

**FOR:**

**Naples Winter Wine Festival**  
 6200 Shirley Street, Suite 206  
 Naples, FL 34109  
 888.837.4919  
[www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com)

**FROM:**

**Jarvis Communications**  
 Elizabeth Glenn  
 310.313.6374  
[elizabeth@jarviscommunications.com](mailto:elizabeth@jarviscommunications.com)

### Charitable grants of \$13.3 million awarded by Naples Winter Wine Festival creators

(Naples, Fla., March 25, 2014) – Trustees of Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, presented over \$13 million in grant checks today to charitable organizations which serve Collier County’s underprivileged and at-risk children.

During the grants ceremony which took place at Bay Colony Golf Club, 30 local charities received grant checks totaling \$7.4 million, to help fund programs and services over the next 12 months. Grants ranged in size from \$30,000 for Angels Undercover to \$1 million for Boys & Girls Club of Collier County. In addition, grants totaling \$5.8 million were awarded for multi-year strategic initiatives, including \$4 million to this year’s “Beautiful Minds, Children’s Mental Health Initiative.”



*NCEF awarded \$4 million to this year's "Beautiful Minds, Children's Mental Health Initiative."  
 Photo by Peter Falencik*

“Our ‘Beautiful Minds’ initiative will fundamentally change and expand mental health services for at-risk children. This will be done by creating better access—integrating care with pediatricians and other primary care professionals, as well as by increasing the number of licensed mental health professionals who will serve these children,” says 2014 festival co-chair Anne Welsh McNulty. “This is perhaps one of the most important initiatives in the foundation’s history.”

“Our ‘Beautiful Minds’ initiative will fundamentally change and expand mental health services for at-risk children. This will be done by creating better access—integrating care with pediatricians and other primary care professionals, as well as by increasing the number of licensed mental health professionals who will serve these children,” says 2014 festival co-chair Anne Welsh McNulty. “This is perhaps one of the most important initiatives in the foundation’s history.”

Most social service agencies in Collier County are dependent on funding from foundation grants, fundraisers and private donations in order to remain viable. For charities that apply for NCEF grants, there is a rigorous vetting process, and those receiving grants are monitored to ensure dollars are effectively administered. NCEF also requires that charities act collaboratively to fill gaps in service.

“Our grants committee carefully monitors the funds donated to each and every charity here today to ensure that every dollar goes to work for the community of Collier County. It is a great honor to see the amazing dedication and collaboration of these charities, and the resulting positive impact on the lives of so many children,” says Adria Starkey, co-chair of the 2014 Naples Winter Wine Festival.

Among 2014 grant recipients, there are five first time organizations as well.

Following is an alphabetical list of 2014 NCEF grants awarded:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| ABLE Academy  | \$250,000   |
| Angels Undercover                                     | \$30,000    |
| Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc.       | \$75,000    |
| Boys & Girls Club of Collier County                   | \$1,000,000 |
| Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation                            | \$100,000   |
| Catholic Charities                                    | \$136,388   |
| Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County          | \$484,158   |
| Collier County Child Care Resources                   | \$100,000   |
| Early Literacy and Learning Model Program             | \$350,000   |
| Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida       | \$350,000   |
| Fun Time Early Childhood Academy                      | \$145,000   |
| Golisano Children's Hospital of SWFL-Naples Clinic    | \$93,200    |
| Golisano Children's Museum of Naples                  | \$317,809   |
| Grace Place for Children and Families                 | \$79,000    |
| Greater Marco Family YMCA                             | \$429,000   |
| Greater Naples YMCA                                   | \$395,000   |
| Guadalupe Center of Immokalee                         | \$715,000   |
| Immokalee Child Care Center                           | \$230,000   |
| The Immokalee Foundation                              | \$264,000   |
| Legal Aid for Collier Kids                            | \$235,400   |
| Music Scores  | \$34,250    |
| Naples Botanical Garden                               | \$75,000    |
| Naples Equestrian Challenge                           | \$205,065   |
| Redlands Christian Migrant Association                | \$519,237   |
| Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition                   | \$58,500    |
| Shelter for Abused Women & Children                   | \$326,000   |
| Special Olympics                                      | \$69,500    |
| St. Matthew's House/St. Matt's Camps for Kids Program | \$40,000    |
| Tutor Corps   | \$60,000    |
| Youth Haven   | \$300,000   |

**Strategic initiative grants:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Children's Vision Initiative                                  | \$40,000            |
| Children's Hunger Initiative, "Lunch Boxes of Love"           | \$100,000           |
| Children's Oral Health Initiative                             | \$200,000           |
| Children's Out of School Initiative – Immokalee & East Naples | \$1,505,800         |
| Children's Mental Health Initiative, "Beautiful Minds"        | \$4,000,000         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$13,112,307</b> |

Jim Dixon, grant committee chairman states, “We are very proud of the organizations we have selected for NCEF funding this year. Together they will provide over 25,000 children in Collier County with needed medical and dental services and fulfill such basic needs as nutritious food and counseling. Likewise, early childhood learning initiatives and after school and summer academic programming will help ensure that our kids don’t ‘backslide’ academically during summer vacations. We are very confident that all of our grants directly address serious needs identified in our *2010 Study of Child Well-Being in Collier County*.”

In 2013, a new support group launched called “Friends of the Foundation,” a collaboration of younger next-generation philanthropists. Committee co-chair Sandra Edwards presented the NCEF with a check for \$60,000 from their fundraising efforts during the course of the last year. “By making sure we foster future generations in Naples with the mind-set of giving, this Foundation’s future is truly bright,” says 2014 festival co-chair Linda Richards Malone.

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, where pockets of poverty threaten thousands of children’s ability to thrive. Through the Naples Winter Wine Festival, NCEF has raised more than \$123 million since 2001, making it the most successful charity wine auction in the world. Proceeds have impacted more than 175,000 children through 42 charities and seven long-term strategic initiatives that help fill gaps in children’s services: early learning, healthcare, hunger, mental health, oral health, out-of-school services and vision.

The 2015 Naples Winter Wine Festival will take place Jan. 23-25. 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.

###

For more information please contact Jarvis Communications, 310.313.6374  
[elizabeth@jarviscommunications.com](mailto:elizabeth@jarviscommunications.com)