



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

EMPOWERING. INVESTING. INSPIRING.



Back: Susie McCurry, Kathryn Woods, Kimberly Leach Johnson **Middle:** Susan Reed Benson, Penny Allyn, Dusti Beaubien **Front:** Kathleen Peck, Mary Beth Crawford, Diana Riley, Kathy Feinstein

They are community leaders with distinctive, inspirational styles, and their achievements are celebrated each spring by the Women's Foundation of Collier County when it honors 10 local women making a difference through philanthropy and civic engagement as Women of Initiative.

The 2017 honorees are: Penny Allyn, Dusti Beaubien, Susan Reed Benson, Mary Beth Crawford, Kathy Feinstein, Kimberly Leach Johnson, Susie McCurry, Kathleen Peck, Diana Riley, and Kathryn Woods. Through their innovation, energy, and dedication of time and talent, these remarkable women have helped change the face of our community.

These unique and philanthropic women were recognized during the annual Women of Initiative Luncheon on Friday, March 31, at The Ritz-Carlton Naples Beach Resort. Videos featuring each honoree were shown at the event where the women answered the question, What woman, past or present, would you like to have lunch with and why? Their touching and thought-provoking answers to these questions demonstrated just why they were chosen for the 2017 Women of Initiative. Net proceeds from this event help meet the needs of at-risk women and girls in our community through grants from the Women's Foundation of Collier County. Since 1998, the Women's Foundation has honored nearly 200 women.

WFCC Mission

To serve the current and changing needs of women and girls in Collier County through grantmaking.

You can be part of the solution!

The goal of the Women's Foundation of Collier County is to create an endowment that will generate enough ongoing funding support to meet expanding needs. A \$5 million endowment will result in \$250,000 in grantmaking each year, in perpetuity. There are many ways to help including mentoring, serving on a committee or financial or estate contributions, Find out how: wfcollier.org or 239.649.5000.

Women's Foundation
of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 200
Naples, FL 34108
239.649.5000 | www.wfcollier.org



ANN CURRY TO SPEAK AT 2017 POWER OF THE PURSE

The Women’s Foundation of Collier County is excited to announce that the Keynote Speaker for the 2017 Power of the Purse will be Ann Curry, an award-winning journalist and photojournalist, a former NBC News Network anchor and international correspondent. She has also reported humanitarian disasters, including the tsunamis in Japan and Southeast Asia, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where her appeal via Twitter helped speed the arrival of humanitarian planes. She is also the force behind groundbreaking prime time hours on Climate Change, poverty in America and Iran.

Headliner Awards. The NAACP has honored her with an Excellence in Reporting award. Women in Communications has awarded her a Matrix. Ann has also been given numerous humanitarian awards, including from Refugees International, Americares, Save the Children, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which awarded her a Medal of Valor, for her dedication to reporting about genocide.

The Women’s Foundation is honored to have a speaker of Ms. Curry’s extensive journalistic and storytelling experience and humanitarianism at the 2017 Power of the Purse and hope you will join us to hear her speak on women and girls issues—locally, nationally and worldwide.

**Save the date for the
2017 Power of the Purse**
Friday, Dec 1 - 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
at the Naples Grande Beach Resort

Ann has won 7 national news Emmys and numerous Edward R. Murrow awards, Gracie Allen Awards, National

ST. MATTHEW’S HOUSE GRANT HELPING WOMEN GET SOBER



In the fall, Samantha regained custody of her toddler and was reunified with her teenage children. Falling into addiction traced to childhood sexual trauma, she was finally able to hold down a job and buy a car while getting sober during two years of treatment. Alexandria left behind her world of gangs and drugs. Amber regained her profession and self-esteem after her spiral was sparked by prescription pain narcotics after a serious car wreck.



A growing number of women are seeking addiction treatment through the Justin’s Place Recovery Program for Women at St. Matthew’s House. When the Women’s Foundation of Collier County learned of the emerging trend, it stepped in with a \$25,000 grant to expand the program. Since the spring, the need has persisted, with a monthly waitlist of women who have hit rock bottom and are desperate to turn their lives around.

Since April, St. Matthew’s House has enrolled about three women into the program each month. When the women complete 365 days and officially graduate Justin’s Place, St. Matthew’s offers “Recovery for Life” for the next year at Wolfe Apartments to ease the transition into independent living.

There is only room for 36 women in St. Matthew’s rented facility, and placing new arrivals on a waitlist is a difficult task. “This is the hardest part about not having our own facility. When a woman suffering in her addiction finally reaches “rock bottom” and is finally ready to get help, it’s difficult to say, ‘No, not yet,’” says Justin’s Place Recovery Program for Women Supervisor Brittany Hargrove. Typically, women have lost custody of their children through the state or have turned their care over to other family members by the time they seek help. “Women are typically the caregivers in their families and try everything that they can to manage their addiction at the same time as taking care of their children. This causes chaos, pain and instability and is eventually unmanageable,” says Hargrove. “So far, every woman who has graduated Justin’s Place Recovery Program was reunited with her children.”

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Young women in the graduating high school Class of 2020 are entering into their adult lives during a historic milestone. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in the United States, which became a reality after decades of struggle until the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 26, 1920.

The women's suffrage movement laid down its roots in 1840 in London, when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention, which inspired them to organize a Women's Convention in the United States. It took place in 1848 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., where Stanton penned "The Declaration of Sentiments," setting "the agenda of women's activism for decades to come," according to the National Women's History Museum.

Women's property rights, abolition and temperance were the original hot-button issues until the Civil War diverted the nation's energies. In 1866, Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association dedicated "to the goal of suffrage for all regardless of gender or race." They vocalized their conviction with their 1868 publication of *The Revolution*, a periodical carrying the motto "Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less!"

That same year, 172 women cast ballots "in a separate box" during the presidential election, according to the women's museum, in Vineland, New Jersey, and a Kansas senator introduced the first federal woman's suffrage amendment at a time when "citizens" and "voters" were defined by the Fourteenth Amendment as male.

The long struggle was fought in territories and states. It caused societal division when the Fifteenth Amendment granting black American males the right to vote was adopted in 1870, bypassing the issue of women's rights. Several states slowly made it state law. The national tide turned in 1916, when Jeanette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to the House of Representatives and Woodrow Wilson announced that the Democratic Party platform would support universal suffrage.

“The right to vote is a very important issue. The United States of America believes in the word of the people. I want to vote because even my voice can make a difference and create changes.”

– Vayeli J. Martinez, 14

In the end, three quarters of the state legislatures ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, but it was too late for Stanton, Anthony and other vanguards on the frontlines, who were no longer alive to witness their profound triumph.

But surely they knew it would have to eventually become a reality. As Stanton once noted, "The history of the past is but one long struggle upward to equality."

JWOI STUDENTS LOOK FORWARD TO CASTING THEIR BALLOTS

The Junior Women of Initiative (JWOI) Mentoring Program, an initiative of the Women's Foundation of Collier County, was launched in 2005 to connect 13- to 17-year-old girls with strong mentors to broaden their academic, personal and social horizons.



Tasheekia Perry, JWOI Liason for the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County and America Gutierrez, JWOI Alumna

As the presidential election was unfolding in November, program mentor Tasheekia Perry talked with three program participants who will graduate in 2020. "These young ladies are involved and were prepared to vote if they were old enough," she says. "We were able to discuss the importance of one's voice and how many could influence and even change the world through being proactive and speaking out on issues that shape our world."

“I feel that women's votes would contribute to create a more fair and uniform society.”

– Shammah Tranchant, 15



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL OF A JUNIOR WOMAN OF INITIATIVE

by Jasmine Cleonor

When you're at that stage in your life — so unsure of what to stand for, eager to hold a sense of identity — a part of you longs for guidance. That is where the JWOI steps in. Every year, a group of middle school girls engage in this organization to become self-assured individuals by participating in activities and discussions. No topic is off limits. Their mentors work to strengthen the minds of youth by encouraging them to express their own views. At times, mentors feel of no use to tweens who seem capable of dealing with social challenges of adolescence. What they may not realize is that their insight means the world to girls without a mother figure.

The veterans of the JWOI are girls who have completed the year-long program. These alumni, once timid, now have bloomed into confident young ladies. To celebrate their achievement, the members traveled to 5th Avenue South on April 29th, 2016, to visit five vendors. The first stop was Starbucks, where the girls ordered drinks. At Provident Jewelers, Jarred Kaplan, owner of the store, and Eric, manager, allowed them to try on jewelry. The jewels were all precious, as one necklace worn cost more than \$1 million. Everyone in the room noticed the joy on their faces as a

tiara was placed on each of their heads. In that moment, the members felt worthy of the gems they were wearing.

The alumni then set out to experience the Emily James Art Studio. Not only is Emily James a commissioned artist, she is also a devoted mentor of the JWOI who never fails to give direction on how to accomplish a career in creative arts. Next was Giggle Moon, a children's clothing store decorated with adorable outfits and trinkets.

The special evening continued with dinner at Aqua, a restaurant on 5th Ave. The girls made sure to use the manners they learned in their program and at the end of the evening, they were surprised with Regina's Homemade Ice Cream.

The Women's Foundation of Collier County, a field-of-interest fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County, has sponsored the Junior Women of Initiative mentoring program at The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County for middle school aged girls for 10 years. These committed community women join together to inspire confidence, character and leadership in these at-risk young girls.

A decade later, the growth and impact of this program continues to inspire and connect women mentors with young women and has been significant and rewarding.

The Women's Foundation has been granting funds since 1999 to local nonprofit organizations addressing basic and long-term needs of children, teens, mothers and senior women. In just the past four years, the Women's Foundation has granted \$299,125 including grants of \$30,000 to the Junior Women of Initiative Program.

Women's Foundation of Collier County Steering Committee

Beverly Cherry, Chair

Kathleen Kapnick, Secretary

Kelly E. Capolino

Susan L. Dalton

Mariana Duncan

Christine Flynn

Myra Friedman

Beverly J. Haas

Amy Hale

Robin Hamilton

Trisha Hare

Stacey L. Herring

Elizabeth Jessee

Donna Messer

Brenda O'Connor

Linda Penniman

Jacquelyn A. Pierce

Sondra Quinn

Gwyn P. Sanford

Ann Westerfield

Denise Zutz

Eileen Connolly-Keesler,
President/CEO-CFCC

The Status of Women in Collier County

Poverty

In Collier, 12.7 percent of women aged 18 and older were living below poverty compared to 10.8 percent of the male population between 2010 and 2014, reflecting the same lopsided trends statewide and nationally. The federal poverty guideline for annual income is \$11,170 for a single adult and \$23,050 for a family of four.

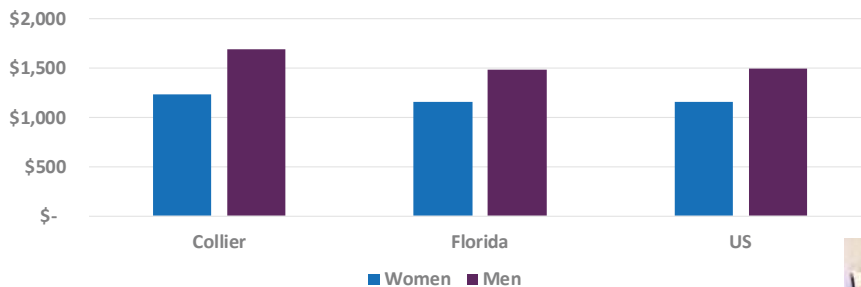
That, of course, doesn't reflect the true annual cost of living in Collier, which is \$21,783 for a single adult; and \$51,535 for a family of four. The rate of women of color in poverty is highest, which doesn't bode well in this diverse county that ranks third in the state for its population of female minorities—34.6 percent of the total female population of 169,843.



The Meals of Hope Food Pantry relieves the stress and insecurity of not knowing how or when families will receive their next meal.

Social Security

Average Monthly Social Security Benefit for Women and Men, Aged 65 and Older. Collier County Women receive \$461 less per month than men



Nearly three in five older women (29 percent) nationwide have no source of income other than Social Security. In Collier County, the average monthly benefit for female beneficiaries over the age of 65 is \$1,235. For men, it's \$1,696.

Almost a third of Collier's residents are over the age of 65, with more women (38,710) than men (34,465) in this age group.

JFCS of SWFL Senior Center is a vibrant, central place for seniors to socialize, receive services, participate in programs and receive a hot lunch.

Among all 67 Florida counties, Collier County has the largest gap between senior women's and men's average monthly Social Security benefit.

Women here receive \$461 less per month than men, despite the fact that older women are less likely to have income from assets, pensions or earnings, and are more reliant on Social Security.



**WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
OF COLLIER COUNTY**

EMPOWERING. INVESTING. INSPIRING.

1110 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 200
Naples, FL 34108
239.649.5000 | wfcollier.org

The Status of Women in Collier County



Habitat for Humanity helps make homeownership a reality for single moms & their families

Housing

In Florida, more than two in five households (41.5 percent) that are headed by single women with children are living in poverty. In Collier County, in 2015, there were twice as many female-headed households with children under the age of 18 (6,697) than male-headed households with children (3,287).

Households living precariously from paycheck to paycheck, and who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing, are constricted by their wage-earning capacity. Nearly one in three Florida households make up this population. Of the 143,000 households in Collier County, 43 percent pay more than 30 percent while 22 percent pay more than 50 percent on housing. The numbers tell the story. In Collier, a two-bedroom housing wage is \$20.04 hourly, though the average renter's wage in Florida is \$14.49. And if they're single, working for minimum wage, it's only \$8.05, requiring 2.5 full-time jobs to cover their cost of living.

In Collier County, in 2015, there were twice as many female-headed households with children under the age of 18 (6,697) than male-headed households with children (3,287).

One way to ease this economic burden is through affordable rents and housing. But Collier County is among the 25 percent of housing authorities that does not offer affordable public housing. And the waitlist can extend four or five years for federally subsidized Section 8 rentals. (There are 450 qualifying families waiting.) The waiting list for affordable senior housing is often three to five years.

Health Insurance

Collier County fares poorer than state (78.3 percent) and national averages (85.4 percent) when it comes to women covered by health insurance at only 69.6 percent. Florida, where Hispanic women have the lowest incidence of insurance, ranks 50th in the nation for women's health coverage.

Fortunately, there are quality clinics available in Collier, each using varying patient qualification criteria, scope of services, governance and funding. The Neighborhood Health Clinic provides critical medical and dental services to the working poor whose family incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty income level and have no access to insurance or federal benefits.

This year, its patient load was comprised overwhelmingly of women. Of 877 patients, 530 females made 4,632 visits, compared to 347 males who made 2,590 visits. The issues females reported that they contend with are: low-paying jobs that were insufficient for supporting their families or planning for retirement; transportation issues; and high rent expenses.



The Senior Friendship Health Center serves the female population 50-64 who are uninsured or underinsured, (working or nonworking)



**WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
OF COLLIER COUNTY**
EMPOWERING. INVESTING. INSPIRING.

1110 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 200
Naples, FL 34108
239.649.5000 | wfcollier.org