



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Naples Winter Wine Festival announces 2014 event chairs**

NAPLES, Fla. (May 16, 2013) – Ranked by Wine Spectator as the most successful charity wine auction in the nation, the Naples Winter Wine Festival will again combine fun and philanthropy to raise millions of dollars for underprivileged and at-risk children from Jan. 24-26 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples.

The festival, which takes more than a year to plan, is an intimate affair for 550 guests and has raised more than \$110 million for children in need. A highlight is the high-energy, live auction of rare wines, one-of-a-kind experiences and other treasures.

For the first time, three women will chair this elaborate festival. All three – Linda Malone, Anne Welsh McNulty and Adria Starkey – are trustees of Naples Children & Education Foundation, the organization that founded the festival in 2001. Malone is also the first returning chair, having overseen a record-breaking festival in 2007.

The 2014 chairs are highly successful businesswomen and passionate philanthropists. Each has been honored with the Women of Initiative Award from the Community Foundation of Collier County, among other accolades.

Linda Malone is the managing partner of LRM Design Group, an interior design and corporate gift service firm. Previously, she founded Ithaka, a luxury homebuilding company. Malone has served on numerous charity boards including The David Lawrence Foundation, The Immokalee Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County. She is currently vice chair of the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples. In 2007, Community Foundation of Collier County named her Outstanding Philanthropic Fundraiser. She has served as NCEF board chair and treasurer, and was a founding trustee.

McNulty is co-founder and managing partner of JBK Partners, with businesses including investment management and a private philanthropic foundation. Before starting JBK Partners, McNulty was a managing director of Goldman Sachs. She serves on the board of trustees of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and of Villanova University, and chairs the investment committee at Villanova. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Aspen Institute, Metropolitan Opera, Child Mind Institute, and National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. She also serves on the Women's Initiative Network in Naples. McNulty was NCEF board chair in 2012 and has chaired the grant committee.

Starkey is president of The Naples Trust Company. Her financial-services career spans 30 years. She was previously the regional president for Wachovia National Bank (now Wells Fargo) and a former executive at Northern Trust. In addition to trust company duties, she has served on the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations, including immediate past chair of the board of trustees of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Artis – Naples. Starkey was honored as Woman of the Year by Gulfshore Life in 2000, and received the Edison College Leadership in Fostering Education Award in 2008. She served as an NCEF grant committee member for four years.

The 2014 festival theme is Celebrate the Journey. The chairs selected the theme to reflect the diverse journeys undertaken since the festival's inception – the journey to a better life for more than 150,000 children; the festival's world-renowned fundraising journey from \$2 million in 2001 to more than \$110 million raised to date; the wonderful and exciting journeys festival patrons have taken after winning exotic travel packages at auction; and the triumphant journey of grapes to glasses of extraordinary wine.

Festival events span three days, starting with Meet the Kids Day, when guests witness charitable dollars at work and interact with children from NCEF-supported charities. Guests also enjoy wine tastings throughout the weekend and attend intimate dinners prepared by famous chefs at the private homes of NCEF trustees and other supporters, with wines selected and poured by esteemed vintners. A culinary showcase and live auction of more than 60 lots takes place at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples – a founding sponsor of the festival. The festivities also comprise a post-auction wine-down party and brunch the next day.

Naples Winter Wine Festival proceeds have had a profound impact on the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children through grants to 38 children's 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.

Festival tickets are \$8,500 per couple and \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For information about Naples Winter Wine Festival, visit [www.NaplesWineFestival.com](http://www.NaplesWineFestival.com) or call 888-837-4919.

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