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**Cox Charities Awards $16,000 to Gulf Coast Non-Profits**

**Pensacola, FL -** Cox Communications employees in the Gulf Coast Market have awarded $16,000 to local non-profits through the Cox Charities Community Investment grant program. Over a dozen applications were received from local organizations seeking funding for various programs.  After much deliberation, Cox employees who serve on the Cox Charities Selection Committee awarded the grants to the following four organizations:

* **One Hopeful Place** received $5,000 to provide services at the *Homeless Cold Night Program* in Fort Walton Beach.
* **Ronald McDonald House of Northwest Florida**received $2,500 to assist their *Hope for Hurting Families*program which provides housing for families while a child is receiving medical care at the Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart.
* **YMCA of Northwest Florida** was granted $5,000 for *YReads*, an afterschool reading remediation and mentoring program for at-risk and low-income children in Kindergarten through fourth grade.
* **Valerie’s House** was awarded $3,500 for *No Child Grieves Alone*, a free grief support program dedicated to helping children and their families share, grieve, and heal from their losses.

“Every year we receive so many deserving applications from nonprofits along the Gulf Coast,” said David Deliman, Cox Gulf Coast Market Vice President. “It’s within our Cox DNA to give back to the communities we serve. This is just another example of how our employees strive to elevate the transformative work of local nonprofit organizations making a difference in our community.”

Cox Charities is an internal giving campaign where employees can set aside a portion of their paychecks to fund the local grants.  Money donated by employees in the Gulf Coast Market stays in the Gulf Coast Market.  A committee of nine employees reviewed over a dozen applications and selected the recipients.

In addition to the Community Investment Grant, the Cox Charities Innovation in Education Program provides grants of up to $2,500 each to schools to fund classroom programs and curriculum that encourage and promote students’ ingenuity and imagination through the innovative use of technology. Last spring, Cox employees awarded nearly $10,000 to six local schools.

Cox Charities was created to strengthen Cox markets through the support of programs that positively impact communities in the areas of education, technology, social issues, conservation and the arts.   Cox Charities does not replace, but rather increases Cox’s philanthropic giving in the community.  In 2021, Cox gave nearly one million dollars in cash and in-kind services to nonprofits in the Gulf Coast Market.

The Cox Gulf Coast market includes parts of Escambia, Okaloosa and South Walton counties.

For more information about Cox Charities, visit [www.CoxCharitiesSER.org](http://www.CoxCharitiesSER.org).

**About Cox Communications**

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through broadband applications and services. The largest private telecom company in America, we proudly serve nearly seven million homes and businesses across 18 states. We’re dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that makes each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

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