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With art: group photo

NCEF LAUNCHES FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Naples, FL., July 17, 2013 – Bob Clifford, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founder of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, today announced the launch of a new support committee called Friends of the Foundation.

“We wanted the next generation of philanthropists to get to know our organization, and to broaden their opportunities to support our cause,” comments Clifford.

The committee has planned a series of events for the 2013-2014 season, as listed below, and is seeking sponsors from the \$1,000 to \$15,000 levels. Their goal is to generate \$100,000 in net revenues for NCEF programs.

September – Naples Chef “Cook-Off”

November – Season Kick-Off

January – “Meet the Kids” Day

April – Wine Event

The Friends of the Foundation Committee is chaired by Brandie Dixon LaFond, owner of Naples Wine Collection, a specialty retail wine store; a graduate of Michigan State University; and an active community volunteer since coming to Naples in 1989. “The work of NCEF – improving the lives of underprivileged children in Collier County – is incredibly important,” she says. “We’re delighted to be able to play a role in it.”

The Naples Children & Education Foundation has raised more than \$110 million dollars in its first 13 years, and has served more than 150,000 underprivileged and at-risk children through grants to 37 organizations and 7 strategic initiatives including the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center.

Additional Committee members include:

Nick Casalanguida, administrator of Collier County’s Growth Management Division;

Edee DeLuca, a member of Hill, Barth & King LLC, leading the firm’s Florida Valuation and Litigation practice;

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Friends of the Foundation, page 2

Michael DeLuca, Supervisor with Hill, Barth & King specializing in the areas of accounting, tax planning and preparation, and business consulting;

Martin De St. Pierre, vice president and wealth management advisor at Fifth Third Private Bank;

Sandra Edwards, occupational therapist at Moorings Park Home Health Agency;

Jeremy Giles, owner of Tomahawk Industries, a mobile shredding and recycling company;

Shelley Hobbs, publisher of Naples *Florida Weekly*;

Matthew Pietzak, vice president, senior relationship manager at PNC Wealth Management;

Mike Randall, a music festival expert with over 20 years of marketing and event experience;

Brian Roland, chef/owner of Crave Culinaire and president of Florida Food Consultants; and

Kristin Vaughn, business development officer of Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Naples.

Advisory Chairs are NCEF Trustees Adria Starkey, Linda Malone and Susie McCurry, and Jerry Greenfield, author and creative director of Greenfield Advertising Group, is an Advisory Member, and Maria Jimenez, Grants Director of the Naples Children & Education Foundation serves as staff liaison.

For more information on membership and sponsorship opportunities with Friends of the Foundation, please contact Maria Jimenez at (239) 514-2239 or maria@napleswinefestival.com.

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The Naples Children & Education Foundation, founded in 2000, is committed to supporting charitable programs that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. Its primary fundraiser, The Naples Winter Wine Festival, is the largest global event of its kind, and has raised in excess of \$110 million in its first 13 years. Festival dates for 2014 are January 24-26. Additional information is available at www.napleswinefestival.com.

PHOTO CAPTION

Naples Children & Education Foundation Friends of the Foundation Committee. First row, left to right: Shelley Hobbs, Sandra Edwards, Brandie Dixon LaFond, Edee DeLuca, Kristin Vaughn. Second row, left to right: Matthew Pietzak, Michael DeLuca, Brian Roland, Nick Casalanguida, Martin de St. Pierre. Not pictured: Jeremy Giles, Mike Randall, Maria Jimenez.

