



Contact:

Lana Gersten | 312.846.1655 | lgersten@grouppgordon.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Naples Children & Education Foundation Awards \$11 Million to Make a Lasting Difference for Children in Collier County

Naples, FL – March 14, 2016 – More than thirty of the most effective organizations in Collier County, as well as four long-term strategic initiatives that fill fundamental gaps in children’s services, will receive grants totaling more than \$11 million this year thanks to the generous support of those who attended the Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF). That brings the total amount granted since the Festival’s inception in 2001 to more than \$146 million. The funds will support a wide variety of programs and organizations that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of Collier County’s children.

Trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), the founding organization of the NWWF, will celebrate grant recipients today at the annual grants award ceremony at the Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples.

“My heartfelt thanks to all of the Festival’s guests and winning bidders who make our work possible,” said Susie McCurry, 2016 Grant Committee Chair. “Because of their generosity, the Naples Children & Education Foundation’s far reaching impact is positively changing the lives of thousands of children and their families.”

\$4.4 million will support four multi-partner, multi-year strategic initiatives that are fundamentally changing service delivery for the county’s most vulnerable children. The initiatives are the result of studies commissioned by NCEF in 2005, 2010 and 2015 that identified significant gaps in basic services for the children of Collier County. Knowing that solutions to these problems would require the resources and expertise of many in the community, NCEF convened a coalition of partners to work together in innovative ways.

This year’s Fund-a-Need, NCEF’s Early Learning Initiative, will receive \$1 million due to the generosity of those who raised their paddle during the Naples Winter Wine Festival. Children’s Mental Health Initiative will receive \$2.9 million, Children’s Oral Health Initiative will receive \$260,000, and Children’s Out of School Initiative will receive \$200,000.

In addition, \$6.6 million in grants will be awarded to more than thirty organizations to continue their critical work with at-risk and underprivileged children in Southwest Florida. The following is the full list of non-profit organizations receiving grants from NCEF in 2016:

ABLE Academy	\$250,000
Angels Undercover	\$51,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast	\$93,500

Boys & Girls Club of Collier County	\$750,000
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation	\$150,000
Catholic Charities	\$145,000
Children's Advocacy Center	\$490,000
Collier Child Care Resources (CCCR)	\$100,000
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	\$68,000
Early Literacy & Learning Model (ELLM)	\$425,000
Friends of Foster Children Forever	\$330,000
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy	\$135,000
Gargiulo Education Center	\$62,000
Golisano Children's Museum of Naples	\$220,000
Grace Place for Children & Families	\$80,750
Greater Marco Family YMCA	\$365,000
Greater Naples YMCA	\$315,000
Guadalupe Center	\$658,750
Holocaust Museum of SWFL	\$42,500
Immokalee Child Care Center	\$195,000
Legal Aid	\$365,000
MusicScores!	\$45,000
Naples Botanical Garden	\$75,000
Naples Equestrian Challenge	\$155,000
Redlands Christian Migrant Association	\$415,000
Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County	\$52,000
Special Olympics	\$60,000
St. Matthew's House	\$42,000
The Immokalee Foundation	\$230,000
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children	\$240,000
United Arts Council	\$49,000

A grants committee comprised of eleven Trustees works year-round to determine how to distribute the funds raised at the Festival in the most impactful manner, benefiting as many children as possible by supporting effective, disciplined and strategic charities. Throughout the coming year, the committee will maintain contact with grantees to ensure the money is being used effectively.

About The Naples Children & Education Foundation

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is committed to improving the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 40 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information about NCEF, please visit www.napleswinefestival.com.

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