



## **Mark's Mission Incorporated's Food and Fuel Assistance Program is supported by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Grassroots Grants Endowment at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.**

*Jacksonville, Florida March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023* – Mark's Mission Incorporated announced today it has been awarded the Small Organization Grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Grassroots Grants Endowment at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. This news comes just days prior to Mark's Mission's first anniversary as a 501c3 registered nonprofit organization. Such an astounding achievement is yet another example of two exceptional organizations forming a quality collaboration and starting a deep-rooted partnership to better our community.

Mark's Mission Incorporated serves NICU and PICU families by promoting family bonding by helping families overcome financial burdens and social barriers in Northeast Florida. The Food and Financial Assistance Programs provides families with gift certificates to local grocery stores and gas stations to offset any additional costs or loss of income associated with a NICU or PICU stay.

“Thanks to the generosity of the Delores Barr Weaver Grassroots Grants Endowment at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, we are able to help **50 more** NICU families who may be experiencing financial hardship while facing a lengthy and emotionally draining NICU stay” says Brittany Hutto, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mark's Mission. Kelsey, a recent client shared, “This mission is so important for so many reasons. This was my first experience with the NICU and having the opportunity to be prepared, as well as having someone help guide me through this terrifying process of being a NICU parent made it a lot less scary.”

Since January of 2023, Mark's Mission has proudly donated \$1,000 in Food and Fuel Assistance to NICU and PICU families at UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital. With our nation still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in unemployment rates, and more preterm births requiring more intense care, we can expect to see this need continue to grow. We are honored to be able to continue to serve our community and further our impact in partnership with the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

### **All About Mark's Mission**

Mark's Mission strives to promote family bonding between parents and their children in NICUs and other hospital units through education, facilitation, and support. We aim to overcome burdens and provide financial support for families who experience hardship so they may be



present in their child's healing efforts. Our mission is to improve health outcomes for infants and children and create family memories that last a lifetime.

### **All About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation had \$630 million in assets at 12/31/2021 and has made approximately \$640 million in grants since inception. For more information about The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and their dedication to our community, please visit [www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org).