

## Become a JWBC Partner



Original research commissioned in 2007 by the Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC) and carried out by the Economics Department of Jacksonville University and the Center for Women's Business Research (CWBR) in Washington, DC, showed women entrepreneurs in the seven counties which comprise Northeast Florida generated \$18.8 billion in revenue and were responsible for 225,000 jobs in 2006. Women entrepreneurs continue to be the fastest growing segment of the population. A recent update from CWBR shows in the Jacksonville Metropolitan area alone, there are a total of 39,477 women owned businesses, which employ 45,718 people and generated \$7 billion in annual revenues in 2008.

The JWBC was created in 2004 to serve the needs of women entrepreneurs on the First Coast. Our mission is to ***advance the success of women entrepreneurs at every stage of development.***

The JWBC is a program of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation and is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) through the Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO). Under the terms of its grant, the JWBC is required to match funding received from the SBA on a dollar for dollar basis. As a program of the Chamber Foundation the JWBC is a 501(c) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

There are several ways you can get involved with the JWBC. Your contribution is an investment in the economic health of our community and a hand up, not a hand out, to women entrepreneurs.

- **Make a charitable contribution to the JWBC.** Your contribution counts toward our matching funds, provides a tax deduction for you and most importantly, helps a woman business owner receive mentoring or training she needs to advance her business to the next level.
- **Contribute to the JWBC Scholarship Fund.** If you prefer, designate your contribution to our Scholarship Fund. Many women business owners are just starting out and need training resources to grow and sustain their business. While donations and sponsorships help us keep our program fees as low as possible, many of our clients struggle to pay the entire cost. JWBC has established a scholarship fund to assist those ladies.
- **Invest your corporate marketing dollars with JWBC.** Your marketing dollars, diversity supplier funds or your corporate foundation can make a huge difference in the lives of women business owners. Sponsorships are available for many of our programs. Your sponsorship helps keep the cost of our programs low so women small business owners can afford to attend and the benefits of sponsorship go well beyond keeping our costs low. If you are interested in becoming a program sponsor, contact Sandy Bartow, Vice President, Chamber Small Business, at 366-6634 or [sandy.bartow@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:sandy.bartow@myjaxchamber.com) . Sandy will be happy to help you find the right fit for your company and maximize your sponsorship experience.
- **Volunteer your time and talents.** JWBC is always looking for professionals who can devote a couple hours a month to mentor a women business owner. The areas of expertise needed are varied. Contact Program Director, Pat Blanchard at 366-6640 or [pat.blanchard@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:pat.blanchard@myjaxchamber.com) for more information on volunteering. Does your company have a match program for volunteer hours served? Please let us know when you apply to volunteer with JWBC.
- **Refer an aspiring or existing woman business owner to JWBC.** We have a number of programs designed to assist women at every level of development. To contact the Center, call Pat Blanchard, Director at 366-6640 or [pat.blanchard@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:pat.blanchard@myjaxchamber.com) .

To mail a contribution, send a check or money order to:

Jacksonville Women's Business Center  
3 Independent Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202,  
Attention Sandy Bartow.

Make checks payable to Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

**Thank you to these generous businesses which currently sponsor our programs:**

