



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
OF COLLIER COUNTY  
WOMEN LIFTING WOMEN



# WOMEN LIFTING WOMEN

## SUMMER 2024 UPDATE



### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who is helping us reach our goal!

RAISED:  
**\$834,173**

GOAL:  
**\$1,470,000**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

## WOMEN ROCK PHILANTHROPY LUNCHEON

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples  
Friday, November 22  
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



### GRANTS UPDATE

#### FY 2024 GRANT AWARDS

- Baker Senior Center
- Boys & Girls Club of Collier County
- Collier Resource Center
- Collier Senior Center at Golden Gate
- Housing Development Corporation
- NAMI Collier County
- St. Matthew's House
- The Immokalee Foundation

## GRANT AWARD HIGHLIGHT



### SENIOR WOMEN PILLAR

The St. Matthew's House Campbell Lodge and Immokalee Friendship House are the **ONLY homeless shelters** in Collier County.

In 2023,  
**28%**  
of homeless were seniors.

In 2023, 30 women aged 65 and older were sheltered, with an average stay of  
**84 days.**

The **St. Matthew's House Campbell Lodge** is home to 150 residents each night, including men and women, families with children and a growing number of seniors experiencing homelessness. Last year, the shelter served 30 women aged 65 and older, with an average stay of nearly 3 months. The \$45,000 **Women Lifting Women grant** is being used to cover some of the costs associated with each stay, including food, shelter, clothing, transportation, hygiene, medical and mental healthcare, addiction recovery, and case management.



"We are grateful for the Women's Foundation of Collier County and their grant funding that is enabling us to extend our support to senior women experiencing homelessness," said Steve Brooder, Chief Executive Officer, St. Matthew's House.

"This crucial financial support is not just about providing shelter; it's about restoring dignity, security, and hope. Many of these women have faced unimaginable hardships, and with this grant, we can offer comprehensive wraparound services that address their unique needs. From healthcare to counseling, and from nutritious meals to permanent housing solutions, this funding allows us to create a holistic approach to their well-being. The impact on our community is profound—every woman we assist moves us closer to a future where no senior has to face homelessness alone. Together, we are making a tangible difference in their lives and fostering a community built on compassion and support."

# GRANT AWARD HIGHLIGHT



## YOUNG WOMEN & GIRLS PILLAR

### Over 180

girls have participated in the program since inception

More than

### 20+ hours

spent with mentees annually

### 100%

of participants note improvement in knowledge gained through JWOI

**Junior Women of Initiative (JWOI)** is a bi-monthly mentoring program for middle school-aged girls, ages 13 to 17, hosted at **Boys & Girls Club of Collier County**. The \$7,500 grant from **Women Lifting Women** supports professionally facilitated sessions designed to enhance self-confidence and promote reflection, discussion, and growth mindsets. Through special classes, unique experiences, and insights shared by their mentors, these young women realize improvements in public speaking, are better able to accept constructive criticism, have tools to avoid negative peer pressures, are more comfortable seeking resources, and understand the importance of self-esteem.



"We are grateful for the Women's Foundation's continued support of our Junior Women of Initiative program, which was established in 2005 and has supported more than 180 girls," said Megan McCarthy Beauvais, President & Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Collier County.

"This program empowers young women aged 13-17 through mentorship and education and the results of the program have proven successful with these young women. Each year, the program connects about 15 girls with mentors who guide them through essential developmental topics such as building self-esteem, making informed choices, fostering healthy friendships and relationships, and exploring college and career options. Through mentorship, participants gain confidence, emotional resilience, and the ability to make thoughtful decisions, laying a solid foundation for a healthy and empowered adulthood. Since its inception, the program has profoundly impacted the lives of its participants and the mentors, making them more confident, informed, responsible, and future ready."



## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

### THREE WOMEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Three students have been selected to receive a total of up to \$30,000 in scholarships and educational support through Women Lifting Women. These are nontraditional scholarships offered to women who have encountered roadblocks to furthering their education in order to secure financial independence.

## JOIN WOMEN LIFTING WOMEN

Make a gift to join women who are lifting vulnerable and at-risk senior women, as well as young women and girls, and are making a significant and positive impact in our community.

wfcollier.org