



GREATER NAPLES AAUW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. (“Foundation”)?

The Foundation is a Florida not for profit corporation. It was incorporated in 2001 by members of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch (the “Branch”). It has been designated as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the IRS (EIN 59-3704754), and is regulated by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services pursuant to the Florida Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act, Registration No. CH 13573. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible for donors, as permitted by law. Like the Branch, it is an affiliate of AAUW and shares the mission of AAUW.

Is the Foundation the same organization as the Branch?

No. The Foundation and the Branch are separate legal entities. Each has, as it must, its own bank accounts, board of directors and records.

The Branch is an unincorporated membership association, not a charitable organization, and donations to the Branch are not tax-deductible. The Foundation is subject to greater governmental regulation than the Branch.

Why does the Foundation exist?

The Foundation was created in 2001 to enable members of the Branch and others to support: the community service programs of the Branch, an AAUW (National) scholarship fund, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (“LAF”) and the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund via tax-deductible donations.

Today, the Branch’s AAUW (National) scholarship has been fully funded and Branch members can make tax-deductible donations directly to the LAF and the AAUW Fund, so the Foundation solicits and collects donations for the Branch’s community service programs.

The Branch is not eligible to apply for grants from such corporations as Arthrex or Kohl’s and it cannot receive donations from donor-advised funds, such as those established at the Women’s Foundation of Southwest Florida and the Community Foundation of Collier County, because it is not a charitable organization. The Foundation procures donations from companies and individuals for the community service programs of the Branch it supports.

The Branch helps the Foundation to support Branch programs by fund-raising for the Foundation and via annual support.

What does the Foundation do with the money it receives?

Donations to the Foundation may only be spent for charitable purposes. Donations support the following programs:

- **The Local Scholarship program**, providing academic scholarships to eligible local women age 21 and over who are pursuing an associate’s, bachelor’s or master’s degree at an accredited college or university and who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need;
- **The STEAM Girls Count Conference** for fifth-grade girls enrolled in Collier County Public Schools to teach them and their parents about opportunities in science, technology engineering, and math and that the arts are a part of and not apart from math and science;
- The **Reading is Fun** program, providing new books to at-risk children who have none; and
- **AAUW StartSmart and WorkSmart** programs, teaching local woman salary negotiation skills to help close the persistent gender wage gap.

Additionally, in 2018, the Foundation received donations specifically to establish two endowed scholarship funds, which together provide—in perpetuity—one annual academic scholarship to a qualifying local woman pursuing a four-year degree or master’s degree in a STEM field.

The Foundation must also pay for its very moderate expenses, such as insurance and fees for registering with the State of Florida.

Donations to the Foundation may be designated for a specific program or may be undesignated. When a donation is designated for a specific program, such as the STEAM Conference, by law it may only be spent on that program.

Who runs the Foundation?

The Foundation has no staff; all of its work is done by volunteers. The Foundation is governed by an uncompensated Board of Directors, all of whom must be Branch members. The Foundation Board normally meets monthly except during the summer, though it continues to work over the summer.

By law, the Branch is prohibited from controlling the Foundation by electing the Foundation's Board of Directors, but any member of the Branch may volunteer to serve on the Foundation Board.

The members of the Foundation Board are: President - Laura A. Candris, J.D.; Secretary - Nancy Van Note Chism, Ph.D.; Treasurer - Susan S. Coman; Director for Scholarships - Jeannine Hagedorn; Director for Funds - Judith A. MacGregor, Ph.D; Bonnie Butcheri; Catherine E. Hackney, Ph.D., and Emeritus Director Vi Steffan.

Laura and Bonnie also serve on the Branch Board. Most of the Foundation's directors were elected in 2018, but Vi is a past president of the Branch and of the Foundation and has served on the Foundation's Board since it was created.

What does the Foundation Board do?

Among other things, the Foundation Board:

- ensures compliance with the various laws which regulate it, as well as AAUW policies which govern it, including those concerning the management of contributions in accordance with donor intent, those governing the administration of scholarship funds, those regulating solicitations and acknowledgement of contributions, and those governing investments;
- develops and supports fundraising initiatives for the programs the Foundation supports, including preparing or assisting with grant applications, promoting matching fund campaigns, the Giving Tuesday campaign, the Named Scholarship Opportunity, and organizing fund-raising events;
- researched, developed and administers endowed scholarship fund agreements;
- researched, selected and monitors the investments of the endowed funds;
- develops Foundation policies and forms in compliance with applicable laws;
- developed and monitors a strategic plan;
- makes monthly reports to the Branch Board and Branch membership during season; and
- assists with Branch programs such as Local Scholarships and the STEAM Conference.

How can I get more information about the Foundation?

The Foundation's bylaws, policies and strategic plan are posted on its page of the Branch's website, <https://greater-naples-fl.aauw.net/greater-naples-aauw-charitable-foundation/> along with the names of all members of its Board and descriptions of the Branch programs it supports. The Foundation gives a report to the Branch Board and the Branch membership at their monthly meetings. You may also contact any member of the Foundation Board with any questions.