



SEATED: Trinity David '28, Riley Lyons '27, Maclaren Chevalier '27, Ava Thompson '27; STANDING: Beth Walton, President and CEO of the Town of Palm Beach United Way, Giulliana Haruvi '28, Sienna Bharti '28, Lucas Young '28, Lillian Whitten '27, Chloe Caraffa '27, Matias Duran '29, Jay Boodheshwar, Oxbridge Academy's Assistant Head of School for Advancement; (NOT PICTURED: Julia Schmidt '27)

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

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.

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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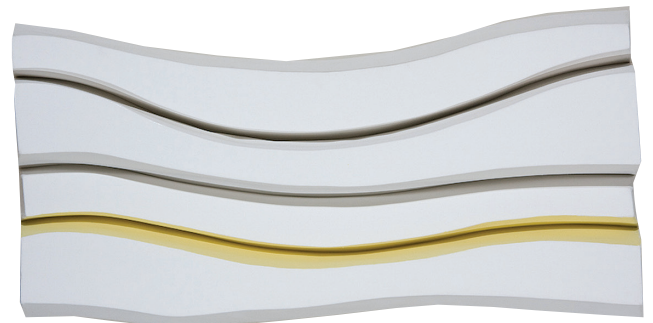
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