



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

NAPLES CHILDREN
NCEF
& EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*NCEF's Lunch Boxes of Love takes bite out of childhood hunger with hiring of food coordinator
Nonprofits launch next phase in coordinated initiative to end children's hunger in Collier County*

NAPLES, Fla. (July 25, 2011) – The Naples Children & Education Foundation – founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival – and Harry Chapin Food Bank announces a milestone in the effort to end childhood hunger in Collier County: the hiring of a Collier County food coordinator to oversee NCEF's Lunch Boxes of Love initiative. Katie Schweikhardt will assume the duties of this newly created position on July 26.

In February, Lunch Boxes of Love was launched thanks to \$630,000 raised through a special fund-a-need auction lot at the January Naples Winter Wine Festival. Using a specially outfitted mobile food pantry branded with Lunch Boxes of Love, Harry Chapin Food Bank distributes nutritious food to children in need. The deliveries take place weekly at child-focused agencies in areas with the most underserved and at-risk children. To date, nearly 2,000 households, with a total of 5,000 children, have been provided with more than 150,000 pounds of healthy foods. NCEF trustee and grant committee vice chair John Scot Mueller expects the initiative to provide 500,000 pounds of food and serve more than 20,000 children over the next year.

Schweikhardt will be responsible for assessing the most effective strategies to address child hunger in Collier County where 24 percent of households with children have food insecurity – a general anxiety about where their next meals will come from. She will also serve as liaison among the many Lunch Boxes of Love participating agencies and education institutions. Her duties also include overseeing emergency food distribution and expanding activities related to the SNAP outreach program – food stamps.

“NCEF's partnership with Harry Chapin Food Bank and other local organizations is aimed at ending childhood hunger in Collier County by making permanent improvements to food distribution and storage systems,” Mueller said.

“Katie's deep knowledge of the area, analytical skills and leadership abilities are the right combination for this job, and we are very pleased to welcome her on board,” said Al Brislain, Harry Chapin Food Bank executive director.

A native of Naples, Schweikhardt has been an attorney with Schweikhardt Law Firm since 2000. She is very active in the community, having sat on the board of directors of Zonta Club of Naples, POLO Club – Professionals Organized for Leadership and Opportunity – and Senior Friendship Center. She has also been a member of The Rotary Club of Naples, Florida Attorneys Saving Homes through The Florida Bar and was on the Team Development Committee for Naples Relay For Life.

Harry Chapin Food Bank solicits, collects and stores quality food for distribution to families in need through a network of more than 170 local nonprofit agencies in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte and Glades counties, who provide food to more than 30,000 people monthly. More than 900,000 pounds of food are distributed monthly. For every dollar donated, about \$6 in food value goes back to the community. In the past fiscal year, Harry Chapin Food Bank distributed more than 11.5 million pounds of food and other grocery products.

For additional information about or to contribute financially to Harry Chapin Food Bank, contact 239-334-7007 or visit www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Since 2000, Naples Children & Education Foundation has been dedicated to making a profound and sustaining improvement in the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. Through the Naples Winter Wine Festival, NCEF has raised more than \$94.5 million since 2001, and proceeds have impacted more than 125,000 children through a total of 37 charities. In addition to yearly grants for individual charities, funding is provided for five strategic initiatives: early learning, medical/oral health, out-of-school programs, behavioral health and childhood hunger. Major initiatives that NCEF has funded in collaboration with other private and public entities have included a pediatric dental clinic and an early learning center.

The 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival will take place Jan. 27-29. For more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival and Naples Children & Education Foundation, visit www.napleswinefestival.com or call 888-837-4919.

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