



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**2021 Naples Winter Wine Festival “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” to Highlight First-Ever Televised Event to Support At-Risk Children in Collier County**

**Naples, FL** (January 12, 2021) – The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), is pleased to present its first-ever televised event as part of the 2021 NWWF “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

This special one-hour program courtesy of WINK-TV will feature entertainment from 2010 Grammy Award and 2000 Tony Award winner Heather Headley and musical artist Troubadour 77, featuring Grammy and ASCAP award-winning songwriters Monty Powell and Anna Wilson.

The program will combine live and pre-recorded segments, including powerful impact stories from young adults and children who overcame daunting challenges through NCEF’s investment in their future. Stories will be presented from each of NCEF’s four service categories – Child Advocacy, Early Learning, Medical/Healthcare and Out-of-School Time. Among the inspiring stories are:

- A pre-kindergartner at the Guadalupe Center who stayed on task and on the pathway to educational success despite family turmoil due to COVID-19;
- The story of Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida and how it has stepped in to help families in need during the past year;
- A remarkable teen, born with severe disabilities, who found her voice and stride at the Naples Therapeutic Riding Center;
- Members of a once-struggling family who found bright futures they never imagined through Boys & Girls Club of Collier County;
- And a teen who, with help from Youth Haven, steered away from lawless influences, graduated from high school and enrolled in an elite post-graduate program.

Produced by Dreamtime Entertainment, the program is set for 7-8 p.m. (EST) (pending final CBS broadcast schedule) and will be aired for viewing on WINK-TV and [www.NCEFKids.com](http://www.NCEFKids.com).

“This special televised event will be a unique moment in NCEF’s history and we encourage everyone in the community to tune in and join our mission of improving the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County,” said NCEF Chief Executive Officer Maria Jimenez-Lara.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival enters its 21<sup>st</sup> year, impacting more than 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the local community and providing more than 275,000 local children with the services and resources they need to excel. Due to the global health pandemic, the annual event has been re-engineered to prioritize the health and safety of all NCEF donors, patrons and partners.

The popular online auction will once again return for this year, allowing supporters from across Southwest Florida and beyond to bid on more than 115 incredible food, wine and virtual experiences. These remarkable, one-of-a-kind auction lots include rare wines, virtual wine tastings, over-the-top dinners, virtual concerts, custom art, luxury sunset cruises, golf and more.

Those interested in participating in the online auction are invited to go to [nwwfonlineauction.com](http://nwwfonlineauction.com) and start bidding on Friday, January 22 at 8 a.m. (EST) until Tuesday, February 2 at 5 p.m. (EST).

Since its launch in 2015, the NWWF online auction has provided additional participation opportunities to the community as well as bidders and supporters nationwide, raising nearly \$1.5 million to benefit underprivileged children in Collier County. Due to COVID-19, the importance of the online auction is greater than ever to fill critical voids in children's social services locally.

The traditional live auction goes virtual, showcasing seven amazing auction lots encouraging invited guests to bid high and bid often on one-of-a-kind travel, wine, and cuisine experiences, plus an important Virtual Paddle Raise "Your Help Grants Hope" at the end of the Virtual Auction.

For updates on the 2021 Naples Winter Wine Festival, visit <https://www.napleswinefestival.com>.

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### **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 collaborative strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing more than 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 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 \$212 million, making a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

For additional information on the Naples Children & Education Foundation or the Naples Winter Wine Festival, contact Lisa Juliano at [lisa@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:lisa@napleswinefestival.com) or 239-514-2239.