



Naples Children & Education Foundation Invests \$15.1 Million to Support Collier County's Future Generation

47 local, non-profit organizations given funds at annual NCEF Grants Award Ceremony

Naples, FL – March 19, 2018 – Forty-seven of the most effective non-profit organizations in Southwest Florida, including six long-term strategic initiatives that fill fundamental gaps in children's services, received grants totaling more than \$15.1 million today due to the generous support of the money raised during the Naples Winter Wine Festival's (NWWF) Live Auction in January. The funds will support a wide variety of programs and organizations that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of children in Collier County. Trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), the founding organization of the NWWF, celebrated the grant recipients today at the annual Grants Award Ceremony at the Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples.

"The Naples Children & Education Foundation continues to be a critical resource for programs and organizations striving to support and aid the underprivileged and at-risk children of Collier County," said Valerie Boyd, 2018 NCEF Grant Committee Chair. "We want to thank everyone who participated and attended the 2018 NWWF. Every paddle and dollar raised has been given to one of these 47 impactful organizations that are helping change the lives of thousands of children in our community."

In addition to the 33 traditional grantees, 14 organizations that help to fill critical needs in our community by taking part in the NCEF's six multi-partner, multi-year strategic initiatives also received funding. The 2018 Fund a Need, supporting Children's Hunger and Oral Health, received \$2.4 million and was the largest amount raised in NWWF history. The focus for this year's Fund a Need was identified through the foundation's most recent "Study of Child Well Being."

"It's important that our community and NCEF support our youth through reaching out to organizations and specific initiatives that help improve the quality of life and healthcare available to the future generation," said NCEF CEO Maria Jimenez-Lara. "As we look back at this past year and the hardships we've overcome, it's more important than ever to focus our energy on building a better and stronger future."

Since inception of the NCEF Children's Hunger Initiative, over 4.6 million meals have been distributed, with nearly 23,000 children having their basic need of food met through 357 Collier County food distributions last year alone. Since opening its doors in 2008, the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center through the Children's Oral Health Initiative has had over 125,000 patients, in

additional to a mobile sealant program in which 9,000 third-grade students have received dental screenings, referrals, and sealants.

The following is the full list of NCEF 2018 beneficiaries:

| Organization | Allocation |
|---|------------|
| ABLE Academy | \$191,400 |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast | \$100,000 |
| Boys & Girls Club of Collier County | \$450,000 |
| Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation | \$75,000 |
| Catholic Charities of Collier County | \$180,000 |
| Champions For Learning | \$85,000 |
| Collier Child Care Resources | \$125,000 |
| Collier County Child Advocacy Council | \$426,300 |
| Conservancy of Southwest Florida | \$19,140 |
| *Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation | \$150,000 |
| FlourishNow-Safe Families | \$130,500 |
| Friends of Foster Children Forever | \$339,450 |
| Fun Time Early Childhood Academy | \$136,590 |
| Gargiulo Education Center | \$52,200 |
| Golisano Children's Museum of Naples | \$100,000 |
| *Good Wheels | \$75,000 |
| Grace Place for Children & Families | \$330,600 |
| Guadalupe Center | \$522,000 |
| Legal Aid Service of Collier County | \$500,250 |
| Literacy Volunteers of Collier County | \$34,800 |
| MusicScores! | \$40,000 |
| Naples Botanical Garden | \$75,000 |

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| Naples Therapeutic Riding Center | \$174,000 |
| NCH Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County | \$45,240 |
| Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee | \$200,100 |
| Redlands Christian Migrant Association | \$160,950 |
| Special Olympics | \$65,250 |
| St. Matthew's House | \$50,000 |
| The Greater Marco Family YMCA | \$317,550 |
| The Shelter for Abused Women & Children | \$269,700 |
| United Arts Council of Collier County | \$50,000 |
| Valerie's House | \$75,000 |
| Youth Haven | \$304,500 |
| Grant Total | \$5,850,520 |
| Strategic Initiative Partners | |
| Children's Early Learning Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ABLE Academy ○ Early Learning Coalition ○ Early Literacy & Learning Model (ELLM) ○ Redlands Christian Migrant Association | \$995,000 |
| Children's Hunger Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL ○ Meals of Hope | \$1,200,000 |
| Children's Mental Health Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Lawrence Center ○ Golisano Children's Hospital ○ National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) | \$2,365,000 |
| Children's Out-of-School Time Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boys & Girls Club of Collier County ○ Guadalupe Center ○ Redlands Christian Migrant Association ○ Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board-Miracle Afterschool Program ○ The Immokalee Foundation | \$2,092,000 |

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| Children's Oral Health Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o University of Florida College of Dentistry | \$1,200,000 |
| Children's Vision Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bascom Palmer Eye Institute o Florida Eye Clinic o Florida's Vision Quest o Golisano Children's Hospital o Lighthouse of Collier | \$979,568 |
| *NCEF College and Technical Career Empowerment | \$500,000 |
| Strategic Initiative Total | \$9,331,568 |
| Total Awarded on March 19 | \$15,182,088 |

**Organizations that were not previously funded by NCEF*

The Grant Committee, which is comprised of eleven Trustees, works year-round to determine how to invest the funds raised at the Festival in the most effective, and disciplined manner with strategic partners to make the greatest impact and benefit as many children as possible.

ABOUT THE NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is 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 more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. NCEF's unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.

ABOUT THE NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, offers a weekend of unforgettable memories. Guests enjoy world-class food and wine during intimate dinners in private homes, and are invited to bid on once-in-a-lifetime travel and wine experiences during an electrifying live auction. Since its inaugural event in 2001, the NWWF has raised more than \$176 million, making a profound difference in the lives of thousands of children.

Find our latest updates on social media – NWWF and NCEF are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @NCEF_NWWF.