

SAVE THE DATE

'Believe in the Magic'

Plans well under way
for 2012 Naples
Winter Wine Festival

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation have announced that "Believe in the Magic," the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival, is set for Jan. 27-29, 2012.

Co-chairs Bob and Joan Clifford of Chicago and Naples have tapped Chicago-based celebrity chef Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia as chef de cuisine and His Royal Highness Prince Robert of Luxembourg of Château Haut-Brion, a first-growth producer in Bordeaux, as the 2012 festival's honored vintner. Plans are in the works for a once-in-a-lifetime Château Haut-Brion vertical tasting.

Mr. Clifford is an attorney whose firm, Clifford Law Offices, has represented victims in every major commercial airline crash in the U.S. in the last two decades. By court appointment, he serves as liaison counsel for the 9/11 litigation pending in the New York Federal Court. Mrs. Clif-

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bob and Joan Clifford, co-chairs of the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival, are pictured at the YMCA of the Palms Childcare Center with students Tanush Gopkumar, Ashley Giraldo and Christopher McGowan. The center is one of the beneficiaries of the festival.

ford, a former educator and travel agency owner, serves as a docent at the Chicago History Museum and on the boards of the Goodman Theatre, Children's Memorial Hospital and Parkways Foundation in Chicago.

"We're amazed by the generosity at the festival each year and take pride in being part of an event whose funds are 100 percent allocated to children in need," Mr. Clifford says. "We are thrilled to roll up our sleeves and contribute as co-

chairs this year and keep working the magic for the kids."

Festival tickets are \$8,500 per couple and \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples.

About the foundation

The NCEF has raised more than \$94.5 million at the Naples Winter Wine Festival since 2001, with all proceeds used to create and expand charitable programs serving underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. As a direct result of the investments of NCEF, over 125,000 children have had their lives improved.

The foundation is governed by a nine-person board representing 69 trustees and currently supports 23 grantees and long-term strategic initiatives focused on children's early learning, medical/oral health, out-of-school programs, behavioral health and childhood hunger.

All of the foundation's funds are generated by the Naples Winter Wine Festival, which Wine Spectator magazine has ranked as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004.

The three-day affair for 580 guests has captured national attention for its fundraising prowess and extraordinary auction lots. Last year's festival raised \$12 million, up 48 percent from 2010 (\$8.1 million) and 135 percent from recession-bound 2009 (\$5.1 million).

For a complete schedule of 2012 festivities and more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, visit www.NaplesWineFestival.com or call (888) 837-4919. ■