



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charitable grants of \$13.4 million awarded by Naples Winter Wine Festival creators

NAPLES, Fla. (March 18, 2013) – Trustees of Naples Children & Education Foundation, creators of Naples Winter Wine Festival, presented \$13.4 million in grant checks to charitable organizations that serve Collier County’s underprivileged and at-risk children.

During the grants ceremony at Bay Colony Golf Club, 24 local charities received grant checks totaling \$6.4 million to help fund programs and services over the next 12 months. Grants ranged in size from \$31,000 for St. Matt’s Kids Camps to \$1 million for Boys & Girls Club of Collier County.

In addition, grants totaling \$7 million were awarded for multi-year, strategic initiatives aimed at continuing the fight against children’s oral health diseases; providing out-of-school programs in Immokalee; improving children’s vision through screening and providing prescription eyeglasses; and the continuation of Lunch Boxes of Love, an initiative that takes a bite out of children’s hunger.

“Hundreds of generous festival supporters are behind these grant awards,” said Bob Edwards, festival chair with his wife Terry. “While the festival’s vintner dinners and one-of-a-kind auction lots create memorable experiences, it’s abundantly clear that children in need are in supporters’ hearts and minds throughout the festivities. NCEF trustees share the joy of making a profound difference in children’s lives with all who contributed to this year’s festival.”

Among 2013 grant recipients, Safe & Healthy Children’s Coalition is the only first timer. The organization received a \$50,000 grant to provide drowning prevention and water safety programs for 1,000 at-risk and underserved children in Immokalee and Golden Gate. According to the Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of Vital Statistics, drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages one to four in Collier County. “Statistics also show that children in our ethnically diverse communities are twice as likely to die from drowning accidents,” said Terry Edwards, grant committee member and 2013 festival co-chair. “Teaching children and their parents how to prevent drowning is fundamental to reducing these tragic deaths.”

Following is an alphabetical list of 2013 NCEF grants awarded:

ABLE Academy	\$250,000
Boys & Girls Club of Collier County	\$1,000,000
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation	\$100,000
Catholic Charities	\$136,000
Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County	\$484,000
Early Literacy and Learning Model Program	\$350,000
Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida	\$360,000
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy	\$135,000
Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples	\$200,000
Greater Marco Family YMCA	\$265,000
Guadalupe Center of Immokalee	\$725,000
Immokalee Child Care Center	\$215,000
Immokalee Housing & Family Services	\$85,000
Legal Aid for Collier Kids	\$115,000
Naples Botanical Garden	\$61,000
Naples Equestrian Challenge	\$100,000

Redlands Christian Migrant Association	\$350,000
Safe & Healthy Children’s Coalition	\$50,000
Shelter for Abused Women & Children	\$323,000
Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board	\$340,000
St. Matthew’s House/St. Matt’s Camps for Kids Program	\$31,000
Tutor Corps	\$60,000
YMCA of the Palms	\$395,000
Youth Haven	\$300,000
Strategic initiative grants:	
“GPS - Guidance Programs for Success” out of school time program – Immokalee	\$2,160,000
Lunch Boxes of Love (phase two)	\$1,000,000
“Now You See It” pediatric vision/prescription eyeglass initiative plus partnership with Lighthouse of Collier County	\$1,500,000
Pediatric Oral Health Initiative	\$2,400,461
Total	\$13,490,461

Most social service agencies in Collier County are dependent on funding from foundation grants, fundraisers and private donations in order to remain viable. For charities that apply for NCEF grants, there is a rigorous vetting process, and those receiving grants are monitored to ensure dollars are effectively administered. NCEF also requires that charities act collaboratively to fill gaps in service.

“NCEF grants are directed toward the whole child, from the tops of their heads to the tips of their toes,” said Karen Scott, NCEF grant committee chair. “We are very intentional about grant making, researching where gaps in services lie, multiplying grants through matching-grant programs, and focusing on making systemic changes in service delivery that will last for generations to come.”

NCEF board chair Anne Welsh McNulty added, “NCEF's ultimate goal is giving underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County basic health care and education services that will improve their life-long well-being and chance at success.”

Since 2000, Naples Children & Education Foundation has been dedicated to making a profound and sustaining improvement in the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County, where pockets of poverty threaten thousands of children’s ability to thrive. Through the Naples Winter Wine Festival, NCEF has raised more than \$110 million since 2001, making it the most successful charity wine auction in the world. Proceeds have impacted more than 150,000 children through 37 charities and long-term strategic initiatives that help fill gaps in children’s services: medical/dental health, early childhood education, out-of-school services, behavioral health and childhood hunger.

The 2014 Naples Winter Wine Festival will take place Jan. 24-26. For more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival and Naples Children & Education Foundation, visit www.napleswinefestival.com or call 888-837-4919. To make a donation to NCEF, please go to the festival website or call Debra Weaver, events director, at 239-325-2976.

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