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**\*\*\*\* Media Release \*\*\*\***



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**United Way's Full Service Schools Receives  
\$2.25 Million Grant**

*Mega Gift will serve more than 10,000 Westside at-risk students and families*

**JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA** – Full Service Schools, a community collaboration led by United Way of Northeast Florida, was awarded \$2.25 million by the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust. This grant will provide continued support for Full Service Schools Westside location at Oak Hill Elementary School and will be dispersed annually over five years.

In 2004, the Westside Family Resource Center was established through the first major gift from the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust and provided the first five years of funding. This year's grant will provide five more years of continued funding.

“We are grateful to the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation trustees for their support. This gift represents one of the largest private gifts in our community,” said Connie Hodges, President of United Way of Northeast Florida. “With this commitment of funding, we will be able to continue to meet the needs of the students and families on the Westside. We are truly grateful and excited to be able to provide services that empower families and remove the barriers to student success.”

The Westside Family Resource Center serves six neighborhood schools including: Nathan B. Forest High School, J.E.B. Stuart Middle School, Lake Shore Middle School, Bayview Elementary School, Cedar Hills Elementary School, and Timucuan Elementary School. Since 2004, more than 10,000 students and family members have receive services by Full Service Schools on the Westside.

The goal of Full Service Schools of Jacksonville works to empower students and their families to reach their potential by addressing the non-academic barriers that inhibit student success. Provided services include mental health counseling, behavioral intervention, case management, mentoring, positive youth development, medical and health services and substance abuse treatment.

“We are proud to have a continued role in ensuring that Westside students and families have the services and opportunities they need to succeed in school,” said Bonnie Smith, Managing Trustee of the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust. “The Full Service Schools location on the Westside has been a tremendous success. We are excited to continue our investment in the children and families served by Full Service Schools of Jacksonville.”

The Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust supports organizations that provide services directly to children and relief services to the community in Duval and Clay Counties in keeping with the charitable activities and purposes supported by Mrs. Gooding during her lifetime.

Full Service Schools is led by United Way of Northeast Florida and works in partnership with the Jacksonville Children’s Commission, Duval County Public Schools, Duval County Health Department, and J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver to provide services to eighty schools and more than 28,000 First Coast families each year.

“Full Service Schools has been an essential part of services available to students and families in the public school system,” said Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools. “Without these supportive services, many students would not achieve academic success.”

“I’m so excited to see that the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation trustees are continuing their support of Full Service Schools, said Greg Bostic, J.E.B. Stuart Middle School principal. “Many of our students and families need these services in order to be academically successful now and in the years to come.”

**United Way of Northeast Florida works to create real, long-lasting change in Northeast Florida by focusing on the building blocks for a good life. In partnership with volunteers, community organizations, and leaders, United Way is creating opportunities to improve life for people in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and northern St. Johns counties. In addition, United Way leads United Way 2-1-1, a 24/7 information referral hotline; Life: Act 2, a pro-active response to an exploding senior population; and Full Service Schools, a community approach to removing barriers to academic success. For more information, call 904-390-3200 or visit [www.liveunitednortheastflorida.org](http://www.liveunitednortheastflorida.org).**

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