



## **Community Connectivity Fund Launched to Address Local Digital Divide**

**Gainesville, FL**– The Community Foundation of North Central Florida and The Education Foundation of Alachua County are proud to announce the Community Connectivity Fund. This fund, to be held at the Community Foundation, is a community–wide effort to help vulnerable populations in our area gain accessibility to digital devices and internet connectivity.

“One of the many issues the COVID-19 pandemic brought to light is the digital divide in our community,” said Barzella Papa, president and CEO for the Community Foundation. “From telehealth needs to children completing school from home, the need for connectivity is prevalent. This fund will help connect programs to those who need it most.”

While the Community Foundation will accept donations and manage the fund, 50% of the money will be designated to The Education Foundation of Alachua County to support the needs of the public school students and teachers.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Community Foundation! While the digital divide can be felt across all sectors, we know that many within our school community have been disproportionately affected,” said Rachel Debigare, executive director for The Education Foundation of Alachua County.

Individuals interested in making a donation to the Community Connectivity Fund can do so here [www.cfncf.org](http://www.cfncf.org).

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### **ABOUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA**

The mission of the Community Foundation of North Central Florida is to promote and sustain philanthropy among the communities of North Central Florida. Established in 1998, the Community Foundation serves as a center for education on philanthropy to help broaden the base of philanthropic giving in North Central Florida. The Foundation provides flexible and cost-effective strategies for donors to benefit their community today and for generations to come by building and preserving endowments, facilitating partnerships among nonprofit organizations and making measurable community improvement through strategic grant making to benefit all areas of interest.  
[www.cfncf.org](http://www.cfncf.org)

### **ABOUT THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ALACHUA COUNTY**

The Education Foundation of Alachua County is a non-profit organization in Gainesville that works alongside the Alachua County Public School system to invest in local students and teachers. Through student scholarships, one-on-one mentoring, and teacher and school grants, students are empowered and equipped to graduate from high school and exceed at the next level. For more information, please visit <http://edfoundationac.org>