



## It's egg season in the Garden

Families are invited to bring their Easter baskets and participate in the annual egg hunt at Naples Botanical Garden from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 26. The Kathleen and Scott Kapnick Brazilian Garden will be filled with thousands of colorful, prize-filled eggs.

Upon arrival, families should register in the entry pavilion for one of the hunts (with more than 1,000 eggs placed per hunt, everyone is sure to find a few). Here's the schedule:

**2 years and younger:** 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

**2-6 years old:** 1:30 pm

**3-4 years old:** 10 a.m. and noon

**5-6 years old:** 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**7-12 years old:** 11 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m.

Regular Garden admission applies: \$14.95 for adults, \$9.95 for ages 4-14. Garden members and children ages 3 and younger are admitted free.

The Garden is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 643-7275 or visit [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org). ■

# Naples Winter Wine Festival grants top \$11 million

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

More than 30 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 from the Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. That brings the total amount granted since the festival's inception in 2001 to more than \$146 million.

This year's funds will support a wide variety of programs and organizations that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of Collier County's children. NCEF trustees recently hosted the newest grant recipients at the annual award ceremony at Bay Colony Golf Club.

"My heartfelt thanks to all of the festival's guests and winning bidders who make our work possible," said Susie McCurry, chair of the 2016 NWWF Grant Committee. From this year's total, \$4.4 million will support four multi-partner, multi-year strategic initiatives that resulted from studies commissioned by NCEF in 2005, 2010 and 2015. The studies identified significant gaps in basic services for the children of Collier County. NCEF convened a coalition of partners to work together in innovative ways to fill those gaps.

This year's Fund-a-Need, NCEF's Early Learning Initiative, will receive \$1 million. The Children's Mental Health Initiative will receive \$2.9 million. The Children's Oral Health Initiative will receive \$260,000, and the Children's Out of School Initiative will receive \$200,000.

An additional \$6.6 million in grants was awarded to the following:



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jim Dixon, Laura Dixon, Sandi Moran and Tom Moran co-chaired the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival that resulted in the recent awarding of \$11-plus million in grants.

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, \$100,000; Conservancy of Southwest Florida, \$68,000;

Early Literacy & Learning Model, \$425,000; Friends of Foster Children Forever, \$330,000; Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, \$135,000; Garguilo 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; Guadalupe Center, \$658,750;

Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, \$42,500; Immokalee Child Care Center, \$195,000;

Legal Aid Service of Collier County, \$365,000; MusicScores!, \$45,000; Naples Botanical Garden, \$75,000; Naples Equestrian Challenge, \$155,000;



Recipients Kim Minarich of Naples Equestrian Center and Beth Housewert of Golisano Children's Museum of Naples

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.

For more information, visit [napleswinefestival.com](http://napleswinefestival.com). ■

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