



BRANDIE DIXON LAFOND

This year, in an effort to reach a younger donor-base, the Naples Winter Wine Festival started a new, young and hip group, called the "Friends of the Foundation." When the wine festival was looking for a chairperson for the new group, Brandie Dixon LaFond (pictured right) was an easy choice. LaFond will share the responsibilities with co-chair Sandra Edwards.

LaFond's parents are longtime Wine Festival trustees, so she's familiar with all the work NCEF does in the community. Beyond that, however, she's already an experienced organizer, having worked on events for the American Cancer Society, Youth Haven and the Economic Development Council, among other things. Perhaps best of all, she's a wine lover and is currently in the process of opening up her very own wine store.

"I've just always felt the need to give back. You just get stuck in your bubble and forget that the need here is unfathomable, even in our own backyard."

SANDRA EDWARDS

As a home health therapist, Sandra Edwards (pictured left) has always loved helping others. A passionate philanthropist, Edwards has worked extensively with medically-related groups, like the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. But she also loves working with groups that improve the lives of others, such as the PACE Center for Girls and Fun Time Learning Academy.

A close friend of Brandie Dixon LaFond, Edwards was thrilled when LaFond asked her to step in as a co-chair for the newly-formed Friends of the Foundation. Already the two have been busy, organizing a series of monthly happy hour events and recruiting sponsors for the coming year. The two have set a goal of raising \$100,000 in the Foundation's first year.

"It sounds corny but the whole time-talent-treasure thing is so true. Not everyone is a millionaire, but people can contribute what they do have. Whether you contribute or get involved, it's valuable."