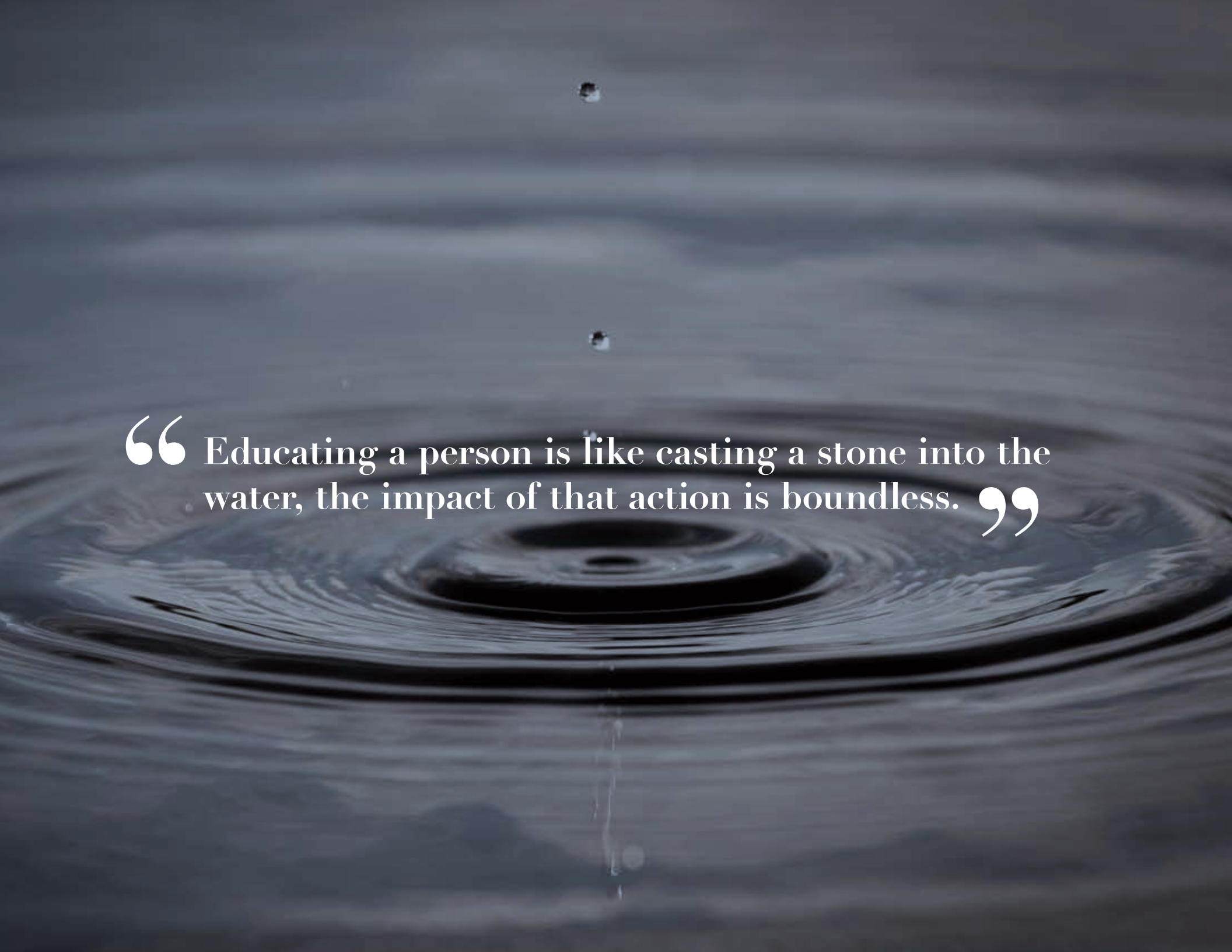


“ I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. ”

MOTHER TERESA

ANNUAL REPORT
2017





“ Educating a person is like casting a stone into the water, the impact of that action is boundless. ”

Letter from Leadership



NEARLY ALL HUMAN PROGRESS is fueled by individuals with a thirst to learn and discover. Educating a person is like casting a stone into the water, the impact of that action is boundless. These ripples can form waves when fostered. Together, we are changing the lives of families in Golden Gate City.

Our actions have created many ripples this year. Enrollment has grown to over 900 students, ranging in age from one to seventy-nine. Through the generous support of our investors, we have refined our curricula and assessment processes in our core academic programs, added a fulltime high-quality pre-kindergarten classroom, and expanded our Academy of Leaders afterschool program to serve grades nine through twelve.

We have expanded our infrastructure, building the facilities necessary to foster long-term change in our community. We celebrated the ground breaking of the Schoen Family Complex in November 2016, and it now houses the Bright Beginnings and Family Resource Centers. Along with the McNamara Family Learning Center, which opened in March 2017, the three new buildings add 20,000 square feet of space for academic programming and staff collaboration.

We have achieved this essential growth without incurring long-term debt, thanks to the tremendous generosity of our contributors. Our

annual golf outing, A Swing of Grace, was a resounding success, netting \$194,000 for our educational programs. The \$875,000 dollar-for-dollar matching gift challenge from our anonymous angel was successfully met, allowing us to complete the “West Side” of the Grace Place campus.

For the second year, Grace Place families made gifts to our Give Where You Live Collier campaign, a one-day online fundraiser hosted by the Community Foundation of Collier County and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. This gracious philanthropic participation demonstrates the value our students place on education, the quality of their characters, and their commitment to our mission.

The stones you have cast through your support of these students have given them opportunities that will forever change their lives. As you read through the following pages, you should feel proud for casting a stone.

In gratitude,

Mr. Mario Valle
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Tim Ferguson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Meet the Schoens

SINCE FIRST COMING TO Grace Place in 2007, William (Bill) and Sharon Schoen have been impressed with the care and inspiration Grace Place provides the Golden Gate community. Faith in the community and belief a person can attain a good education and succeed in life, are fundamental to the couple's personal and philanthropic philosophies.

Bill and Sharon have always believed that all people should have the opportunity to work hard and make good lives for themselves. It reflects in their family motto: "The harder I work – the luckier I get!"

Education has been key to Bill's success. He attended the University of Southern California (USC) through a scholastic scholarship and graduated magna cum laude. Bill also earned his MBA from that storied institution. Before retiring, Bill both built and managed major corporations, including Health Management Associates, based in Southwest Florida.

Bill has shared the knowledge he gained in a long and fruitful career with students at Florida Gulf Coast University as a lecturer there. In addition to his work in business, education, and philanthropy, Bill is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



Bill and Sharon have generously supported Grace Place and many other nonprofits in our community for many years. Bill and Sharon have also endowed scholarships for veterans at several institutions.

The Schoen Family Complex which is home to the Bright Beginnings and Family Resource Center, named in recognition of the Schoen Foundation's extraordinary support of the Campus Expansion Campaign, completes the west side of the Grace Place campus. With their philanthropy, they have cast a stone; its enduring impact will be felt by generations of Golden Gate families.

Through Grace Place, they hope families will learn to have faith in their community and in their own ability to earn a good education and succeed in life.

We are lucky to have friends like the Schoens, who inspire us with their faith in God, their love of country, and their generosity to their neighbors, born of love of this community we all call home.

The Schoen Family Complex



THE LATEST ADDITION to Grace Place's campus expansion is the Schoen Family Complex, which opened in early September. Comprised of two buildings, the Bright Beginnings Building and the Family Resource Center, the Schoen Family Complex has greatly expanded the size and improved the quality of our program space, and serves as a beautiful point of entry for visitors to our campus.

The Bright Beginnings Center contains a welcome center for volunteers and visitors and is providing office space for our Bright Beginnings team and Volunteer Experience Manager as well as open workspace for our growing number of families to utilize while completing their program intake forms and social services documents. The Family Resource Center is providing Grace Place's school-aged students and adult learners with expanded computer labs and program staff with office space. The center also houses learning studios and a large multi-purpose space for language, literacy, and life skills programming.



“

GRACE PLACE'S MISSION SPOKE WELL TO OUR PRIORITIES OF FAITH, FAMILY AND EDUCATION. IT WAS A NATURAL FIT FOR OUR INVESTMENTS. WE HAVE SEEN FIRST-HAND WHAT A POWERFUL CHANGE AGENT EDUCATION CAN BE IN A PERSON'S LIFE. IT MAKES US PROUD TO BE A PART OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS WHO WANT TO LEARN AND BUILD A BRIGHT FUTURE; THEY JUST NEED A HAND UP.

BILL AND SHARON
SCHOEN

”



Student Story: Meet Eliana

“
I LOVE GRACE PLACE.
IT IS WHERE IT ALL
STARTED FOR ME.
IT IS A SAFE PLACE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHERE YOU COME FROM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE
WILLING TO LEARN AND
RECEIVE INFORMATION,
AND USE IT TO BE THE
BEST PARENT FOR YOUR
CHILDREN, TO GIVE
THEM A BETTER LIFE.
”

ELIANA



A **STONE WAS CAST THE DAY** Eliana stepped onto the Grace Place campus. She was one of the first mothers to enroll in Bright Beginnings more than ten years ago.

Today, Eliana is a writer who has been honored with many awards for her advocacy for Hispanic parents raising children with Down syndrome. She has spoken at the White House and the United Nations. She is a smart, capable, accomplished woman, and a dedicated wife and mother. Her story began when Eliana moved to the United States from Bolivia.

Their first child, Emir, was diagnosed with Down syndrome. “All I knew was that I needed to get the best medical care for him, and that was in America,” remarks Eliana. “When we arrived here, I realized I was completely lost in this new world. I did not know English as well as I had thought I did. I didn’t have any of my family with me. I felt alone.”

A woman helping her enroll Emir for medical services referred Eliana to Grace Place. “She told me there was a wonderful place in Naples that helped educate families. She said they could teach me much there, and they could connect me with further resources for my son.”

Eliana can remember her first day at Grace Place. It was just an old chapel and a parish hall back then. “I can remember meeting Diane [Ponton] on the first day. She was my teacher. She was so warm and friendly. I immediately felt welcomed. There were only a few of us mothers in the class back then.”

Eliana started volunteering, in addition to taking classes in Bright Beginnings, and quickly found a community at Grace Place. “We formed a little support group with the moms, and suddenly I wasn’t alone anymore. I was learning about parenting, about how important



it was to raise my children bilingual, to help them grow and be part of the world. I found my voice at Grace Place.”

When Eliana’s second child, Ayelén, was also born with Down syndrome, she started using the internet to raise awareness of the condition, sharing educational content and the experiences of her own family. Her award-winning blog has over 300,000 subscribers, and she has more than 350,000 followers on Facebook and Twitter. Over the eleven years she has been writing, she has received recognitions from the White House, Univision, Disney, YouTube, and, most recently, Hodges University.

“I strongly believe that education is the key when providing your child with Down syndrome with the best opportunities to reach his or her full potential, but support and inspiration are also a must to face challenges with hope.” Eliana has provided the support Emir and Ayelén have needed to succeed. Both children are thriving in public schools, and Emir was recently the first child with special needs to be recognized by the White House as a Top 10 Latino Genius in STEM.

Eliana frequently returns to Grace Place to share her story with mothers enrolled in Bright Beginnings. “I tell the mothers that I’ve been where they are. I have sat in their seat. I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t know how to start. I felt, many times, that I wasn’t going to be able to overcome the feelings of frustration, being alone, and not knowing where to go—people not understanding you. I express how important it is to believe in yourself and to work hard for your dreams.”



Bright Beginnings, A Family Literacy Program



THIS YEAR, WE TOOK A HARD LOOK at the course spectrum offered through the Bright Beginnings program and made several substantive improvements.

In the adult portion of the program—which works to cultivate confident, capable, and literate parents—we added a Beginnings 102 course, an extended learning option for parents that have completed our Beginnings 101 (B101) course. Beginnings 102 is a greater time commitment and builds on lessons learned in B101, offering additional skills and best practices for parents guiding their child through the crucial years of early development.

The adult education component of Beginnings 201 was improved by adding field trips to the curriculum, providing opportunities for English language lessons to be applied and practiced in real-world settings.

We restructured and enhanced the Early Childhood Education portion of Bright Beginnings. Adding additional early childhood education professionals to our team, fully implementing Creative Curriculum and the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment, and launching a much needed fulltime four-year-old classroom will all help to ensure that children in the program enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Working together, parents and children are becoming partners in education through the four components of family literacy: parent time, adult education, early childhood education, and parent and child together time.

Results

71% of parents in Beginnings 201 improved their reading skills by at least one grade level



Photos Courtesy of Alexis Horn Photography

Fulltime three- and four-year-old students completed their course and were assessed using Teaching Strategies GOLD®. Findings of students below expectations for their age group, meeting expectations for their age group, and exceeding expectations for their age group at the end of the year are summarized in the following table by skill area.



69% improved by one-and-a-half grade levels or more

Early Childhood Education Results

94% of Pre-K students tested school-ready

Skill Area	#/% Below	#/% Meeting	#/% Exceeding
Social/Emotional	3 10%	26 87%	1 3%
Gross Motor	4 13%	25 83%	1 3%
Fine Motor	0 0%	25 83%	5 17%
Cognitive	5 17%	21 70%	4 13%
Literacy	0 0%	29 97%	1 3%
Mathematics	3 10%	22 73%	5 17%

BY YEAR'S END, STUDENTS' EFFORTS RAISED THE AVERAGE READING LEVEL OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN BEGINNINGS 201 FROM THIRD GRADE, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM, TO FIFTH GRADE AT IT'S END.



“
DO YOUR LITTLE BIT
OF GOOD WHERE
YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE
LITTLE BITS OF GOOD
PUT TOGETHER
THAT OVERWHELM
THE WORLD.
DESMOND TUTU
”

School Age Programs

Academy of Leaders, After School and Summer Program for K-12



WE EXPANDED OUR Academy of Leaders after-school and summer program this year to serve grades nine through twelve. This is enabling us to target students most at-risk of not completing high school and widens the breadth of our high-school offerings beyond the AP Leadership program.

Analysis of results from our Academy of Leaders continue to support the findings of a decade of research and evaluation studies, confirming that students who participate in afterschool programs reap a host of positive benefits.

The Academy of Leaders is having a positive impact on students' academic performance, social and emotional development, health, and wellness, all while building the problem solving skills necessary for success in the 21st century's global economy.

Results

Elementary School:

72% of regularly participating students demonstrated improvement in their overall academic performance

Middle School:

60% of regularly participating students demonstrated improvement in their overall academic performance

High School:

77% of regularly participating students demonstrated improvement in their overall academic performance

100% high school graduation rate among seniors

*Full Summative Reports for our Academy of Leaders 21st Century Community Learning Center programs are available online at graceplacenaples.org/school-age-programs.

Results

100% bound for college or vocational training program

\$400,000 awarded in scholarships

THE AP LEADERSHIP program celebrated its fifth anniversary this year, and another class of talented and motivated young people were the first in their families to enroll in college and begin journeys that will, no doubt, change the world.

Steadfast in its mission to eliminate the obstacles to higher education that children from households with low-incomes face, the AP Leadership program ensures that students graduate from high school and continue onto postsecondary education or vocational training with tools to be successful in their educations and in their lives.



Photos Courtesy of Alexis Horn Photography



AP Leadership, College Access Program

Adult Education

THE ADULT EDUCATION program equips students with language and life skills needed to strengthen their ability to participate in the workforce, improve their quality of life, and enhance their self-sufficiency and engagement within the community.

Those who are digitally literate are more likely to be economically secure. Many jobs require a working knowledge of computers and the internet to perform basic functions and, as wireless technology improves, more jobs require proficiency with cell phones and tablet devices.

In response to this, we piloted an eight-week digital literacy class in the fall of 2016. Students were pre- and post-tested using the Minnesota Literacy Council's Northstar Digital Literacy Project assessment and showed considerable growth in both computer basics and internet usage.



Photos Courtesy of Alexis Horn Photography





Results

Digital Literacy Class	Pre-Test Average	Post-Test Average
Computer Basics	62.8%	70.7%
Internet	58.3%	80.5%

73.1% of students improved their
*C.A.S.A.S. reading scores

71.7% of students improved their
C.A.S.A.S. listening scores

*Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems





“
THE NOURISHMENT
OF THE BODY IS
FOOD, WHILE THE
NOURISHMENT OF
THE SOUL IS
FEEDING OTHERS.
ALI IBN ABU-TALIB
”

Friday Food Pantry

A **THE LARGEST** distribution center for Harry Chapin Food Bank in Collier County, our Friday Food Pantry remains a critical resource to our families and the greater community.

This year we have implemented FoodStar, food distribution and reporting software for food pantries. This system is linked to the Hunger & Homelessness Coalition of Collier County network, and allows Grace Place to better track client information and food distribution.

Classified as a food desert by the USDA, Golden Gate City has only one supermarket, limiting residents' access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods. This difficulty of geography, combined with low incomes, makes food insecurity and hunger a significant problem for many residents.

Providing food to the hungry has deep roots in faith and serves our core educational mission. Parents struggling to meet their families' most basic needs have less time and energy to attend to their children's intellectual and emotional development. Children who are hungry cannot focus on learning and often have difficulty controlling their behavior. When we feed Collier County's families facing hard times we help them keep striving for a better future in and out of the classroom.





Results

In the past year

10,290 bags of groceries distributed

350,000 pounds of food provided

2,000+ families served

Financial Profile August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Operating Funds	229,208
Capital Development Funds	1,815,197
Endowment	220,760

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Pledges Receivable	1,141,955
Total Other Current Assets	1,995,489

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed Assets	7,895,704
Accumulated Depreciation	(816,978)
Total Net Fixed Assets	7,078,726

TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	32,808
Mortgage Payable	982,329

TOTAL LIABILITIES

TOTAL EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

SOURCES

General Donations	2,048,244
Directed Donations	555,700
Capital Donations	5,159,179

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED

USES

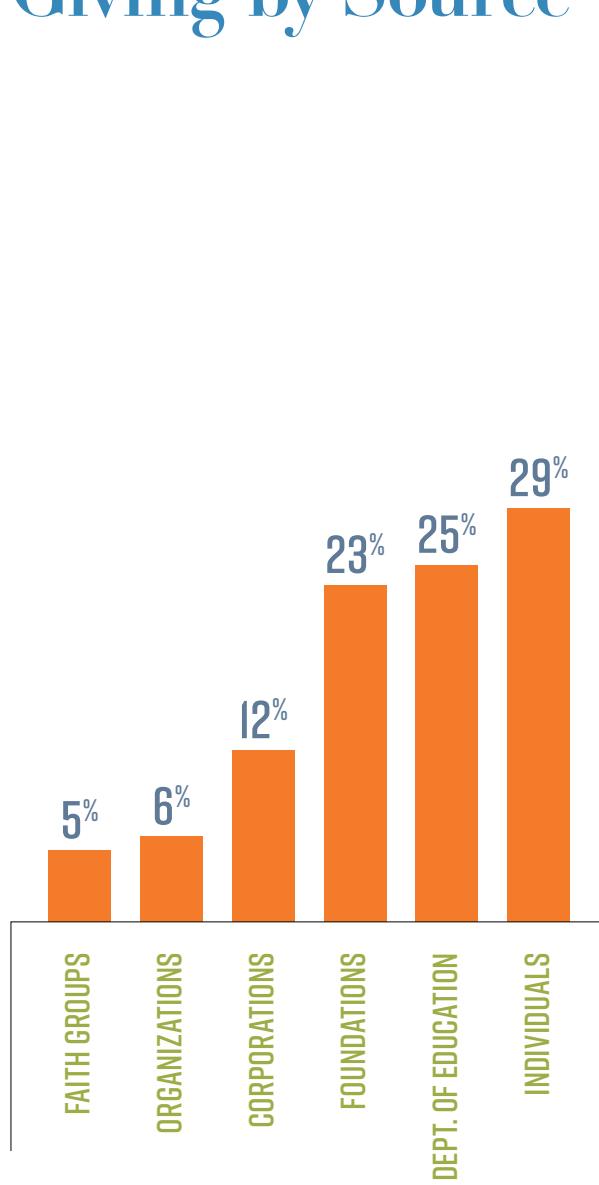
Operating Expenses	2,271,588
Capital Expenditures	3,969,513
Directed Spending	694,863
Endowment	26,050

TOTAL FUNDS USED

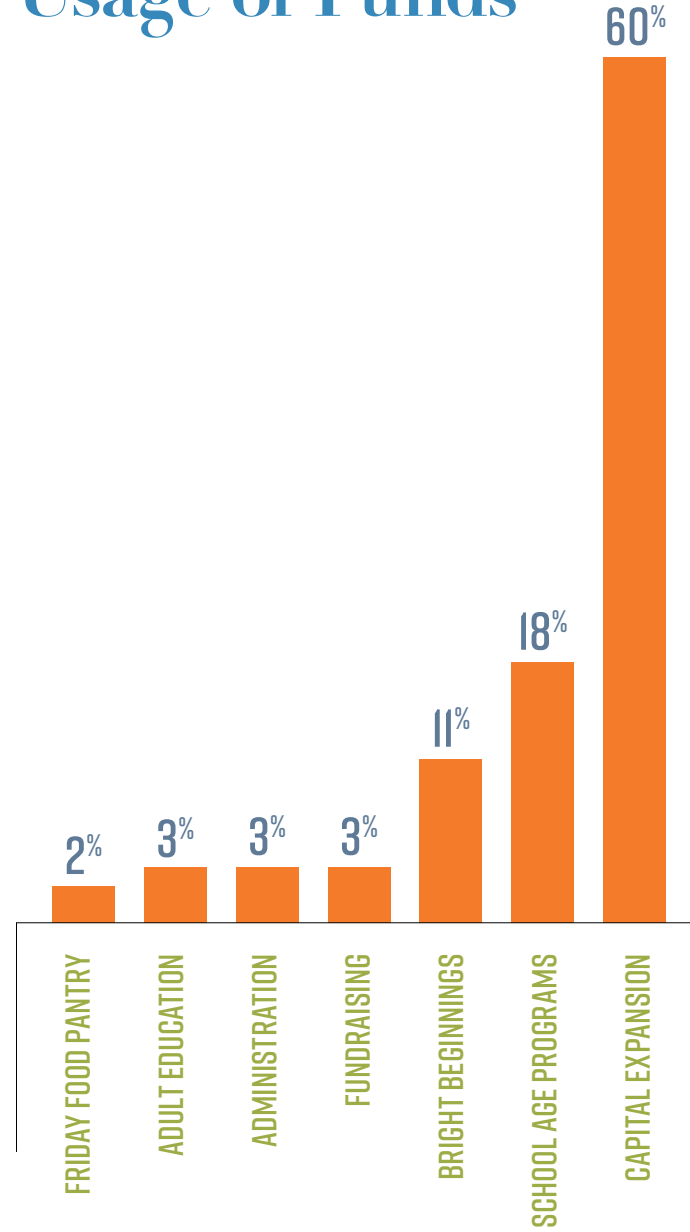
INCREASE IN FUNDS ON DEPOSIT

By demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability, Grace Place has earned a 4-star Charity Navigator rating, which sets our organization apart from our peers and demonstrates our trustworthiness and transparency.

Giving by Source



Usage of Funds





Volunteers

The patience, encouragement, and love that our dedicated volunteers bring to our campus changes the lives of all who come to Grace Place eager to learn or to seek help from our Friday Food Pantry. Our volunteers inspire our staff and the families we serve with their example of compassion and service to others.

“
NEVER DOUBT THAT
A SMALL GROUP
OF THOUGHTFUL
COMMITTED
CITIZENS CAN
CHANGE THE
WORLD; INDEED,
IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT
EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD

”

Mary Agnew
Sharon Ahern
Nazmiye Akyuz
Arlis Ander
Paul Ander
Stephen Anderson
Delilah Archibald
Evelyn Arrigada
Netty Artimez
Dianna Austin
Dario Aviles
Stacey Bacchieri
Virginia Ball
Marian Baran
Kay Barton
Margaret Bastow
Yessica Beltran
Al Bennett
Barbara Bennett
Blake Bennett
Lynn Berkeley
Jane Bevilacqua
Debra Blaine
Anna Boeder
Marion Bohall
Helen Bohn
Ricki Bond
Robin Bonica
Michelle Borders
Marilyn Borowsky
James Bosscher
Pat Bosscher

Maria Botana
Mari Pat Boughner
Julia Brackett
Kay Brandon
Christine Briggs
Emily Brovey
Thelma Brown
Mary Bryant
Wes Bryant
Jeanne Bucklin
Rod Bucklin
Emily Budd
Sue Buntic
Tony Burrus
Joan Byerhof
Steve Calloway
Barbara Campasano
Leesa Carls
Ginette Carrier
Natalia Castrillon
Allen Caswell
Ron Chambers
Hilda Champion
Anant Chandna
Augustus Chester
Anthony Cialone
Thomas Clark
Mike Clausen
Betty Anne Coakley
David Cole
Edith Cole
Lisa Connors

Sarah Contreras
Patricia Copeland
Ted Corbin
Darcy Cox
John Cox
Ilse Cruz
Pilar Maria Cruz
Sandra Cunningham
Theresa Daily
Carole Damiano
Domenic D'Agostino
Lou D'Amico
John Davis
Peggy Davis
Connee Dawson
Patricia De Cambra
Kathleen DeAngelis
Maris Delano
Bonnie DeLuca
Virginia Deneka
Demi DeRose
Jigsha Desai
Diane Devermann
Sonia Diaz
Linda DiGiorno
Martha Doherty
John Duncan
Elizabeth Eberhard
Coleen Ellis
Marlene Ensell
Carmen Espirtu
Elaine Evans
Johnathan Evans
Leslie Feldman
Penny Felix
Marcy Ferguson
Dianne Fiebrink
Mark Fiebrink
Sue Filip
Debbie Mathews Finch

Joyce Fletcher
Wealtha Flick
Michelle Fonte
Joan Foster
Carol Fox
Kathy Freeman
Maria Fuentes
Robert Furek
Ann Gagliardi
Dick Gast
Bailey Geeslin
Joanne Gillespie
Shannah Gillespie
Noemi Gomez
Florita Graf
Don Grandi
Kathy Grandi
Luanne Gregas
Randle Grossman
Susanne Grossman
Andy Guenette
Dennis Gulley
George Gulley
Pat Gulley
Daniela Gutierrez
Josue Guzman
Nancy Hahn
Teresa Haralson
Trish Hare
Pat Hart
Ray Hart
Martha Hayes
Elizabeth Hazelbaker
Gabriela Hechavarria
Ashlea Heck
Herlan Henriquez
Sharon Hoffman
Karen Hogarth
Gail Hoopes
Louise Howard

Mary Hubert
Debbie Hurd
Britney Jean
Fritzlene Jean
Stephanie Jean
Douglas Jensen
Holly Jensen
Brad Johnson
Tiffany Johnson
Cindy Jonckheere
David Jonckheere
Peter Jouwstra
Leon Kaplan
Nora Kasten
Jerri Kautsky
Carolyn Kay
Patrick Kellard
Pat Keller
Gerry Kimble
Gail King
Leo King
Suzanne King
Jacob Klein
Arlene Krock
Felix Krock
Emma Kurtz
Anthony Kythreotis
Nicolas Kythreoyis
Patricia Latta
Barbara Laudano
Melanie Leach
Linda Lee
Mary Ann Lee
Barbara Loewel
Kathy Long
Amanda Lopez
Maribel Lopez
Maricela Lopez
Martha Lopez
Lurybella Lora
Erik Lutgert
Alex Lyberg
Stewart MacFarlane

Charles Mahan
Connie Sue Mahan
Renette Majuste
Cesar Maldonado
Lucero Maldonado
Miguelina Maldonado
Paula Mangan
Judith Mankowski
Susan Mann
Lolita Manzo
Nancy Marino
Cintia Mata
Phil Mathais
Rachel McCrary
Geraldine McEnroe
Kathryn McFerren
Diane McGrath
Priscilla McGuire
Julie McLeod
Juliana Meek
Sherrie Meek
Irma Mendez
Monique Merino
Raymond Merz
Sue Merz
Harold Milkey
Geraldine Miller
Marian Miller
Diedre Milligan
David Mills
Cecilia Mirziaie
Jeffrey Mitchell
Tracy Moffatt
Salley Moneymaker
Roger Monge
Kathy Morgan
Carol Mumford
Hall Murphy
Paul Myrin
Herbert Newman
Jessica Newton
Leslie Nietzman
Nancy Oakes

Lise O'Brien
Pam O'Brien
Rosemary O'Connell
William O'Connell
Kaitlyn O'Connor
Ryan O'Connor
Patricia O'Donnell
Nick Olivastro
Marissa Orellana
Kathleen O'Renick
Kenneth O'Renick
Emily Osterhaus
Monica Osterhaus
Sarah Peel
Norma Pence
Marco Perez-Zanelli
Yanci Perez
Janet Perna
Eve Perni
Russell Peterson
Elizabeth Pineda
Tamela Pittaro
Lauren Pitts
Phillip Plessinger
Joan Poulter
Helene Price
Betty Pursley
Maria Ramirez
Jennifer Ramon
LouAnn Ransom
Nita Rapp
Nancy Rawe
Patricia Reid
Marion Renzetti
Barbara Restivo
Garth Rezek
William Roberts
Jacklyn Robinson
Jade Rodriguez
Mariana Rodriguez
Marlon Rodriguez
Olga Rojas
Amanda Roland

David Rose
Melanie Rose
Sugar Rubin
Carole Russell
Jan Russell
Stanley Russell
Maria Sanchez
Yelicza Sanchez
Oscar Santiago
Allison Schindler
Jean Schlosser
Debra Schulze
Carolyn Scott
Melvin Scott
Christina Sharp
Harry Sharp
Betty Sheridan
Donald Shippey
Jeffrey Siegal
Janet Silloway
Frances Sills
Nancy Simpson
Susan Sissman
Arthur Smith
Audrey Smith
Clark Smith
Jennifer Smith
Regina Smith
Shirley Smith
Maximina Sotelo
Laura Soto
Laura Stacell
Marilyn Steinberger
Diane Stites
Mary Stone
Kathy Stried
Robert Stried
Armour Swanson
Barrie Swanson
Logan Szittai
Roger Thomas
Patty Tilghman
Matt Torres

Nicole Torres
Claudia Trujillo
Nancy Turner
Samantha Underwood
Mario Valle
Alexandra Van Derluit
Julia Van Domelen
Claudia Vega
Barbara Vlaovic
Vlady Vnukova
Deborah Wahl
Hughes Wahl
Corey Walker
Margaret Ward
John Wasmer
Steve Wigdahl
Hannah Williams
Marge Wilmoski
Arthur Winterhalter
Jack Yacullo
Nancy Yacullo
Sally Yalley
Joan Yates
Barbara Zack
Mary Zimmermann



Education changes everything.



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www.graceplacenaples.org