



Contact:

Lana Gersten | 312.846.1655 | lgersten@groupgordon.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Naples Winter Wine Festival will Celebrate 16 Years of High-Impact Giving at
2016 Star-Studded Event
*All Proceeds Benefit At-Risk and Underprivileged Children***

Naples, FL – May 5, 2015 – The 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), one of the world’s most prestigious charity wine auctions, promises to exceed expectations as guests gather with world-renowned vintners and celebrity chefs for a three-day Festival that will raise crucial funds for children in need. This celebration of the best in wine and food will be held from January 29-31, 2016 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL.

This year’s theme, “*Great Expectations*,” reflects the event’s promise of a weekend of unforgettable memories. Guests will enjoy the finest wines and food from around the world, and bid on rare collections of some of the world’s most sought-after wines, exotic travel adventures, limited edition cars, and unique experiences during an electrifying live auction. Expectations will also be high for making a profound and sustaining difference in the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children. Since its inception in 2001, the Naples Winter Wine Festival has raised more than \$135 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which has awarded grants to more than 40 non-profit organizations that have impacted the lives of more than 200,000 children.

Tom and Sandi Moran are returning to co-chair the Festival for the second year in a row, and will be joined by Jim and Laura Dixon, all Trustees of NCEF.

The Morans have called Naples home for more than 30 years. Passionate about the community and its children, they joined NCEF as Trustees in 2010 and are the first couple to co-chair the Festival for two years in a row.

Tom is the founding and managing partner of an investment management group based in Naples, and is recognized by Barron’s as the #1 Advisor in Southwest Florida. He often lectures before financial professionals and individual organizations throughout the nation on the economy and financial markets, and has authored articles on a variety of financial and economic topics for local and national industry magazines. Sandi was recently chosen as one of the Community Foundation of Collier County 2015 Women of Initiative for her leadership style, philanthropy, and civic engagement. She is also the Conseiller Gastronomique Provinciale of the Southeast Region of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and is the most recent past president of the Naples chapter. In recognition of their remarkable work and impact within the Naples community, the Morans received the “2010 Philanthropist of the Year’s Lifetime

Achievement Award for Southwest Florida” and in 2012 were honored by *Gulfshore Life* magazine as “Men & Women of the Year.”

In 2010, Jim and Laura Dixon became Trustees of NCEF because of their love for the auction and for what it has accomplished for the betterment of children in the community. Jim also joined the NCEF Grant Committee in 2010, and has served as the Grant Chair for the past two years.

The couple joined Laura’s family business, HAYNES Corporation, in 1972, and helped grow it from a manufacturer’s representative in Jackson, MI., to a world-class manufacturer of automation machinery. They moved to Naples in 1989 when they acquired the Bendix manufacturing plant. In 2013, they continued to expand their presence in Naples by building a new LEED Certified manufacturing plant for all production operations. The Dixons have received many prestigious awards, including the 2010 Economic Development Council’s “Excellence in Industry,” 2011 “Florida Companies to Watch,” and most recently the coveted 2014 Junior Achievement “Collier County Business Hall of Fame Award.”

“Our remarkable co-chairs bring a wealth of experience, creativity, and passion to everything they do, and we can’t wait to see what’s in store for 2016,” said Maria Jimenez-Lara, Chief Executive Officer of NCEF. “The money raised at the Naples Winter Wine Festival has a lasting impact on the children who need our help the most. We couldn’t do what we do without the talents and resources of our Co-Chairs and Trustees.”

Ticket packages to this exclusive event, limited to 580 guests, start at \$10,000 per couple. A \$25,000 package is also available that includes reserved seating for a party of four at a vintner dinner and under the tent. To inquire about tickets to the Naples Winter Wine Festival, please contact Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or 239-514-2239.

About the Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is one of the world’s most prestigious charity wine auctions, bringing together renowned vintners and chefs with wine enthusiasts and philanthropists for a three-day Festival that raises millions of dollars for underprivileged and at-risk children. Every dollar raised under the tent funds the Festival’s founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), whose annual grants and strategic initiatives have provided more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information, please visit Napleswinefestival.com.

###