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**GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY FOR BRIGHT BEGINNINGS EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

## Naples, FL – February 25, 2019 – Grace Place for Children and Families is pleased to announce it has received a $28,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County. These funds will support the Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Education program offered at Grace Place throughout the year.

## Grace Place provides pathways out of poverty by educating children and families in Golden Gate, Florida. Bright Beginnings is a family literacy program offered at Grace Place that combines parenting education and literacy trainings for adults with high quality early-childhood education for preschools students, and opportunities for parents and children to practice learning together.

## “We are thrilled and thankful to receive this grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County,” said Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Tim Ferguson. “This grant will strengthen our Bright Beginnings program and prepare nearly 200 children to meet developmental milestones and to be kindergarten ready.”

## The Community Foundation of Collier County awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process. Selected organizations receive grant dollars from the *Changing Needs Fund.* This Fund is made up of donors who believe in the Community Foundation’s ability to identify and grant to the most community’s most current needs.

***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 800 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.*

***ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY***

*The Community Foundation of Collier County is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus private philanthropy in the area. Today, the Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than 700 funds, serves 400 nonprofits, holds over $172 million in assets and has distributed more than $130 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and community programs since its inception in 1985. The Community Foundation of Collier County is one of Florida’s fastest growing community foundations. For good. Forever. Learn more at cfcollier.org or call 239-649-5000.*

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