

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Grammy Award winner LeAnn Rimes in Naples to support Collier County's children in need**

NAPLES, Fla. (Nov. 19, 2012) – Grammy Award winner and renowned performer LeAnn Rimes, a supporter of Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of Naples Winter Wine Festival, made two stops in Naples during her recent Florida singing tour. Rimes visited Naples Equestrian Challenge to meet a dozen or so children who benefit from festival proceeds. That evening, Rimes performed a private concert for 152 festival bidders at a Naples estate, with guests feasting on cuisine prepared by celebrity chef and Top Chef judge Tom Colicchio.

The concert-and-dinner event raised \$1.2 million. It was the top auction lot at the January 2012 festival, with a total of \$12.2 million raised under the auction tent. All auction proceeds benefit underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County.

Naples Equestrian Challenge, where Rimes saw therapeutic riding first hand, is one of 36 charities that NCEF has supported since 2001. NEC improves the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

Since 2000, Naples Children & Education Foundation, which is governed by NCEF trustees, 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 Naples Winter Wine Festival, NCEF has raised \$107 million since 2001, making it the most successful charity wine auction in the world. Proceeds have impacted more than 150,000 children, and major initiatives funded in collaboration with other private and public entities have included a pediatric dental clinic and an early learning center.

NCEF's chief fundraiser is the Naples Winter Wine Festival. The 2013 festival will take place Jan. 25-27. For more information about Naples Winter Wine Festival and Naples Children & Education Foundation, visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com) or call 888-837-4919.

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