



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BRASFIELD & GORRIE FORTIFIES LOCAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

JACKSONVILLE, FL – JAN 23, 2024— In an unwavering commitment to nurturing future leaders and empowering local youth, Brasfield & Gorrie's Jacksonville office proudly announces the selection of ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida as its primary fundraising beneficiary for the years 2024-2026.

The collaborative endeavor was inaugurated during Impact Week, held from October 23-27, where a fundraising initiative held by Brasfield & Gorrie resulted in \$33,000 of donations raised for and pledged to ACE Mentor Program. Concurrently, national teams across all Brasfield & Gorrie locations engaged in volunteer activities, donated essential supplies, and left an enduring mark on their communities during this impactful week. The general contractor's Jacksonville office also hosts the Annual Cowford Invitational golf tournament, and the ACE Mentor Program will be the beneficiary.

Erik Sharpe, Division Manager at Brasfield & Gorrie, expressed the symbiotic nature of the collaboration, stating, "Driven by a passion for mentorship and the built environment, the partnership between our two organizations is a natural connection to further bridge programs that promote local youth access to careers in the construction industry. We are not only financially supporting ACE; we are supporting new relationships with future leaders, future business partners, future subcontractors, and future employees, all while supporting the local community."

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is a nonprofit organization dedicated to guiding high school students in exploring careers in architecture, construction, and engineering through after-school mentoring and scholarships. Open to high school students with a curiosity and drive and learn about careers in design and construction, the program provides valuable opportunities for continued advancement in the industry.

Nicole Eubanks, Affiliate Director of ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, emphasized the significance of the partnership amid the construction industry's labor shortage, stating, "As the demand for ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida intensifies, we are thrilled to be chosen as Brasfield & Gorrie's fundraising beneficiary. This presents an extraordinary opportunity for ACE to fortify and expand our program to benefit the youth of Northeast Florida."

The selection of ACE Mentor Program as the fundraising beneficiary reflects the collective decision of Brasfield & Gorrie Jacksonville employees. Beyond financial support, employees have committed to actively participate as mentors, guest speakers, committee members, and board



members, underscoring the holistic approach towards creating a lasting impact in the community.

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### **About Brasfield & Gorrie**

Brasfield & Gorrie is one of the nation’s largest privately held construction firms, providing general contracting, design-build, and construction management services for a wide variety of markets, including healthcare, commercial, institutional, federal, municipal, industrial, infrastructure, and water/wastewater treatment. Brasfield & Gorrie has 13 offices, including Jacksonville. In 2023, they were recognized as the #1 General Contractor in the State of Florida (by ENR Southeast) and #1 in Jacksonville (by the Jacksonville Daily Record.) Locally, they have contributed to community non-profits for more than two decades. Learn more at [brasfieldgorrie.com](http://brasfieldgorrie.com).

### **About ACE Mentor Program**

Founded during the 2006-2007 school year, ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. Through the program, mentors from local industry professional firms meet with students once a week for 18-20 weeks. During these sessions, students work in teams to create practical solutions for “real-world” projects. Now in their 17th year of the program, ACE serves 200 students from Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties with 100 mentors weekly. To learn more as a student, mentor or donor, please visit [www.acementor.org/northeast-fl](http://www.acementor.org/northeast-fl).

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