



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Lana Gersten

312-846-1655

[LGersten@GroupGordon.com](mailto:LGersten@GroupGordon.com)

**UPDATE: Naples Children & Education Foundation Grants Over  
\$11.9 Million to Children's Charities at Annual Ceremony**

***More than \$8 Million for Individual Charities and \$3.8 Million for Strategic Initiatives***

Naples, FL – March 9, 2015 – More than thirty of the most effective charities in Collier County today received more than \$8 million in grants to continue their critical work with at-risk and underprivileged children in Southwest Florida. The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founder of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, also presented checks totaling \$3.8 million for three long-term strategic initiatives that were previously announced, bringing the total amount granted to over \$11.9 million.

Trustees celebrated grant recipients at the annual grants award ceremony at the Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples. The grants will support a wide variety of programs and organizations that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of Collier County's children.

"We are exceptionally grateful to all of the Festival's guests and winning bidders who made today possible," said Tom Moran, Co-Chair of the 2015 Naples Winter Wine Festival. "Through their generosity, the Naples Children & Education Foundation is able to continue to make a far-reaching and lasting difference in our community, and there's nothing worth celebrating more than that."

A grants committee comprised of eleven trustees works year-round to determine how to distribute the funds raised at the Festival in the most impactful manner, benefiting as many children as possible by supporting effective, disciplined and strategic charities. Throughout the coming year, the committee will maintain contact with grantees to ensure the money is being used effectively.

"Each year we continue to be astounded by the personal stories of the grantees and the incredible impact the awards make," said Jim Dixon, Chairman of the Grants Committee and one of the Co-Chairs for the 2016 Festival. "We are honored to support organizations that are tangibly improving the lives of children in need within our community, whether by providing adolescent nutrition and wellness,

empowering youth through mentorship programs or inspiring them through cultural and physical activities.”

Among the more than 30 recipients, NCEF will award first-time grants to five charities: the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Gargiulo Education Center, the Holocaust Museum of SWFL, the South Florida National Parks Trust, and the United Arts Council.

The following is the full list of non-profit organizations receiving grants from NCEF in 2015:

ABLE Academy	\$250,000
Angel’s Undercover	\$60,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast	\$85,000
Boys & Girls Club of Collier County	\$1,000,000
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation	\$250,000
Catholic Charities	\$168,700
Children's Advocacy Center	\$493,151
Collier Child Care Resources	\$100,000
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	\$80,000
Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM)	\$450,000
Friends of Foster Children of SWFL	\$388,000
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy	\$157,000
Gargiulo Education Center	\$52,000
Golisano Children's Hospital of SWFL-Naples Clinic	\$93,200
Golisano Children's Museum of Naples	\$344,000
Grace Place for Children & Families	\$95,000
Greater Marco Family YMCA	\$429,000
Greater Naples YMCA	\$395,000
Guadalupe Center	\$775,000
Holocaust Museum of SWFL	\$50,000
Immokalee Childcare Center	\$230,000
Legal Aid Services of Collier County	\$365,400
MusicScores!	\$40,460
Naples Botanical Garden	\$88,450
Naples Equestrian Challenge	\$153,000
Redlands Christian Migrant Association	\$486,760
Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition	\$73,850
South Florida National Parks Trust	\$46,000
Special Olympics	\$70,375
St. Matthew's House	\$50,000
SWFL Workforce Development Board	\$70,000
The Immokalee Foundation	\$294,000
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children	\$350,000
United Arts Council	\$58,000
YMCA School Aged Collaboration	\$58,000

NCEF also presented checks totaling \$3.8 million to three strategic initiatives: the Children’s Vision Initiative, the Children’s Out of School Initiative and Children’s Hunger Initiative.

The 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival will take place January 29-31 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort.

**About The Naples Children & Education Foundation**

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is committed to improving the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 40 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing around 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information about NCEF, please visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com).

###