



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grace Place for Children and Families to Break Ground on the Jilk Family Center

This month the educational nonprofit Grace Place for Children and Families will break ground on the fifth new building of its Campus Expansion Campaign.

Naples, FL - May 17, 2018 - The Jilk Family Center will be a dynamic enrichment center providing a music studio, an art studio and a large classroom for wellness activities, community gatherings and for use by vetted nonprofit partners. In addition, the Jilk Family Center will house much-needed storage and distribution space for the organization's Friday Food Pantry, which dispenses over 350,000 pounds of food a year to families in our community. This new space will be equipped with a walk-in fridge/freezer - allowing increased intake of fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats to the pantry - and a dedicated storage closet for long-term partner, Baby Basics.

The 13,300 square foot (under roof) building is made possible by a generous gift from Patricia and Craig Jilk. Since retiring to the Naples area in 1999, the couple have been active players in the philanthropic community with multiple gifts to educational nonprofits helping children and families with low-income.

"Because of the Jilk family's extraordinary generosity, Grace Place will be strategically positioned to optimize its impact in this community of great need and to change the landscape of Golden Gate city through its family literacy programs," commented Grace Place Board Chair, Mario Valle. "When this building, and the final renovations and infrastructure are complete, our 5-acre campus will be home to one of the most multifaceted learning facilities in Collier County, setting the stage for generational change."

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 the entire family, Grace Place currently enrolls over 900 individuals in its educational, family literacy programs: School Age, Adult Education and the nationally recognized Bright Beginnings program. Although education is the core focus of the organization and its



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mission, the Friday Food Pantry at Grace Place also 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 provides many volunteer opportunities in its literacy programs, mentoring, adult education and other areas. Visit www.graceplacenaples.org to learn more.

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