

The official newsletter of the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation



Virginia Spencer, Kae Jonsons, Lois Pope,
& Diane McNeal at the Fall Foundation Luncheon



Hands and Feet receiving the
2025 EWBPF Community Impact Grant

A Message from Our President:

Dear Members,

As we move into this exciting season, I'm reminded of the incredible power of collaboration within our Executive Women of the Palm Beaches community.

One of the most important ways you can contribute to that impact is by joining the Women In Leadership Awards (WILA) Planning Committee. The WILA event is our largest and most prestigious fundraiser, honoring outstanding women who exemplify leadership, service, and vision. To make this signature event truly shine, we need you. Your ideas, talents, and energy will help shape a celebration that continues to inspire our community. Please consider joining the committee and being part of something remarkable—together, we can make a difference.

I also encourage you to take full advantage of our wonderful upcoming events:

- Members-Only "Seat at the Table" Event – November 19
- Join us at the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County for an engaging breakfast conversation on The Palm Beach Experience. Hear from top tourism leaders—Heather Andrews, Emily Snyder, Jennifer Sullivan, and Michelle Hillery—as they share insights on shaping Palm Beach County's brand and cultural identity.
- Annual Holiday Luncheon – December 12 at PGA National

Let's close the year together in celebration! Our annual Holiday Luncheon is always a highlight—an afternoon of connection, joy, and reflection on the milestones we've achieved as a community.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope each of you will find a way to engage—whether by serving on a committee, attending an event, or sharing your voice and ideas. Your involvement is what makes Executive Women of the Palm Beaches strong and vibrant. Thank you for your continued commitment and leadership. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly,
Kae Jonsons

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SEPTEMBER 2025

Hidden in Plain Sight: Myths, Facts, and What You Can Do to End Human Trafficking

On October 6 over 70 members and community partners gathered at Girls Scouts of Southeast Florida for a presentation by Erin Collins of the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking. "Hidden in Plain Sight: Myths, Facts, and What You Can Do to End Human Trafficking".



SEPTEMBER 2025

Hidden in Plain Sight: Myths, Facts, and What You Can Do to End Human Trafficking



More Photos Available at:
<https://ewpb.org/events-photo-gallery/>

OCTOBER 2025

Scholarship News

EWPBF was able to provide 17 scholarships to young women attending colleges in the Palm Beach County area this month. Please find the list of donors, recipients, the colleges and majors below. All of the donors who provided scholarship funds received information on their scholarship recipient.

Thank you to all of the members of the scholarship committee. We received and reviewed almost 250 applications. Thank you to Caryn Stevens for chairing the scholarship committee. The members of the committee were Diane McNeal, Jackie Halderman, Amy Brand, Robin Sykes, Sheril Jalm, Vicki Pugh, Virginia Spencer, Leslie Adams, Cindy Pollack, Lisa Huertes, Tonya Notaro, Nancy R and Ofelia Utset.

We were able to celebrate the accomplishments of all recipients and to express gratitude to our donors at a special reception on October 14th. All donors and recipients were invited to the reception. It was an inspiring evening with several generations celebrating the future. Thank you to the EWPBF members who attended and helped us host our guests. Thank you to the chef and staff at Extraordinary Charities where we held the event.



**Oct. 14th
Scholarship
Reception
at
Extraordinary
Charities**

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship Donor	Scholarship Recipient	College/ Major
Herme de Wyman Miro	Sarah Vazquez	Keiser Univ/ Nursing
Kathryn Vecellio	Laura Hernandez	Keiser Univ./Nursing
Esther B. O’Keeffe Foundation	Avery Wolf	Keiser Univ./ Nursing
Esther B. O’Keeffe Foundation	Rebecca Dale	Academy of Nursing
Virginia Spencer	Madison Pointer	PBAU/Elem. Education
Marti LaTour & George Elmore	Rose Saint Sauveur	FAU/ Accounting
Frances Fisher	Ami Piper	PBAU/Pre – Law
Yvonne Boice	Ediana Edouard	PBSC/ Data Analysis
Schmidt Family Foundation	Kattaryna Salzman	FAU Honors/ Electrical Engineering - Design
Michele Gurto - 1st Generation Fund	Aleyna Can	PBAU/ MBA
M. Terry Gearing	Jeneka Admore	FAU/ Education
Sharon Bock	Samantha Reyes	FAU Honors/ Psychology
Hastings Foundation	Cindy Boucher	Keiser Univ. /Psychology
Hastings Foundation	Veronika Zaloginova	FAU Honors / Neuroscience
Hastings Foundation	Jasmine Rios	PBSC /Environmental Science
EWPB Legacy Fund	Sabrina Lambrechts	FAU / Public Policy
WILA Graduate Fund	Lindsay Findlay	PBAU/ Masters om Accounting

OCTOBER 2025

2025 Scholarship Reception

October 14th, 2025 at Extraordinary Charities



More Photos Available at:
<https://ewpb.org/events-photo-gallery/>

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2025 Scholarship Reception



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OCTOBER 2025

Grant News

The Scholarships, Endowment and Grants Committee and the Finance Committee jointly determined the funds available to disburse in the 2025 Grant process. We are excited to report that EWPBF was able to grant a \$10,000 Lois Kwasman Grant, a \$15,000 Lois Pope Leadership Grant, and a \$5,000 Community Outreach Grant this year. The funding came from generous individual donations and proceeds from the 2024 and 2025 WILA Luncheons. Thank you to many members and Mrs. Pope whose support made these grants possible. We look forward to your support of the 2026 WILA Luncheon and 2026 EWPBF Grants.

Many thanks to the Grants Committee Co-Chairs, Virginia Spencer and Jackie Halderman and the committee members – Leslie Adams, Dari Bowman, Denise Mariani, Diane McNeal, Mary Lewis Moews, Christine Pitts, and Melissa Sullivan. Three deserving organizations were selected out of a pool of 20 plus applicants. The presentation of the grants occurred at the EWPBF Fall Foundation Lunch on October 23rd.

The Caridad Center's Youth Magnolias Program was selected for the 2025 Lois Kwasman Community Impact Grant. The program promotes emotional wellness, leadership, and life skills training for girls 13 -17 years of age. Structured social-emotional educational workshops, family engagement activities and community field trips are included.

Milagro Center's Leadership, Empowerment, Achievement Program (LEAP) for girls 12 to 18 years of age was selected for the Lois Pope Leadership Grant. Mrs. Lois Pope joined us to present the grant to Milagro Center's CEO. LEAP fosters personal growth, strategic thinking, and leadership capacity. The girls participating in the program build resilience and self-confidence.

Hands and Feet Inc.'s Supporting Hands Program was selected for the EWPBF Community Outreach Grant. They deliver critical items to foster and biological families with an open child welfare case within 48 hours after a referral is made.

Diane McNeal
Scholarships, Endowment and Grants Committee Chair

Fall Foundation Luncheon



OCTOBER 2025

Fall Foundation Luncheon



More Photos Available at:
<https://ewpb.org/events-photo-gallery/>

OCTOBER 2025

Upcoming Events

Reoccurring:

Breakfast Bunch

First Friday of the Month, 8:00am
Lili's Cafe, Palm Beach Gardens

Seat at the Table: Women Building the Palm Beach Experience

November 19th at 8:30am
Cultural Council for PBC

Holiday Luncheon

December 12th 11:30am
PGA National Resort

Veronica Beard Sip n' Shop with CREW

December 18th at 5:00pm
Veronica Beard Palm Beach

2026 Komen West Palm Beach

MORE THAN PINK Walk

January 31st
Meyer Amphitheater, West Palm Beach

Seat at the Table: Media Training

February 5th at 8:30am
WPBF News, Palm Beach Gardens

2nd Annual Trailblazers Panel: Celebrating the Achievements of Black Women in Palm Beach County

February 26th at 8:00am
Riviera Beach

Save the Date:

Women in Leadership Awards Luncheon

April 16th
Kravis Center

Event details & registration at www.ewpb.org



Member-Exclusive

A Seat at the Table Women Building

The Palm Beach Experience

A dynamic panel of female tourism leaders sharing their personal leadership journeys and the ways they're shaping Palm Beach County's impact.

FEATURED PANELISTS:



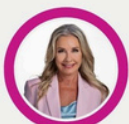
Heather Andrews,
Vice President of
Destination
Stewardship & Civic
Engagement,
Discover The Palm
Beaches



Emily Snyder,
Director of Global
Sales,
The Boca Raton



Jennifer Sullivan,
Senior Vice
President,
Cultural Council
for Palm Beach
County



Michelle Hillery,
Film
Commissioner,
Palm Beach
County Film and
Television
Commission

- Event includes a guided tour of Cultural Council for Palm Beach County's newest exhibits.
- Explore the gift shop for locally made art and gifts—perfect for early holiday shopping.

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY

8:30-10:00AM | 601 LAKE AVE., LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL 33460

Register online:

ewpb.org/programs-events



EXECUTIVE WOMEN
of the Palm Beaches Foundation
EST. 1982

Annual

HOLIDAY Luncheon

**Diamond
Earrings
Raffle
Drawing!**

12 December, 2025 at 11:30am

PGA National Resort

400 Avenue of Champions, Palm Beach Gardens

Celebrate the season with friends, delicious food, and inspiring stories.

Register at: EWPB.org

\$95 for non-members/\$85 for EWPB members

Sponsored by:

EWPB Annual Sponsor



STEPHENS & STEVENS
MARITAL & FAMILY LAW

Member Spotlight:



CRYSTAL DESTEFANO APR, PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



EWPBF Involvement so far:

Crystal joined EWPB in the summer of 2025 and has attended several events, including the organization's annual meeting, joint networking events, the annual scholarship reception, and fall luncheon. She supports the Outreach Committee and Membership Committee, including being tapped to lead an upcoming Seat at the Table event in early 2026.

Tell us a little about your professional journey.

I was working as Director of Public Relations for an agency that I loved, when the founder announced his retirement – so I bought the PR practice from him in 2014. After the leadership transition, I shifted our team's focus from serving clients all over the country to hyperlocal news media and community relations. In addition to securing positive local news coverage for our clients, we also offer our very popular Media Training program.

What inspired you to join Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation?

As a female business owner, I know the power of a supportive group of women who face the same challenges and opportunities every day. EWPB caught my attention as an active and engaging group of smart, fun women who could help me as I continue to grow my business, while my decades of experiences help other members.

What's one accomplishment you're most proud of?

We recently launched a new On-Demand Media Training option on our website! Our in-person and virtual Media Training Programs are incredibly popular, but we heard from a lot of people over this past year who were unable to join the live sessions scheduled with their organization and requested an 'on-demand' version of our classroom session. I'm so proud of how quickly our PR and web development teams were able to create an on-demand product that meets this need!

What advice would you give to other women leaders in Palm Beach County?

My advice to current and future women leaders is to define and own your story, and tell it often. The most influential leaders I know aren't just doing great work; they're communicating it with clarity and purpose. Whether you're speaking at events, to the media, with your employees, or to your community, your messages should reflect your values and vision.

What's something fun or surprising about you that most people don't know?

In addition to running a local PR agency, I'm also a certified Disney and Universal travel planner! The systems for each of the parks have become incredibly complicated, and I absolutely love helping people understand it all so they can get the most out of their Disney and Universal vacations. And it doesn't cost them anything! My services for travelers are completely free.

OCTOBER 2025

Welcome New Members:

Martine Pierre-Paul,
Modern Etiquette and
Leadership Academy LLC

Cynthia Nalley
Acquire Palm Beach

Thank you to our EWPB Sponsors:

Annual Sponsor:



New Corporate Member:



OCTOBER 2025

WILA Committee

Be part of the planning and excitement behind EWPBF's signature Women In Leadership Awards. The WILA Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM via Zoom—a great way to get involved, share ideas, and help celebrate women making an impact in our community.

Register and get the link on ewpb.org/programs-events/

Buy your ticket to the



EXECUTIVE WOMEN
of the Palm Beaches Foundation
— EST. 1982 —

RAFFLE
Diamond Stud Earrings
.75 carat in 14kt white gold



\$5
DONATION
PER TICKET
LIMITED TO 500 TICKETS

Email
director@ewpb.org
to enter!

SPONSORED BY
H HUBBARD
SOUTH FLORIDA

Minimum Donation \$5 per ticket
Drawing at the Holiday Party on December 12th
No purchase or contribution necessary to enter