



NAPLES CHILDREN  
**NCEF**  
& EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

**2020 Naples Winter Wine Festival to “Celebrate: 20 Years of Cheers” In Honor of Milestone Anniversary**

*Barbie & Paul Hills, Nancy & Joe Masterson, and Shirley & Peter Welsh will team up to commemorate 20 years of world-class wine, food and hospitality*

**May 21, 2019 (NAPLES, FL)** – All eyes are set on the highly anticipated 2020 Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), set for January 24-26, 2020, where the Naples community will come together to celebrate the prestigious 20-year anniversary of NWWF and the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF). Since the Festival’s inception in 2001, the event has raised more than \$191 million for its founding organization, which has awarded grants to more than 45 non-profit organizations that have impacted the lives of 275,000 underprivileged and at-risk children in the community.

Planning is already well underway thanks to the leadership of the new 2020 NWWF Co-Chairs Barbie & Paul Hills, Nancy & Joe Masterson and Shirley & Peter Welsh. Following a record-breaking year during the 2019 Festival, which raised just under \$16 million during the Live Auction, this year’s Co-Chairs are looking forward to bringing some of the most revered and iconic chefs, vintners and Master Sommeliers from around the world to Naples to partake in the January 2020 Festival. In honor of the Festival’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its successful and cherished history, the 2020 Festival theme is “Celebrate: 20 Years of Cheers!”.

“The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) has much to celebrate at the Naples Winter Wine Festival in January 2020,” said Barbie & Paul Hills. “NWWF has raised over \$191,000,000 over the last 20 years. Every penny has been allocated to funding Collier County charity grants and initiatives to lift the underprivileged children onto the path to success. We are honored to serve as NWWF 2020 Co-Chairs alongside Nancy & Joe Masterson and Shirley & Pete Welsh.”

Longtime and dedicated philanthropists, Barbie & Paul Hills take on their role as NWWF Co-Chairs following six years as Trustees of NCEF. Paul was a Co-Founder of Sage Products, a healthcare medical device company; and is currently Chairman of Hills Capital Management. In addition to NCEF, Barbie & Paul are involved with several prominent healthcare, children’s advocacy and community-related charities in Naples, Florida; Barrington Hills, Illinois; and Washington, D.C. Barbie is a member of the Sustaining Leadership Council at Naples Botanical Garden. This year the Hills are serving as the “ONWARD and UPWARD” Capital Campaign Co-Chairs to build a permanent home for NCEF. The building is scheduled to open its doors in 2020.

Prior to the Capital Campaign Co-Chairs role, Paul served as Chairman of the NCEF Grant Committee in 2018-2019.

Nancy & Joe Masterson became Trustees in 2014 and are now taking on their role as 2020 Co-Chairs of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. They have collected wine for many years and visited vineyards around the world in their travels. Joe is currently Chair of the NCEF Grant Committee and Nancy serves on the Board of Directors.

“The Naples Winter Wine Festival premier charity wine auction in the world,” said Nancy & Joe Masterson. “We are thrilled to celebrate 20 years of this Festival and the most important thing is that every penny raised under the tent goes to the children of Collier County.”

Sharing a similar passion for community support in Naples, Florida; San Francisco, California; and Barrington Hills, Illinois, Shirley & Peter Welsh step into their roles as 2020 Co-Chairs after over four years of involvement with NCEF. Peter Welsh is a Co-Founder and the Executive Vice President of Polymedco, a leading manufacturer, marketer and distributor in the clinical laboratory marketplace that supplies clinical diagnostic test kits that specialize in chemistry, hematology and cancer. Shirley & Peter have been longtime champions of their communities and have generously supported healthcare and education in both Barrington Hills and their hometown of Naples. In their roles at NCEF, both Shirley & Peter became Trustees in 2015. Peter went on to become a member of the Board in 2017 and was elected as the Board Treasurer from 2018-2019.

“We’re thrilled to be Co-Chairs for such a milestone moment for the Naples Winter Wine Festival and Naples Children & Education Foundation,” said Shirley & Peter Welsh. “Having been involved with both NWWF and NCEF over the last four years, we’re incredibly honored to be a part of this wonderful organization that is helping change our community and bettering the lives of our youth.”

Ticket packages for the 2020 NWWF will start at \$12,500 per couple for a Double Magnum package and \$30,000 for two couples for a Jeroboam package. Guests of the Festival will join in the weekend’s charitable mission as they raise their paddles during the Festival’s celebrated Live Auction, featuring high-profile names in food and wine from around the world. The Festival was recently recognized again for its contributions and named the “#1 Charity Wine Auction in the U.S.” by *Wine Spectator* for the 13<sup>th</sup> time. For a full list of packages and additional details, please visit: <https://www.napleswinefestival.com/about-the-festival>.

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## **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 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.

### **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 \$191 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.