



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Swing of Grace Golf Outing Raises Record-Breaking Total to Benefit Family Literacy Programs at Grace Place

NAPLES, FL – May 8, 2018- Grace Place for Children and Families held its seventh annual A Swing of Grace golf outing, raising a record-breaking net total of \$200,000, with a cost ratio of eleven percent.

Over 160 golfers from as far north as Cape Coral came out to support the organization's mission of putting faith into action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. After the golfers returned from the greens, they were joined by additional dinner guests for the evening's program, silent auction and strolling dinner.

The highlight of the outing came during the dinner program. Guests were quickly reminded of the real reason for the day's event as the key note speaker, Eliana, took the podium. The mother of two is an alumna of the Bright Beginnings family literacy program at Grace Place. Ms. Tardio shared her story of transformation from an isolated young immigrant to a confident business woman who has written three books, is the founder and owner of one of the biggest special needs blogs worldwide with more than 400 thousand subscribers, and who has spoken at the White House twice.

"I am fully independent. I own my house and my car. I pay for health insurance, invest in my education, and I love this country, my country and the country of my children. People invested in me in the times I needed it the most, and I am fully aware of that. I pay it forward by sharing my story and helping others understand the power of places like Grace Place," Ms. Tardio shared.

The audience was visibly moved by Eliana's journey, as many approached her to congratulate her on her accomplishments. "It was very important to the committee to keep the mission at the forefront of the event. We wanted the impact of their support to be felt," remarked committee chair, Erik Lutgert.

In addition to Mr. Lutgert, the 2018 Committee members include Jim Bosscher, Ted Corbin, Barbara Evans, Lisa Ewell, Andy Guenette, Robert Mirakian, Diane McGrath, Mike McNamara, Tracy Moffat, Russell Peterson, and Nita Rapp.

Arthrex was the presenting sponsor of the event for the third year. Other sponsors include BNY Mellon, Clive Daniel, Conditioned Air, David Corban Architect, DeAngelis Diamond, Fifth Third Bank – Private Bank, Florida Weekly, Gallagher Lutgert Insurance, Gulf Coast Construction, The Lutgert Companies, Marissa Collections, MHK Architecture & Planning, Premier Sotheby's International Realty, Publix Super Markets, Stancel Concrete, Stofft Cooney Architects, The Village on Venetian Bay, and Waste Management.



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The eighth annual golf outing will be co-chaired by Erik Lutgert and Jim Bosscher. The event is slated for April 27, 2019 at Wyndemere Country Club.

About Grace Place for Children and Families

Grace Place for Children and Families is a nonprofit education center committed to putting faith into action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Working with entire families, Grace Place currently enrolls over 900 individuals in its three education programs. Our nationally recognized Bright Beginnings family literacy program serves preschool children and their parents. School Age programs provide afterschool and college access programming to youth. Grace Place's Adult Education program offers English language, literacy, computer literacy, and citizenship courses. Helping families throughout Collier County combat food insecurity, the Friday Food Pantry at Grace Place serves over 220 families each week. Grace Place works extensively with community partners to provide medical and mental health screenings, referrals for other services, and financial literacy classes to the Golden Gate community. Grace Place offers many volunteer opportunities in its literacy programs, mentoring, adult education and other areas. Visit www.graceplacenaples.org to learn more.

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