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## **GREATER NAPLES AAUW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC. Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation")?**

The Foundation 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. The Foundation's specific mission is to promote equity, education and development of opportunities for local women and girls to enable them to reach their full potential.

### **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 by members of the Branch to enable Branch members and others to support the community service programs established by the Branch, an AAUW (National) scholarship fund, and certain other AAUW funds via tax-deductible donations. Since the Branch's AAUW (National) scholarship has been fully funded and Branch members can make tax-deductible donations directly to the the AAUW Fund and other National funds, the Foundation now solicits and collects donations for the community service programs established by the Branch.

The Branch is not eligible to receive funds from organizations such as Arthrex and the McMahon Foundation and it cannot receive donations from donor-advised funds, such as those at the the Community Foundation of Collier County, Schwab, and Fidelity, because it is not a charitable organization.

The Foundation procures donations from companies and individuals for the community service programs established by the Branch it supports. The Branch helps the Foundation to support the community service programs it established by fund-raising for the Foundation and via annual support.

### **What does the Foundation do with the donations it receives?**

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

- **Scholarship programs.** The Scholarship program provides academic scholarships to eligible local women, age 21 and over, who are pursuing an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree and who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. The STEM Scholarship program provides academic scholarships to qualifying local women of any age who are pursuing bachelor's or master's degrees in a STEM field. The Future Teachers Scholarship program provides academic scholarships to deserving local women pursuing teaching degrees or certification. The Local Scholarship program was established by the Branch more than 20 years ago. The STEM scholarship program was established in 2018 via endowed STEM scholarship funds, and the Future teacher scholarship program was established and funded in 2023.
- **The Branch's STEAM Girls Count Program for Local Fifth-grade Girls.** This Branch program was established more than 20 years ago to expose 5th-grade girls enrolled in Collier County Public Schools to opportunities in science, technology engineering, and mathematics.
- **The Branch's Janet Martin Welch Reading is Fun!** program, which provides new, librarian-selected books to children in two local high-needs public elementary schools.
- **AAUW StartSmart workshops,** facilitated by Branch members, which teach local woman salary negotiation skills to help close the persistent gender wage gap.

Additionally, the Foundation pays for its very moderate expenses, such as insurance and fees for mandatory registrations 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 Leads 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 members of the Branch and of AAUW. The Foundation Board normally meets monthly.

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 - Catherine E. Hackney, Ph.D.; Secretary - Barbara Richardson, Ph.D.; Treasurer - Cynthia J. Lingley; Director for Scholarships - Jeannine Stetson; Laura A. Candris, J.D; Judith A. MacGregor, Ph.D; Pallas Diaz; and Susan Goff. They are always happy to answer questions.

Emeritus Director Vi Steffan retired in July 2021 after 20 years of service.

### **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 The Southwest Florida Women Giving Together Giving Circle, preparing with grant applications, promoting matching fund campaigns, the Named Scholarship Opportunity, and organizing fund-raising events;
- Researched, developed and administers endowed scholarship fund agreements;
- Researched, selected and monitors the investment of the endowed funds and other funds;
- Develops and updates Foundation policies and forms in compliance with applicable laws;
- Develops and monitors a strategic plan;
- Makes monthly reports to the Branch Board and reports to Branch members; and
- Assists with Branch programs such as the STEAM program.

### **What is Southwest Florida Women Giving Together?**

Southwest Florida Women Giving Together is a giving circle fund of the Foundation. Anyone committed to the Foundation's mission can join SWFL WGT by contributing annual dues of \$250. Eighty percent of the revenue collected as dues directly supports the community service programs the Foundation supports. Twenty percent of the revenue will be used for special events and administrative expenses.

### **What is the Named Scholarship Opportunity?**

For a minimum donation of just \$2000, you can name a Scholarship in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, or in the name of a business or other organization. For more details, see the Named Scholarship Opportunity link at <https://greaternaples-fl.aauw.net/local-scholarships/>.

### **How can I get more information about the Foundation?**

The Foundation's bylaws, policies, strategic plan, and scholarship procedures are posted on its page of the Branch's website, <https://greaternaples-fl.aauw.net/greater-naples-aauw-charitable-foundation/> with other information. Monthly Financial Reports are posted in the "Members Only" area..