



NAPLES CHILDREN
NCEF
& EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL TAKES #1 RANKING ON *WINE SPECTATOR'S* LIST OF TOP CHARITY WINE AUCTIONS

The annual festival was ranked #1 in the country for the 13th time since its inception in 2001

April 4, 2019 (NAPLES, FL) – The Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF) has been honored as *Wine Spectator* magazine's top 2018 charity wine auction in the country for the 13th time since the Festival's inception in 2001. This high honor recognizes last year's 2018 NWWF, which raised a resounding total of \$12.8 million during its Live Auction and \$2.3 million during its Fund a Need, totaling \$15.15 million to help benefit the at-risk and underprivileged children of Collier County.

"We're incredibly proud that NWWF has been selected as *Wine Spectator's* top charity wine auction in the country again this year," said Susie McCurry, 2018 Festival Co-Chair. "We'd like to thank our Collier County community, international supporters and Festival attendees for their tireless support and the integral role they play in helping underprivileged children succeed."

One hundred percent of funds raised under the tent during the Festival directly supports effective, disciplined charitable programs that significantly improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. The 2018 Fund a Need brought in \$2.3 million to support Children's Hunger and Oral Health, ensuring more at-risk children have access to nutritious food and proper oral health care, which is critical to health and development.

The 2018 highest bidding lot went for \$520,000 and included a 10-day trip to South Africa with Shari and Garen Staglin as well as 12 bottles of Staglin Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon ranging from 2009 - 2014. The winner also received private tours and tastings at seven wineries, a safari, and luxury accommodations at One&Only, Rupert & Rothschild Manor House, and Singita Lebombo Lodge. Other auction highlights included a dinner hosted by Valerie Boyd and Jeff Gargiulo, prepared by a special chef and paired with Gargiulo Vineyards wines, with a private performance by Thomas Rhett for a bid of \$450,000 and a dinner at Silver Oak alongside a private performance by Chuck Leavell for \$320,000.

As a result of funds raised during the 2018 Festival, the annual event has raised more than \$176 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which awards grants to over 40 non-profit organizations that have impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. From 2001 to 2019, the Festival has raised nearly \$191 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which has awarded grants to more than 45 non-profit organizations that have impacted thousands of lives and created a solid nonprofit infrastructure in the Collier County community.

For all press-related inquiries, please contact naples@sunshinesachs.com or 212-691-2800.

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ABOUT 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 \$191 million, making a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

ABOUT 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 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing 275,000 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.