby-inspired appetizers, a big hat and bowtie competition with \$350 in prizes, live music, raffle prizes and a whiskey tasting! [jljacksonville.org](http://jljacksonville.org)

## 7TH ANNUAL DERBY RUN

4-8 p.m., Tringali Barn, 7310 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine

The spirit of the South's swankiest affair visits St. Augustine for the 7th Annual Derby Run, a festive party and live screening of the Run for the Roses that benefits Community Hospice & Palliative Care support in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. [derbyrun.communityhospice.com](http://derbyrun.communityhospice.com)



Catherine and Paul Schaefer

## GREENSCAPE ROOT BALL

6-11 p.m., Bowing Oaks Plantation, 7743 Alphons Street

Derby Evening Under the Oaks will be a fun-filled evening to support Greenscape. Wear Derby attire and enjoy a bourbon tasting, Derby fare and music at this highly anticipated annual event. [greenscapeofjacksonville.com](http://greenscapeofjacksonville.com)

## RELAY FOR LIFE OF SAN MARCO SAN JOSE

Time TBD, The Bolles School, 7400 San Jose Blvd.

Goal: \$100,000

[relay.ascevents.org](http://relay.ascevents.org)

# 5<sup>th</sup>

## 8TH ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL

11:30 a.m., Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Boulevard

This annual event is the largest fundraiser for Congregation Ahavath Chesed Temple and features over 20 different restaurants and caterers providing authentic Jewish food such as brisket sliders, matzah ball soup, latkas, kugel bagels, lox and more. [thetemplejacksonville.org](http://thetemplejacksonville.org)

# 10<sup>th</sup>

## CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE

Exhibition through June 7, Jacksonville University Alexander Brest Gallery, 2800 University Blvd. N

The Visual Arts Showcase is the highlight of the year for CAP's visual arts students, teachers and families. The exhibition includes original individual and collaborative student artwork in a variety of media. The opening reception May 9, 6-8 p.m., is free and open to the public. [capkids.org/showcase](http://capkids.org/showcase)

# 14<sup>th</sup>

## RIVER GARDEN AUXILIARY ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Time TBD; Jacksonville Marriott, 4670 Salisbury Road

Denim Daze is the theme for this annual luncheon to support the River Garden Foundation in their work to subsidize the immediate needs of the people who call River Garden their home. The event will include a country-style lunch, a comedian, flea market/flea market flip and a raffle. [rivergarden.org](http://rivergarden.org)

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Inspiring students to be their best with the region's most balanced and enriching college prep experience.

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Project Bravo Zulu reward recipients receive 1% of the sales price gift when you purchase a new home, as well as a 1% cash gift of the sales price when you sell your home!





Audrey C. Moran with Holly Tyrrell

## 17<sup>th</sup>

### GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON

10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Florida Blue Conference Center, 4800 Deerwood Campus Parkway

Join in the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women national initiative at this local event and help fight heart disease.

[firstcoastgored.heart.org](http://firstcoastgored.heart.org)

## 16<sup>th</sup>

### GIRLFRIEND CONNECTION

6 p.m., Location TBD

Grab your friends for this annual fun and informative event. Past speakers have included philanthropists, entrepreneurs and entertainers.

[jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)

## 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

### 30TH WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BASS TOURNAMENT

7 a.m.-3 p.m., Palatka City Docks, South 3rd Street

Enjoy some of the best Bass fishing around at this second largest tournament in the U.S. Funds raised support Wolfson Children's Hospital.

[foundation.baptistjax.com/basstournament](http://foundation.baptistjax.com/basstournament)

## 18<sup>th</sup>

### FINFEST: ROLLING ON THE RIVER

6 p.m., Timuquana Country Club, 4028 Timuquana Road

The annual themed event is filled with music, dancing and an auction. Proceeds benefit the Jacksonville Speech & Learning Center which provides therapy for all ages, children through adults, regardless of ability to pay.

[shcjax.org](http://shcjax.org)



Nanette and Dr. David McInnis with Dr. Amy and Dr. John Waidner

### MCGALA

6-9 p.m., Sawgrass Marriott, 1000 PGA Tour Boulevard

This annual gala brings guests together for a night of dinner, an incredible silent auction and plenty of dancing - all to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

[rmhcjacksonville.org](http://rmhcjacksonville.org)

## 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

### 24TH ANNUAL JAY FUND ANNUAL CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

This annual golf classic brings out a line-up of both national and local sports celebrities to support the Jay Fund. The tournament includes dinner at the elegant TPC Sawgrass clubhouse with a live and silent auction.

[tcjayfund.org](http://tcjayfund.org)



Tom Coughlin and Dan Hicken

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**He doesn't have a choice.**

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In Northeast Florida, the heartbreaking reality is that **more than 81,000 kids** will go to bed tonight without dinner.

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Jacksonville Jaguars Keelan Cole and Tommy Bohannon with Steve and Curry Pajcic, Jaguars Rashad Green and Josh Lambo

## TBD

### 4TH ANNUAL OPEN SWING FORE MENTAL HEALTH

Golf tournament includes breakfast, silent auction, putting contest, shotgun start, lunch buffet, raffle and awards to support the Child Guidance Center

[childguidancecenter.org](http://childguidancecenter.org)

### 5TH ANNUAL HUG A SURVIVOR FESTIVAL

Hug a survivor is a celebration of all cancer survivors and benefit the First Coast Cancer Foundation.

[hugasurvivor.com](http://hugasurvivor.com)

### 20TH ANNUAL BUILDERS CLASSIC

Help build hope and homes in the Jacksonville Beaches communities by sponsoring or participating in Builders Class 2019. Event includes golf, dinner and awards.

[beacheshabitat.org](http://beacheshabitat.org)

### 43RD ANNUAL ARTS AWARDS GALA

Join the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville to honor artists and businesses who have helped enhance art and culture in the Jacksonville community.

[culturalcouncil.org](http://culturalcouncil.org)

### A NIGHT AT ROY'S

This annual, Hawaiian-themed luau supports the Monique Burr Foundation.

[moniqueburrfoundation.org](http://moniqueburrfoundation.org)

### BEER FOR LIFE

A cold brew, live music, food, and an amazing silent auction supports the work of Emergency Pregnancy Services.

[emergencypregnancyservices.org](http://emergencypregnancyservices.org)

### FLORIDA THEATRE GALA

The annual gala fundraiser to support the Florida Theatre, Jacksonville's most beautiful and historic theatre, has been called "the event of the year."

[floridatheatre.com](http://floridatheatre.com)

### GREAT STRIDES 5K WALK

Help raise funds to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. This family friendly event includes activities for children, food and entertainment.

[cff.org/northfl/](http://cff.org/northfl/)

### JOURNEY 2 KINDNESS SUITCASE PARTY

Join American Civility for the music and fun prizes, help eliminate bullying and violence from area school campuses, and honor the 2019 Kindness Hero of the Year.

[americancivility.org](http://americancivility.org)



Amy Barnett, Gary Dickinson, Rory Diamond, Assistant Chief Greg Burton

### LITTLE BIG RUN 5K

A little run for a big cause supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida.

[bbbsnefl.org](http://bbbsnefl.org)

### MIRACLE ON ASHLEY STREET CELEBRITY WAITERS & SERVERS

Nearly 100 local celebrities come together to wait on tables at this annual event with all proceeds going to the Clara White Mission's programs for the homeless.

[clarawhitemission.org](http://clarawhitemission.org)

### PAJCIC & PAJCIC YARD COURSE & BACK 9

An afternoon of yard golf at two locations, all prizes, registration fees, hole sponsorships and donations are matched by Pajcic & Pajcic to benefit Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

[jaxlegalaid.org](http://jaxlegalaid.org)

### RGENEROSITY

An engaging evening for young professionals to network and be inspired by philanthropists from the local Jewish community.

[jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org)

## the WRITE TOUCH SAN MARCO SQUARE

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# June, July, August 2019

JUNE 2019

## 6<sup>th</sup>

### 14TH ANNUAL TASTE OF GOLF

6:30-10 p.m., TPC Sawgrass,  
110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach

Pamper yourself with an evening of magnificent culinary creations and fine wines to benefit The First Tee of North Florida. Chefs from the area's finest golf and country clubs will be preparing a delicious feast to be enjoyed in a beautiful setting.

[tasteofgolf.com](http://tasteofgolf.com)

## 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

### 9TH ANNUAL SERVING UP A CURE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

8 a.m., Deerwood Country Club,  
10239 Golf Club Drive

Grab your racket and join in this weekend-long tournament to raise funds for Gabriel House of Care, an extended-stay hospitality house for cancer and organ transplant patients who are receiving medical care away from home.

[servingupacure.com](http://servingupacure.com)

## 8<sup>th</sup>

### BOURBON, BEER & BARBEQUE

7-10 p.m., TIAA Bank Stadium,  
US Assure Club East, 1 TIAA Bank Field Drive

Enjoy premium cocktails, beer and wine, and signature BBQ dishes from top restaurants, live entertainment, live and silent auctions, and gaming tables to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

[bgcnf.org/events](http://bgcnf.org/events)

## 13<sup>th</sup>

### SOIRÉE BOHÈME: A FRENCH DINNER PARTY

6-9 p.m., The Cummer Museum of Art &  
Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue

Travel back to the decadent cafes of France, when the can-can was unconventional and the parties extravagant. Gather like the artists of the cabaret, Le Chat Noir, to enjoy music as lively as the conversation and cuisine as "haute" as the fashion. Dress is anything that is très chic and brings you closer to the world of French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950. Your presence this evening not only gives the Museum a certain "je ne sais quoi," but you'll have access to an exclusive first look of this new exhibition.

[cummuseum.org/events](http://cummuseum.org/events)

## 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

### 3RD ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR HOPE CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

Time TBD, TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

Join the Funk-Zitiello Foundation as they host this two-day event at the beautiful TPC Sawgrass. Proceeds from the tournament and welcome gala will benefit the J.T. Townsend Foundation and pancreatic research with the Mayo Clinic.

[championsforhopegolf.com](http://championsforhopegolf.com)

## 15<sup>th</sup>

### 12TH ANNUAL CLAY ROBERTS MEMORIAL INSHORE SLAM AND JUNIOR ANGLER TOURNAMENT

Time & Location TBD

Proceeds benefit the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship awarded to a graduating senior. The tournament brings families and friends together on the water and promotes appreciation of our natural waterways. Enjoy a day of fishing, food and music.

[fishwithclay.com](http://fishwithclay.com) or [inriverocean.org](http://inriverocean.org)



Jenny and Troy Smith with Alicia Booth Sprecher and Dr. Bob Sprecher



Patricia and Dr. Gary Josephson with Bernie and Abby Rice

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# 7TH ANNUAL NEMOURS EVENING OF PROMISE

**When:** August 23, 7 p.m.

This signature fundraising event for Nemours Children's Specialty Care helps raise funds for NCSC to continue pediatric patient care. The evening features live music, great food and entertainment.

Visit [nemours.org/eveningofpromise](http://nemours.org/eveningofpromise) for more information.



Chuck and  
Shirley Hansen



18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**14TH ANNUAL HEAL SURF CAMP**

8:30-11:30 a.m., Atlantic Blvd., Neptune Beach

Soft surf boards, boogie boards, sea kayaks, and SUP boards will be provided for use to the participants, 25 maximum.

[healautismnow.org](http://healautismnow.org)

## TBD

**BLAKE BORTLES FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The annual celebrity golf tournament helps change lives through the local organizations supported by the foundation.

[blakebortlesfoundation.com](http://blakebortlesfoundation.com)

**BRIDGES TO JUSTICE**

Fundraising reception for Bridges to Justice for Children's Health, sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid in support of the Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership.

[jaxlegalaid.org](http://jaxlegalaid.org)

AUGUST 2019

10<sup>th</sup>**IOA/JAGUARS 5K STADIUM CHALLENGE**

6 p.m., TIAA Bank Field, 1 TIAA Bank Field Drive

The IOA/Jaguars 5K Stadium Challenge remains at the top of the list as one of the most unique 5K runs in Jacksonville. Run under the lights, up and down stadium ramps, around the practice field and finish on the field with family and friends cheering you on in the stadium bowl. Register at [1stplacesports.com](http://1stplacesports.com). *Date subject to change.*

22<sup>nd</sup>**BLUES BREWS & BBQ**

August 22, 6 p.m. Florida Theatre, 128 E Forsyth Street

The best barbecue, craft beers and live entertainment in town all at Jacksonville's most beautiful and historic theatre. Proceeds from the event will go to the Florida Theatre.

[floridatheatre.com](http://floridatheatre.com)



Missy Peters and  
Troy Spurling

23<sup>rd</sup>**EVENING OF PROMISE**

7 p.m., Location TBD

This signature fundraising event for Nemours Children's Specialty Care helps raise funds for NCSC to continue pediatric patient care. The evening features live music, great food and entertainment.

[nemours.org/eveningofpromise](http://nemours.org/eveningofpromise)

25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**CHAMPIONSHIP GALA & GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Gala, 5:30 p.m., River House, 179 Marine Street, St. Augustine  
Tournament, 8:30 a.m., Slammer & Squire Golf Course, 2 World Golf Place

This two-day event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the St. Johns County Council On Aging where guests enjoy a gala with delicious food, music and dancing and a day of golf the next day. Proceeds help the COA provide programs and services for seniors in St. Johns County.

[coasjc.com](http://coasjc.com)

28<sup>th</sup>**JAGUARS BACK TO FOOTBALL LUNCHEON**

11:30 a.m., TIAA Bank Field, 1 TIAA Bank Field

The Jaguars Back to Football Luncheon is a fan favorite as the entire Jaguars team comes together in celebration of our corporate partnerships and to kick off the football season. Fans get the chance to interact with players at their table and get insight into the season from the panel of coaches. Contact Chris Sutton at [suttonc@nfljaguars.com](mailto:suttonc@nfljaguars.com) to reserve a table. *Date subject to change.*

## TBD

**BEAM OF LIGHT BEACH BALL**

This annual event raises funds for BEAM, a local nonprofit working to help families stay in their homes and become self-sufficient.

[jaxbeam.org](http://jaxbeam.org)

**RETHREADED 8TH ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

This birthday celebration for Rethreaded is a fun community event with food, drinks, a live band and activities for kids.

[rethreaded.com](http://rethreaded.com)

**RIVER RUCKUS**

Come raise a ruckus for the St. Johns River at this family festival which celebrates our beautiful river.

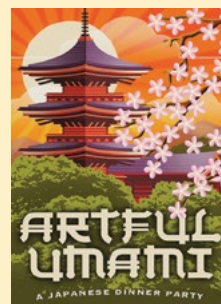
[stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

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THU 4-11-19



THU 6-13-19

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[CUMMERMUSEUM.ORG/DINNERPARTY](http://CUMMERMUSEUM.ORG/DINNERPARTY).



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# 2019 September, October

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### 20TH ANNUAL ROBERT J. BECKHAM EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS

**When:** September 18, 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 E. Coastline Drive

Join Jacksonville Area Legal Aid as the legal community spends an evening honoring individuals and companies who have worked to advance the cause of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid through volunteer service. Keynote speaker will be Matthew Desmond, author and Princeton University professor.

Visit [jaxlegalaid.org](http://jaxlegalaid.org) for more information.



*Dr. Jim and Jill Campbell with The Honorable Steven Fahlgren, Katherine and The Honorable Hugh A. Carithers*

SEPTEMBER 2019

## 16<sup>th</sup>

### 8TH ANNUAL GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Time TBD, Marsh Landing Country Club,  
25655 Marsh Landing Parkway

Grab your golf clubs and head out for a day of golf to benefit Gabriel House. Participants will enjoy lunch on the Veranda, a shotgun start, an awards dinner and prizes.

[gabrielhouseofcare.org](http://gabrielhouseofcare.org)

## 18<sup>th</sup>

### 20TH ANNUAL ROBERT J. BECKHAM EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS

5:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 Coastline Drive

Join Jacksonville Area Legal Aid as they spend an evening honoring an individual who has worked to advance the work of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid through volunteer service.

Keynote speaker will be Matthew Desmond, author and Princeton University professor.

[jaxlegalaid.org](http://jaxlegalaid.org)

## 20<sup>th</sup>

### SHINDIG FOR THE SANCTUARY

6-9 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville,  
1005 Riverside Avenue

Enjoy a catered dinner and check out some beautiful handcrafted items on sale to raise funds for the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

[sanctuaryon8th.org](http://sanctuaryon8th.org)

## 21<sup>st</sup>

### 4TH ANNUAL DRIVING FOR DREAMS

8 a.m., Autobahn Indoor Speedway,  
6601 Executive Park Court N.

Free car show. Enter your car in the show (judged by Dreams Come True Dreamers) or stop by with the family and check out various brand of automobiles. Get your need for speed by hopping into Autobahn Indoor Speedway for electric go-kart racing or take a seat in the simulators. This is a perfect event for the whole family and any auto enthusiast.

[dreamscometrue.org](http://dreamscometrue.org)





## 28<sup>th</sup>

### DREAMS COME TRUE 5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN

8:30 a.m., Baseball Ground of Jacksonville,  
301 A Philip Randolph Blvd.

Put together a team and come out to support Dreams Come True. Last year nearly 1,500 participants in 70 teams raised more than \$250,000.

[dreamscometrue.org](http://dreamscometrue.org)

## TBD

### 8TH ANNUAL MORNING STAR SCHOOL GALA & AUCTION

A night of hors d'oeuvres, dancing, cocktails and an auction supports Morning Star School as they provide children with learning disabilities an opportunity to learn in a caring and loving environment.

[morningstar-jax.org](http://morningstar-jax.org)

### COWFORD BALL

A one-of-a-kind evening, featuring great food, dancing, a spectacular auction, and much more to support the American Cancer Society.

[cowfordball.org](http://cowfordball.org)

### DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Annual dragon boat race is a fundraiser for In the Pink, a nonprofit serving men, women and children with all types of cancer.

[jacksonvilledragonboatfestival.com](http://jacksonvilledragonboatfestival.com)

### STRUT YOUR MUTT

Bring out your four-legged best friend to this dog-themed festival and dog walk/5K run which benefits Best Friends' local No More Homeless Pets Network partners.

[support.bestfriends.org](http://support.bestfriends.org)

### TOAST TO THE ANIMALS

The annual benefit for the Jacksonville Humane Society provides animal lovers a chance to sample some of the best cuisine the First Coast offers.

[jaxhumane.org](http://jaxhumane.org)



Peter Racine and Jaxson De Ville

OCTOBER 2019

## 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 25TH ANNUAL BARBARA ANN CAMPBELL MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

7:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency Riverfront,  
225 E. Coastline Drive

Hubbard House's signature fundraiser is held in honor of those who have died due to domestic violence, and for survivors of domestic violence, during National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Proceeds support the life-saving programs and services Hubbard House provides to more than 5,000 women, children and men each year.

[hubbardhouse.org](http://hubbardhouse.org)

## 7<sup>th</sup>

### 3RD ANNUAL CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT GOLF TOURNAMENT

11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Deerwood Country Club,  
10239 Golf Club Drive

Join CAP at the 3rd annual golf tournament to raise funds for access to arts education for all K-8 students in Duval County. Sponsorship opportunities are available. 12:30 shotgun start, awards ceremony follows.

[capkids.org/golf](http://capkids.org/golf)

## 19<sup>th</sup>

### 15TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN DOORS & MORE

2 - 7 p.m., Jacksonville Fairgrounds,  
510 Fairgrounds Place

Halloween Doors & More is magical event packed full of activities and attractions for children and parents alike... a gala of a different sort. This spectacular event benefits Community PedsCare, the pediatric program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care for children with life-threatening conditions.

[hdm.communityhospice.com](http://hdm.communityhospice.com)

## 28<sup>th</sup>

### ANGELWOOD GOLF CLASSIC

Jacksonville Golf & Country Club.  
Visit website for details.

One of the best annual golf tournaments around in support of Angelwood's Programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Lunch, prizes and awards.

[angelwoodjax.org](http://angelwoodjax.org)



Greg Bowen, Lorrie Reynolds,  
Christina Bobango,  
Jessica Bobango and  
Loryn Matous;  
back: Felicia Bowen,  
Kim Kowal,  
Leah Wyborny,  
Brittany Alltop,  
Stephanie Perry  
and  
Christy Hilpert

## TBD

### 9TH ANNUAL BRIDGING THE GAPS GALA

Celebrate the life-changing work of Hart Felt Ministries for senior citizens in our community at Hart Felt Ministries' Annual Charity Gala.

[hartfelt.org](http://hartfelt.org)

### 17TH ANNUAL BUDDY WALK

Form a team for this great fundraising work to support the Downs Syndrome Association of Jacksonville.

[dsaj.org](http://dsaj.org)

### A NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Come in your favorite literary character costume or cocktail attire to help raise funds for Learn To Read.

[learntoreadjax.org](http://learntoreadjax.org)

### DAILY'S THE TRADITION GOLF TOURNAMENT

This annual event, held at exclusive golf courses, supports the St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation's Mobile Outreach Ministry.

[jaxhealth.com/foundation](http://jaxhealth.com/foundation)

### FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

Live music, a bounce house, inflatable games, arts and crafts, raffles and so much more to benefit Angels For Allison, the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation.

[angelsforallison.org](http://angelsforallison.org)



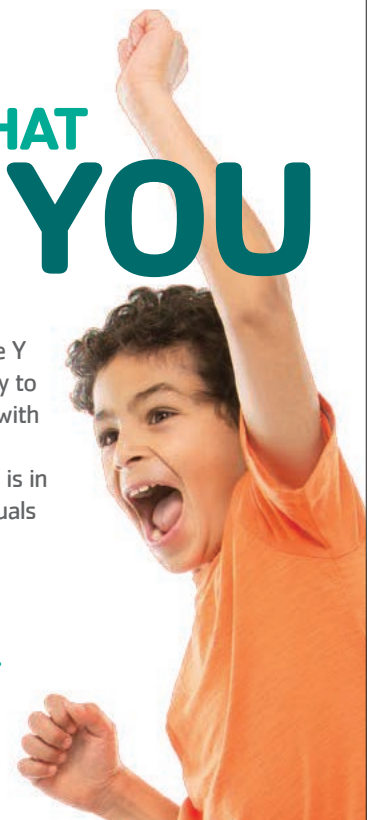
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