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2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival
“Believe in the Magic” to take place Jan. 27-29
Chicago’s Bob and Joan Clifford to co-chair

Naples, Fla. (June 7, 2011) – Trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation are pleased to announce that the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival, named “Believe in the Magic,” will take place Jan. 27-29 in Naples, Fla. The intimate three-day affair for 580 guests has captured national attention for its fundraising prowess and extraordinary auction lots. Under the auction tent, the festival has raised \$94.5 million since 2001 for the Naples Children & Education Foundation, which supports underprivileged and at-risk children. Last year’s festival raised \$12 million, up 48 percent from 2010 (\$8.1 million) and 135 percent from recession-bound 2009 (\$5.1 million).

NCEF Trustees Bob and Joan Clifford of Chicago, this year’s co-chairs, have tapped Chicago-based celebrity chef Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia as this year’s Chef de Cuisine and His Royal Highness Prince Robert of Luxembourg of Château Haut-Brion, a first-growth producer in Bordeaux, as Honored Vintner. Plans are in the works for a once-in-a-lifetime Château Haut-Brion vertical tasting.



Bob and Joan Clifford, chairs of the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival, are pictured at the YMCA of the Palms Childcare Center in Naples, Fla., with students Tanush Gopkumar, Ashley Giraldo and Christopher McGowan. The center is one of the beneficiaries of festival proceeds. Photo credit: Louis Venne

Bob Clifford is a nationally prominent attorney whose firm, Clifford Law Offices, has represented victims in every major commercial airline crash in the U.S. in the last two decades, and who serves, by court appointment, as Liaison Counsel for the 9/11 litigation pending in the New York Federal Court. Joan Clifford is a former educator and travel agency owner, and currently serves as a docent at the Chicago History Museum and on the boards of the Goodman Theatre, Children’s Memorial Hospital and Parkways Foundation in Chicago.

“We’re amazed by the generosity at the festival each year and take pride in being part of an event whose funds are 100 percent allocated to children in need,” said Bob Clifford. “We are thrilled to roll up our sleeves and contribute as co-chairs this year, and keep working the magic for the kids.”

Festival ticket prices are \$8,500 per couple and \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For a schedule of 2012 festivities and information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, visit www.NaplesWineFestival.com or call 888-837-4919.

About Naples Children & Education Foundation

The Naples Children & Education Foundation has raised more than \$94.5 million at the Naples Winter Wine Festival since 2001 to create and expand charitable programs serving underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. As a direct result of the investments of NCEF, over 125,000 children have had their lives improved. The foundation is governed by a nine-person board, representing 69 trustees, and currently supports 23 grantees and long-term strategic initiatives focused on children's early learning, medical/oral health, out-of-school programs, behavioral health and childhood hunger.

All of the foundation's funds are generated by the Naples Winter Wine Festival, the most successful charity wine auction in the world. Wine Spectator magazine has ranked NWWF as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004. The auction raises an average of \$8 million over the course of four-to-five hours. The festival is planned and executed by the trustees, foundation staff and hundreds of volunteers.

Festival events span three days, beginning with Meet the Kids Day, during which guests interact with children who have benefited from festival proceeds and witness charitable dollars at work. Guests enjoy wine tastings throughout the weekend. They also attend intimate dinners prepared by famous chefs at the private homes of NCEF trustees, with wines selected and poured by renowned vintners. A festival highlight takes place at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples Golf Resort – a founding sponsor of the festival – with a culinary showcase and live auction of 65 lots. A wine-down party that evening and brunch the next day bring festivities to a close.

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