

## NAPLES WINTER WINE FEST

# \$11 million distributed to Collier County children's charities

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Funds raised by the Naples Winter Wine Fest were awarded to over 30 Collier County children's charities and four strategic initiatives Monday in Naples.

Trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation distributed more than \$11 million in grants during the annual ceremony at the Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples.

The grants committee, comprised of 11 trustees, works throughout the year to determine fund distribution and follow-up with grantees throughout the year.

"My heartfelt thanks to all of the Festival's guests and winning bidders who make our work possible," said Susie McCurry, 2016 Grant Committee Chair, in a news release. "Because of the generosity, the Naples Children & Education Foundation's far-reaching impact is positively changing the lives of children and their families."

Four strategic initiatives will receive \$4.4 million. The NCEF's Early Learning Initiative, which was this year's Fund-A-Need at the Naples Winter Wine Fest, will receive \$1 million. The Children's Mental Health Initiative was granted \$2.9 million, Children's Oral Health Initiative will receive \$260,000 and Children's Out of School Initiative will get \$200,000.

More than 30 organizations were granted \$6.6 million to provide services and continue working with underprivileged children in Southwest Florida. Those organizations include ABLE Academy, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Collier Child Care Resources, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Golisano Children's Museum of Naples, Greater Naples YMCA, Guadalupe Center, Immokalee Child Care Center, Special Olympics and the Shelter for Abused Women & Children.

For information on the Naples Children & Education Foundation, visit [napleswinefestival.com](http://napleswinefestival.com).