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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"). The IRS designated it a 501(c)(3) public charity (EIN 59-3704754), and it is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, 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 AAUW's mission. 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 is fully funded and Branch members can make tax-deductible donations directly to the AAUW Fund and other National funds, the Foundation now solicits and collects donations for local community service programs.

Because it is not a charitable organization, the Branch isn't eligible to receive funds from organizations such as Arthrex, Suncoast Federal Credit Union, and the McMahon Foundation, and it can't receive donations from donor-advised funds, such as those at the Collier Community Foundation, Schwab, and Fidelity.

The Foundation procures donations from companies and individuals for the community service programs established by the Branch and, through the Giving Circle, other mission related charities. The Branch helps the Foundation to support the community service programs it established.

What does the Foundation do with the donations it receives?

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

- **Scholarship programs.** The Local Scholarship program provides academic scholarships to eligible local women, age 21 and over, who are pursuing an associate's, bachelor's, master's or clinical doctorate 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 Educators 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 and funded in 2018, and the Future Educator 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 28 years ago to inspire local 5th-grade to pursue education and careers in science, technology engineering, arts, and mathematics.
- **The Branch's Janet Martin Welch Reading is Fun!** program, which provides new, librarian-selected books to children in two local Title 1 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; 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 - Judith A. MacGregor, Ph.D.; Secretary - Laura Frost, Ph.D.; Treasurer - Laura A. Candris, J.D.; Director for Scholarships - Jeannine Stetson; Director for Funds - Julia Siler Olander; Susan G. Goff, Ph.D.; Carole F. Barrett, J.D.; Linda Acheson Poole, J.D.; and Lucy Williams, Ph.D. They are always happy to answer questions.

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 grant applications and reporting on the use of the funds received, 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 \$250 annually.

What is the Named Scholarship Opportunity?

For a minimum donation of just \$2000, anyone 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, scholarship procedures and other documents are posted on its page of the Branch's website, <https://greaternaples-fl.aauw.net/greater-naples-aauw-charitable-foundation/>. Financial Reports are posted in the "Members Only" area. Contact the Foundation at gnaauwcf@yahoo.com.

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