



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

EMPOWERING. INVESTING. INSPIRING.



The 2019 Women of Initiative: Linda Yost, Lynn Yaeger Davidson, Myra Friedman, Chief Stephanie Spell, Sonya Sawyer, Kathleen Flynn Fox, Susan Warren, Mary Ann Bindley, Barbara Teaford, and Pat Wheeler

Congratulations to the 2019 Women of Initiative who were honored at a luncheon on April 5 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. Ten local women leaders were honored for their leadership styles, civic engagement, and their philanthropic contributions to our community.

The Women of Initiative awards have been honoring charitable women in our community for 21 years. The event, first known as Women of Style, was started over 20 years ago by *N Magazine*. It

celebrated women of beauty and class and of course, an impeccable sense of fashion. But as the years went on, it became clear that the criteria involved for selecting the honorees should become something deeper, something more meaningful and substantial.

In 2008, as *N Magazine* was winding down, the Women's Foundation of Collier County, a fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County, took over the event and changed the honoree's selection to be based on their leadership

styles, and dedication to making a difference through philanthropy and civic engagement. These changes reflected in the new name — Women of Initiative.

Since the revamping of the event and selection process, honorees have been nominated by the public in an open call and evaluated by a committee based on the candidate's leadership skills, responsibilities and accomplishments and how they benefited the organization's volunteers, clients, and programs. The Women of Initiative event

celebrates their philanthropic achievements, both during the program and in featured videos shown that day.

Several preliminary events lead up to the big day including a Women of Initiative cocktail party, a breakfast held at and sponsored by Waterside Shops, and a fabulous photoshoot sponsored by *èBella Magazine* where the ladies are primed and pampered at a gorgeous private home. *èBella*, with a history of featuring women of substance, is the perfect medium to highlight these accomplished women. Their group

photo has graced the cover of the April issue of *èBella* for many years.

The Women of Initiative classes have formed a purposeful sisterhood, regularly meeting to discuss and act on issues facing women and girls. In 2018, the classes, led by Sue Dalton, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the event by founding the Women of Initiative Scholarship Fund which granted over \$75,000 in scholarships to local for women and girls, including nontraditional women returning to school pursue the completion of a post-secondary degree or certificate.

Many of the more than 200 women honored since 1998, including this year's group which has already formed a tight bond, display a sense of purpose that celebrates their philanthropic contributions to our community, fueled by a desire to make a difference — because giving back never goes out of style.

An earlier version of this article was printed in the April 2019 issue of èBella Magazine.

SHELLY STAYER CENTER IN IMMOKALEE

Women in the eastern reaches of Collier County who fear for their lives because of a violent partner will finally have a safe and nurturing place to go when the Shelly Stayer Shelter in Immokalee opens its doors.

This is the 43th domestic violence shelter in Florida and will have the specialized capacity to provide long-term assistance and therapeutic care to victims of human trafficking. The \$8.1 million, 21,000-square-foot building on 5.6 acres is an extension of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children. The client waiting area will be named in honor of the Women's Foundation of Collier County, which provided a \$25,000 grant toward the building and is expected to open by next summer.

The Shelly Stayer Shelter will provide 48 spaces for domestic violence survivors and eight for human trafficking—almost doubling the Naples Shelter's current capacity of 60. It's a much-needed expansion in a county where almost 1,700 domestic violence calls to 911 were made in 2017—though only about half of all victims call for help, said Shelter Executive Director Linda Oberhaus. The Shelter is consistently at maximum capacity; it provided more than 25,000 nights of shelter and transitional housing to adults and children in 2017-2018.

The need is especially great in Immokalee, a rural community with a dense population and disproportionately high rates of 911 calls. The Shelter currently provides outreach services there. "In a shelter, you have access to the family 24 hours a day. It's about providing wrap-around services—giving them the support so they can begin to think more clearly about their future, their family and their goals—and restoring anything taken away as a result of the violence. Each victim's needs are very different," Oberhaus said. Women in Immokalee "who may or may not have transportation" face a 45-minute trip into town, and typically don't want to uproot their children's lives or leave behind their own social network or job, Oberhaus said. "That's why it's important to provide these critical services where they reside. The important thing is immediacy. Domestic violence shelters save lives."



The Shelly Stayer Shelter in Immokalee architectural rendering

POWER of the PURSE

The Power of the Purse 2020 Centennial Event will be held on Friday, December 6, 2019, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples.

Join us to kick off the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote, the ratification of the 19th amendment and the women's suffrage movement.

Come early to participate in the luxury handbag drawing sponsored by Waterside Shops, sip champagne, and socialize. The program will feature a "Suffrage Roll Call" starting at noon.

This year the dynamic duo of Stacey Deffenbaugh and Allyson Richards return as event chair and vice chair, respectively. Allyson explained the significance of the luncheon. "The Power of the Purse is the signature annual fundraising event of the Women's Foundation of Collier County whose mission is to alleviate unmet needs and empower women and girls in Collier County," she said. "The Power of the Purse does more than raise funds. We are partners in change, working with a broad range of organizations to make a difference, and you see that difference in the lives affected by these grants through their personal stories. Our ability to positively affect the lives of local women and girls is what compels me to be a part of this event, and I am honored to co-chair with the fabulous Stacey Deffenbaugh."

Sponsors of The Power of the Purse are
Premier Sponsor - BMO Private Wealth Management and Luxury Handbag Sponsor - Waterside Shops.

SAVE THE DATE



POWER of the PURSE LUNCHEON 2020 CENTENNIAL EVENT

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2019

11:00AM – 1:30PM

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples



GETTING SOBER FOR A HEALTHIER START

Beating substance abuse is a grueling, costly necessity for addicts desperate for a productive future—even more so for brand-new mothers and expectant women.

Recently, the 27-year-old mother of a toddler and one-month-old infant grappling with addictions—alcohol, marijuana and opiates—arrived at the David Lawrence Center in dire need. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) had removed her children from her care. She underwent detox and stayed in the center's Crossroads Residential Treatment Program for 28 days, followed by intensive outpatient group therapy.

The Women's Foundation of Collier County recently provided a \$20,000 grant for its program designed for pregnant and postpartum at-risk women. In addition to residential

and outpatient treatment, it includes clinical assessment, case management, and covers OB/GYN and other medical expenses. Alcohol and drug use during pregnancy can result in premature birth, miscarriage, and a variety of behavioral and cognitive problems in exposed children. "We want to make sure there are ample resources and immediate access to treatment," said David Lawrence Center Chief Operating Officer Nancy Dauphinais. "It's a critical program when you consider the lives impacted."

Nationally and in Florida, pregnant and postpartum women with addictions are considered a "priority population," Dauphinais said. In fact, the David Lawrence Center is a provider for rehabilitation services through the Florida DCF. But funding is also complicated, dependent upon an individual's income, health insurance

provider, legal and health status, and type of dependence. "To have a mandate, that doesn't mean the money always follows," she said. "This grant from the Women's Foundation allows us to make sure we have the capacity to meet the need for women who need it because funds are limited."

Often, the length of rehabilitation is restricted to two weeks per state guidelines, even though the average residential stay is typically 22-30 days. The women who have been assisted by the Women's Foundation grant were underinsured, Dauphinais explained, and their insurance wouldn't authorize the full length of stay deemed therapeutically appropriate. "Folks stabilize better with more in-patient treatment at the beginning of the program, so this grant allows us to be more flexible to work with the woman on an individual treatment plan."

The Crossroads Residential Treatment Program building at David Lawrence Center



HELPING WOMEN AND GIRLS HELPS THE WORLD

By Sharon Treiser and Carlos Batlle, J.P. Morgan Private Bank, Naples

Whether they live in prosperous societies or in underdeveloped areas, women and girls do not have the same opportunities compared with men and boys.

Tackling gender equality is complex. While a holistic approach is critical, there are many opportunities for philanthropists to have an impact. We recommend considering the following to find the right approach:

Assess your interests and concerns to identify priorities. A good first step is to apply a gender lens to current philanthropic work. Starting with the communities that benefit from programs, philanthropists may find it meaningful to ask: Are we reaching an equal number of girls and boys or men and women? Exploring why a program has not achieved gender parity can uncover hidden barriers to participation. Another approach is to assess interventions for gender bias. For example, if an economic empowerment program offers men and women different types of training, a philanthropist may ask how that decision was made.

Decide what kind of impact you want to have and focus your efforts. The three levers for achieving gender equality are mindset change, institution building and targeted interventions. Philanthropists can launch programs to pull each of these levers or focus primarily on one. That choice will help determine whether the program seeks to generate system-level change or to improve the lives of people living in a specific community. In some approaches, philanthropists support programs locally with the intention of creating a groundswell that reaches the national level.

Explore whether to build on existing programs or pilot a new program. Philanthropists can identify opportunities within their existing portfolios to advance gender equality, or they can choose to build a separate philanthropic portfolio focused on the advancement of women and girls. A meaningful program can be built or expanded around a range of interests. Some philanthropists may find that their interests are aligned with a particular issue area, such as economic empowerment or human trafficking. Others may be most interested in working with a specific population, such as adolescents, rural women or men.

Consider what you can do beyond monetary support. Monetary support is not the only way to have an impact. Philanthropists can also assess policies in the organizations and companies they are involved with (either through an ownership stake or board representation) for gender inequalities. For example, philanthropists can assess the leadership pipeline, C-suite and board membership for female representation or ensure that paid family leave policies are in place.

The Naples Private Bank at J.P. Morgan works closely with the firm's Philanthropy Centre to help our clients and their advisors navigate how to maximize the impact they intend for their wealth. J.P. Morgan's Philanthropy Field Guide: Women and Girls includes more information on the various ways individuals can make a difference, highlights notable funders in gender parity, and provides helpful resources for those who want to explore more.

Sharon Treiser is a member of the Women's Foundation of Collier County Board of Directors, a Woman of Initiative- Class of 2009, and Vice President of J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Naples, FL.



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JUNIOR WOMEN OF INITIATIVE: GUIDING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since its launch in 2005, the Junior Women of Initiative (JWOI) has mentored more than 150 underserved middle school girls at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County to send them off into the world with confidence, poise, compassion and a drive to succeed.

The program is quite familiar to supporters of the Women's Foundation of Collier County—it's an offshoot of the Women of Initiative that taps into the wealth of knowledge and experience from sage women who volunteer a couple of hours each Tuesday for 16 weeks. The Women's Foundation consistently supports the program, providing \$7,500 this year.

"The generosity of the Women's Foundation to provide an annual grant to the young women at the Boys & Girls Club is priceless," said JWOI Chair and Facilitator Kelly E. Capolino. "The program has positively followed the model of the Women's Foundation—

investing time as mentors, empowering these girls to choose careers they might not have otherwise, and inspiring them to seek opportunities."

The instructive sessions for budding tweens explore real-time social and emotional issues, such as effective communication, self-esteem, bullying, relationships, goal-setting, leadership, self-care, and voluntarism. "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," shared participant Jasmine Cledanor, who recently earned a \$40,000 college scholarship. The mentors' insight "means the world to girls without a mother figure."

Guided by positive results, JWOI continues to evolve. A few years ago, the JWOI Scholarship at the Women's Foundation was established, and participants like Jasmine are earning them from various community sources. And if it's helping to build character in girls, why not boys? A parallel program at the Boys & Girls Club—Junior Men of Initiative—was launched four years ago.



One of the Junior Women of Initiative enjoys conducting her interview at the One-on-One Career Day event

These programs are fueled by mentors and local professionals. One highlight is a special, dress-up outing to exercise etiquette skills and gain cultural exposure. The other is One-on-One Career Day, when the youth interview a professional in a career of interest. This year, Capolino scoured the community to match 22 girls and boys for interviews in fields such as acting, music, architecture, sports medicine, pro football and culinary arts. "This is the piece de resistance," she said.

“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”



Kelly Capolino leads the One-on-One Career Day event for local students



Caregivers Support Group at the Naples Senior Center at JFCS

CARING FOR SENIOR CAREGIVERS

In Collier County, Alzheimer's disease was the fifth leading cause of death in 2017. What the statistics don't show is the impact this disease has on caregivers of those diagnosed with it and other forms of dementia.

Demand for caregiver support recently led the Naples Senior Center at JFCS to increase support group meetings from monthly to weekly, said Naples Senior Center at JFCS President/CEO Jaclynn Faffer, Ph.D. The majority, about 80 percent, are women, Faffer said.

The center also offers a quarterly Caregiver Boot Camp—an intensive, information-rich, four-hour workshop—as well as a structured Dementia Support Program that includes light exercise, music therapy and cognitive development activities for dementia patients.

The Women's Foundation of Collier County has granted the Naples Senior Center \$20,000 to add a case manager for at-risk female caregivers to address this widening need. Faffer said 53 women have received case management services and she expects another 30 will need it this year. "Whatever we project as a need, it always surprises us how much greater it is," she said.

The majority are on fixed incomes while 10 percent are below the poverty line, she said. Many needing assistance are in their 80s and 90s. "Often, the female caregiver is as frail as the person with dementia," she explained.

A snapshot of the growing demand:

- A third of Collier's residents are over 65, and growth of the senior population is outpacing Florida and the nation.
- Women who provide care for an ill or disabled spouse were almost six times more likely to suffer from depression or anxiety than those with no caregiving responsibilities.
- In Collier, there are twice as many women living alone than men.
- More than 12,000 seniors 65 and older in Collier were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2015, with annual diagnoses expected to rise to 16,096 by 2025.

"The need is so deep in this community. Without this funding, I don't see how we could even begin to reach the need. As important as the dollars are, the fact that the Women's Foundation recognizes our capacity to support the need—that's equally as important," Faffer said. "Their confidence in us means a great deal."



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WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

Mission

*Alleviate unmet needs and empower
women and girls in Collier County.*



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

EMPOWERING. INVESTING. INSPIRING.

*Create a legacy in Collier County
for women & girls by putting the
Women's Foundation of Collier
County in your estate plan.*

To learn more, contact
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