



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Palm Beach United Way partners with Oxbridge Academy to launch pilot Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Students will award \$25,000 to local nonprofits through a youth-led grantmaking process

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PALM BEACH, Fla. – Local high school students will get the chance to learn about philanthropy, nonprofit structure, and grantmaking as part of a new partnership between Oxbridge Academy and the Town of Palm Beach United Way. The Youth Philanthropy Initiative at Oxbridge is an 18-week, in-person program that teaches high school students the fundamentals of philanthropy, social impact, and responsible giving. Through the program, students will research community needs, evaluate local nonprofits, and award \$25,000 in grants to five nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County.

The pilot program began on October 16, 2025, with students in grades 9-12. Meeting weekly on campus, students build skills in financial literacy, nonprofit leadership, grantmaking, and collaborative decision-making through experiential learning. The elective program culminates in a youth-led grantmaking project, including grant writing, proposal review, finalist interviews, and a community showcase where awards will be announced.

“Starting a program like this has always been a dream of mine,” said Beth Walton, President and CEO of the Town of Palm Beach United Way and the course instructor. “We do a fantastic job of educating our donors and volunteers on the process of grantmaking, but it’s these students who are going to be our future leaders and philanthropists. Instilling these concepts now will empower students to become life-long stewards of public service and social work.”

Lesson topics include Understanding Community Need; Mapping Social Issues; How Nonprofits Work; Financial Literacy for Giving; Reading IRS Form 990s; and Researching and Evaluating Nonprofits. Students will also explore ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) to better understand the realities facing working families.

The new initiative aligns with Oxbridge Academy’s mission to cultivate community-minded leaders who strive to make the world a better place through education, service, teamwork, and philanthropy. It also reinforces the school’s core values of kindness, empathy, generosity, and compassion—helping students deepen their understanding of local challenges.

“The Youth Philanthropy Initiative embodies Oxbridge Academy’s dedication to developing engaged, thoughtful leaders,” said Jay Boodheshwar, Assistant Head of School for Advancement. “Through hands-on experience in grantmaking and community engagement, students will gain a firsthand understanding of the power of philanthropy and the profound responsibility that comes with making meaningful, lasting change in the world around them.”

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At the conclusion of the program, students will select five nonprofits to receive \$5,000 each. Family members, nonprofit partners, and community members will be invited to a showcase event in early 2026 to celebrate the students' decisions and announce the grants.

The initiative is being generously underwritten by Palm Beach residents Susan and Bob Wright, longtime supporters of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. The Wrights have chaired the United Way's prestigious Alexis de Tocqueville Society and served on the Board of Trustees. Susan Wright also serves on the United Way's Allocation Committee, which is responsible for reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations.

"We are thrilled to support the new Youth Philanthropy Initiative at Oxbridge," said Susan Wright. "Having served on the Allocation Committee for many years, I know firsthand the value this experience will bring to young leaders. Understanding charitable giving and grantmaking is essential—and we believe in educating the next generation of changemakers in our community."

For more information on the program contact Jay Boodheshwar, Assistant Head of School for Advancement, at jboodheshwar@oapb.org, or Beth Walton at bethwalton@palmbeachunitedway.org.

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About the Town of Palm Beach United Way:

Founded in 1945, the Town of Palm Beach United Way is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization committed to improving lives and strengthening communities across Palm Beach County. By uniting individuals, businesses, and nonprofits, the organization drives lasting, measurable change in the areas of education, health, and financial stability—the building blocks of a thriving community. Each year, more than 130 community volunteers participate in a rigorous grant allocation process, evaluating agency programs for measurable results, financial accountability, and community impact to ensure donor dollars are invested wisely. Currently, the Town of Palm Beach United Way supports 71 health and human service programs at 38 local nonprofit agencies. With 91 cents of every dollar invested directly into community programs and top ratings from Charity Navigator and Candid, the Town of Palm Beach United Way continues to set the standard for transparency, fiscal stewardship, and meaningful community impact. To learn more, call 561-655-1919 or visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org.

About Oxbridge Academy:

Oxbridge Academy is a premier independent, coeducational college preparatory school for grades 6-12 in West Palm Beach, Florida. It offers a challenging, dynamic curriculum and an enriching environment where students learn essential skills in a variety of settings. Through an interdisciplinary academic approach, Oxbridge Academy fosters the growth of leaders, thinkers, problem solvers, and world-changers. Signature programs—such as the Free Enterprise Institute, Aviation, Artificial Intelligence, and Independent Research programs—ignite students' passions, strengthen their skills, and spark creative thinking, preparing them for college and beyond. Situated on 54 acres, Oxbridge provides a world-class education, a vibrant culture, and experiential learning opportunities within a diverse and inclusive community. With more opportunities than ever for students to explore their interests, Oxbridge Academy is redefining the middle and high school experience. The school is located at 3151 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. For more information, visit www.oapb.org, call 561-972-9600, or follow @OxbridgeAcademy on social media.

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