

A photograph of two women sitting on a wicker chair outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a bright blue dress and white heels. The woman on the right is wearing a black dress and dark blue heels. They are both smiling at the camera. The background consists of large green plants and a brick patio.

Candice B. Gidney, Esq.
*Director
The Betty G. Reader Foundation*

A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially covering the woman in the black dress.

Jerilynn Gidney
*Co-Trustee
The Betty G. Reader Foundation*

A Legacy of Service

The Betty G. Reader Foundation

Betty G. Reader's legacy of giving back to her community lives on at FIU. An active volunteer and philanthropist who passed in 2009 at the age of 99, Reader supported numerous organizations such as American Friends of Hebrew University, Jewish Home for the Aged, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Hadassah, American Cancer Society, Miami Jewish Home and Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center of Miami Beach.



Betty G. Reader

In celebration of her volunteerism, Reader received many awards including The Hebrew University Award and the Diamond Medal from Hadassah. Honoring this legacy of service, in 2011 the trustees of her estate made a \$600,000 commitment to establish the Betty G. Reader Scholarship Fund for students who have demonstrated exemplary service to and leadership in the community.

The first FIU scholarship with a preference for students who have served the Jewish community, the fund will honor Reader's legacy and dedication to the well-being of the greater Jewish community. As many as 12 incoming freshmen will be selected each year to receive the four-year scholarships.

"The Betty G. Reader Scholarship Fund will have a lasting impact on FIU and our community," said FIU Dean of Undergraduate Education Doug Robertson. "This program will change the lives of many young persons who have demonstrated their potential for success through exemplary academic achievement, leadership and citizenship."

One of the first recipients of the scholarship is Steve Jerome, a freshman electrical engineering major who served as vice president of his high school's 5000 Role Models of Excellence Program and mentored at-risk male students at Benjamin Franklin Elementary. Jerome's selection reflects his dedication to the ideals personified by Reader:

"This scholarship was truly a blessing and it is propelling me toward the realization of the American dream.... Being able to serve and contribute to my community has been one of the most humbling experiences of my life."