

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CONNECTOR

We connect people who care to causes that matter.

SUMMER 2019



Judy Shanley helps Kianna Castillo with her project in the afterschool clay class program at Salvation Army Naples Fran Cohen Youth Center
- Photo courtesy of Salvation Army Naples

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY DISTRIBUTES \$2.4 MILLION IN GRANTS DURING 2018-19 THIRD QUARTER

The Community Foundation of Collier County has distributed \$2,399,284 in 296 grants in the third quarter of 2018-19 fiscal year (January 1-March 31, 2019) to nonprofit agencies and scholarships for secondary education and specialized training bringing the total distributions for the first three quarters of the fiscal year to \$8,723,907.

The distributions included \$10,000 from field-of-interest funds, administered by the Community Foundation, to The Salvation Army Naples for the afterschool programs in the Fran Cohen Youth Center and \$5,000 to the Greater Marco Family YMCA for their Keep Learning Through Summer program.

Also included in the grant awards is \$20,000 from the Community Foundation's Changing Needs Fund and Field-of-Interest Funds to the South Florida National Parks Trust for their Swamp Water and Me Program better known as SWAMP which provides educational programs for Collier County middle schoolers in four regional National Park treasures: Everglades, Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, and Big Cypress.

"We are proud to support a wide spectrum of grants, including education, in our community. Whether it is traditional learning, summer programs or experiences in our environmental resources, these programs are critical for our younger generation," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, Community Foundation President & CEO. "We are so grateful to the many caring and generous donors that made these distributions possible. Their support allows us to continue to be proactive and forward thinking in how to best serve Collier County."

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.

3rd Quarter Distributions

Distribution Category	Distribution Amount
Donor Advised	\$1,443,719
Designated	\$33,772
Field-of-Interest	\$280,459
Agency Funds	\$426,162
Scholarships	\$89,489
Changing Needs	\$119,683
Women's Foundation	\$5,000
Partnerships	\$1,000
Total	\$2,399,284



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BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR GRACE PLACE FAMILIES



Students in Grace Place's Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Education program

Research continues to show the strong connection between the first five years of childhood development and academic, economic and health outcomes, so access to high-quality early childhood education has been a priority in Collier County.

From birth to 5 years of age, a child's brain grows 90 percent, laying the foundation for neural, social and emotional connections that pave the way for future learning. Grace Place for Children and Families provides

free, comprehensive family literacy programs for preschoolers and their parents to help lay that foundation.

A \$28,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County is ensuring that Grace Place's Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Education program will continue to prepare Golden Gate children for kindergarten and future academic success. Bright Beginnings is a multidimensional model incorporating creative curriculum, classroom immersion, parental English courses, regular assessments, and lifestyle workshops. "We build the parents' knowledge and skill to be their child's first and most important teacher," said Grace Place Chief Executive Officer Tim Ferguson, Ph.D. "Our model wraps around, and supports, the entire family."

There is a waiting list for the program, which has 200 parents and 250 preschool participants. All participants are native Spanish and Haitian Creole speakers learning English so they can progress alongside their children. Families must commit to actively participate in rigorous program requirements and mentor an incoming family.

Grace Place provides after-school, summer and college prep programs for children up to the ages of 18, so enrollees can receive long-term enrichment. "We're extending well beyond when a child is learning at Grace Place—that's where we see a sustainable impact," Ferguson said. "In order for us to meet significant educational needs, we need these grants and philanthropic support to sustain high-quality educational services."

The Community Foundation of Collier County Changing Needs Fund, established in 1985 as a visionary way to address emerging gaps or issues, makes grants that impact our community today and tomorrow, for whatever the future may bring. Donations to this fund allow the Foundation to continue to be proactive and forward thinking in how to best serve Collier County. If you are interested in starting a fund or naming the Community Foundation in your estate plan, please contact us at 239.649.5000 to learn more.