

Community Foundation Outreach Alert

Christine's Blankets – Matching Opportunity



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
A DIVISION OF UNITED WAY OF VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

The Need:

Homeless individuals in Volusia County are faced with ever-growing issues. Having a blanket to keep them warm at night should not be a worry. Christine's Blankets fills that need through their blanket distribution program. Over 3,000 individuals in our community were served in 2020.

The Organization:

Christine's Blankets was born out of a daughter's love for her mother. Founder Michelle Arel's mother, Christine, was mentally ill and homeless in the Daytona Beach area. Christine was murdered in 2019 after being accused of taking another homeless person's blanket. After this tragic event, Christine's Blankets was founded with the purpose of providing a sense of comfort to homeless individuals along with a reminder they are loved, even if from a distance.

The Program:

Blankets are either purchased new or collected via donation bins at community partner sites. Each blanket then gets embroidered with an uplifting message of hope to the recipient. Along with a blanket, the nonprofit provides weather appropriate hygiene articles, like sunscreen in the summer months. Distribution of the blankets and other supplies are through area shelters and given directly to homeless individuals. There also has been a sharp increase of people in need, who are directly contacting Christine's Blankets to receive assistance.

A generous and caring anonymous donor has agreed to match 100% of yours, and others, pledge amounts up to \$5,000. The total of \$10,000 will fund a new Passion Fund with the Community Foundation which would provide regular monthly support payments to help sustain Christine's Blanket's great work. Pledges will be accepted up to January, 15, 2022.

To make your pledge of support to Christine's Blankets Passion Fund, please contact Alyssa Hull with the Community Foundation at 386.275.1943, ahull@uwvfc.org. You may also visit christinesblankets.org.