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**Naples Children & Education Foundation Invests a Record \$25.6 Million in Local Organizations Supporting Underprivileged and At-Risk Children in Collier County**

**Naples, FL** (March 20, 2023) – The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), the founding organization of Naples Winter Wine Festival, has invested a record \$25.6 million in close to 50 non-profit organizations supporting underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County.

This tremendous investment in future generations includes funding traditional grants of \$6.8 million and \$11.6 million for NCEF multi-year strategic initiatives that fill fundamental gaps in local children’s services, plus another \$7.1 million in funding for future grants and strategic initiatives.

“The 2023 Naples Winter Wine Festival exceeded all expectations, bringing in a record amount of funding that will directly benefit underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County,” said Harry Rose, 2022-23 NCEF Grant Committee Chair. “We are honored to be able to support some of the most effective and efficient nonprofits in improving the lives of children in our community.”

This year, a total of 39 organizations received traditional grants, plus 10 additional agencies that help fill critical needs in the community by taking part in NCEF’s multi-partner, multi-year strategic initiatives focusing on the well-being of the whole child. Initiatives receiving funding include early learning, healthcare, hunger and out-of-school time, plus a special mental health initiative.

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. Each NCEF beneficiary is fully vetted and many utilize that process as a “Good Housekeeping Stamp of Approval.” The Blueprint Partner program builds upon that process.

“Each of the private and public charitable organizations receiving NCEF funding exemplifies the highest levels of efficacy and accountability,” said NCEF CEO Maria Jimenez-Lara. “These agencies collaborate throughout the year to optimize funding, avoid duplication and develop innovative programs to deliver high-quality programs and services to support local children.”

The following is a list of NCEF 2023-2024 traditional beneficiaries and dollar amounts:

Organization	2023-2024 Award
ABLE Academy	\$ 180,000
Avow Hospice	\$ 105,000

Better Together	\$ 180,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast	\$ 90,000
Boys & Girls Club of Collier County	\$ 450,000
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation	\$ 75,000
Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	\$ 286,000
Champions For Learning	\$ 200,000
Child's Path	\$ 200,000
Children's Advocacy Center	\$ 545,520
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	\$ 150,000
Educational Pathways Academy*	\$ 75,000
First Tee*	\$ 75,000
Friends of Foster Children Forever	\$ 389,500
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy	\$ 236,000
Gargiulo Education Center	\$ 115,000
Grace Place for Children and Families	\$ 375,000
Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida	\$ 40,000
Leadership Collier Foundation	\$ 60,000
Legal Aid Service of Collier County	\$ 600,000
Literacy Volunteers of Collier County	\$ 85,000
Midwest Food Bank of Florida*	\$ 50,000
MusicScores Violin	\$ 50,000
Naples Therapeutic Riding Center	\$ 249,000
NCH Healthcare System*	\$ 81,000
NCH Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County	\$ 50,000
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry*	\$ 70,000
PACE Center for Girls	\$ 100,000
Pan-Florida Challenge	\$ 56,700
Special Olympics	\$ 102,500
St. Matthew's House	\$ 75,000
STARability Foundation	\$ 80,000
Taste the Impact	\$ 100,000
The Salvation Army of Collier County*	\$ 75,000
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children	\$ 150,000
United Arts Collier	\$ 40,000
Valerie's House	\$ 200,000
YMCA of Collier County	\$ 400,000
Youth Haven	\$ 400,000
<b>Total Traditional Grant Funding</b>	<b>\$ 6,841,220</b>

\*Indicates new NCEF beneficiary

NCEF Initiative Organizations and Blueprint Partners		
Initiative	Organization	2023-2024 Award

<b>Early Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABLÉ Academy</li> <li>• Early Learning Coalition of SWFL</li> <li>• Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation - ELLM</li> <li>• Guadalupe Center</li> <li>• Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee</li> <li>• Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Total 2023 – 2025 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 3,930,000</b>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Florida College of Medicine</li> <li>• NCH Healthcare System</li> </ul>	
	<b>Total 2023 – 2025 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>
<b>Hunger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brighter Bites</li> <li>• Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida</li> <li>• Meals of Hope</li> </ul>	
	<b>Total 2023 – 2026 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 3,295,000</b>
<b>Out-of-School Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys &amp; Girls Club of Collier County</li> <li>• Guadalupe Center</li> <li>• Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)</li> <li>• The Immokalee Foundation</li> </ul>	
	<b>Total 2023 – 2024 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 2,073,000</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Building</li> <li>• “Beautiful Minds” an NCEF Mental Health Initiative</li> </ul>	
	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>

<b>Traditional Funding</b>	<b>\$ 6,841,220.00</b>
<b>Initiative Funding</b>	<b>\$ 11,598,000.00</b>
<b>Total 2023-2024 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 18,439,220.00</b>
<b>Funding for Future Grants &amp; Strategic Initiatives</b>	<b>\$ 7,149,253.00</b>
<b>2023 Festival</b>	<b>\$ 25,588,473.00</b>

### 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 in Collier County. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted approximately 60 of the most effective nonprofit agencies in the local community, providing more than 300,000 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 exclusive locations throughout Naples 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 approximately \$269 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.