



FACES OF **GRACE**

2019 IMPACT REPORT
FIFTEEN YEARS OF CHANGING
LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



Photo by Brian Tietz

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mario Valle, *Board Chair*

Patricia Jilk, *Board Vice Chair and Secretary*

James Bosscher, *Board Treasurer*

Joseph Barnette, Jr.

Craig Goodrich

Erik Lutgert

Deborah Mathews Finch

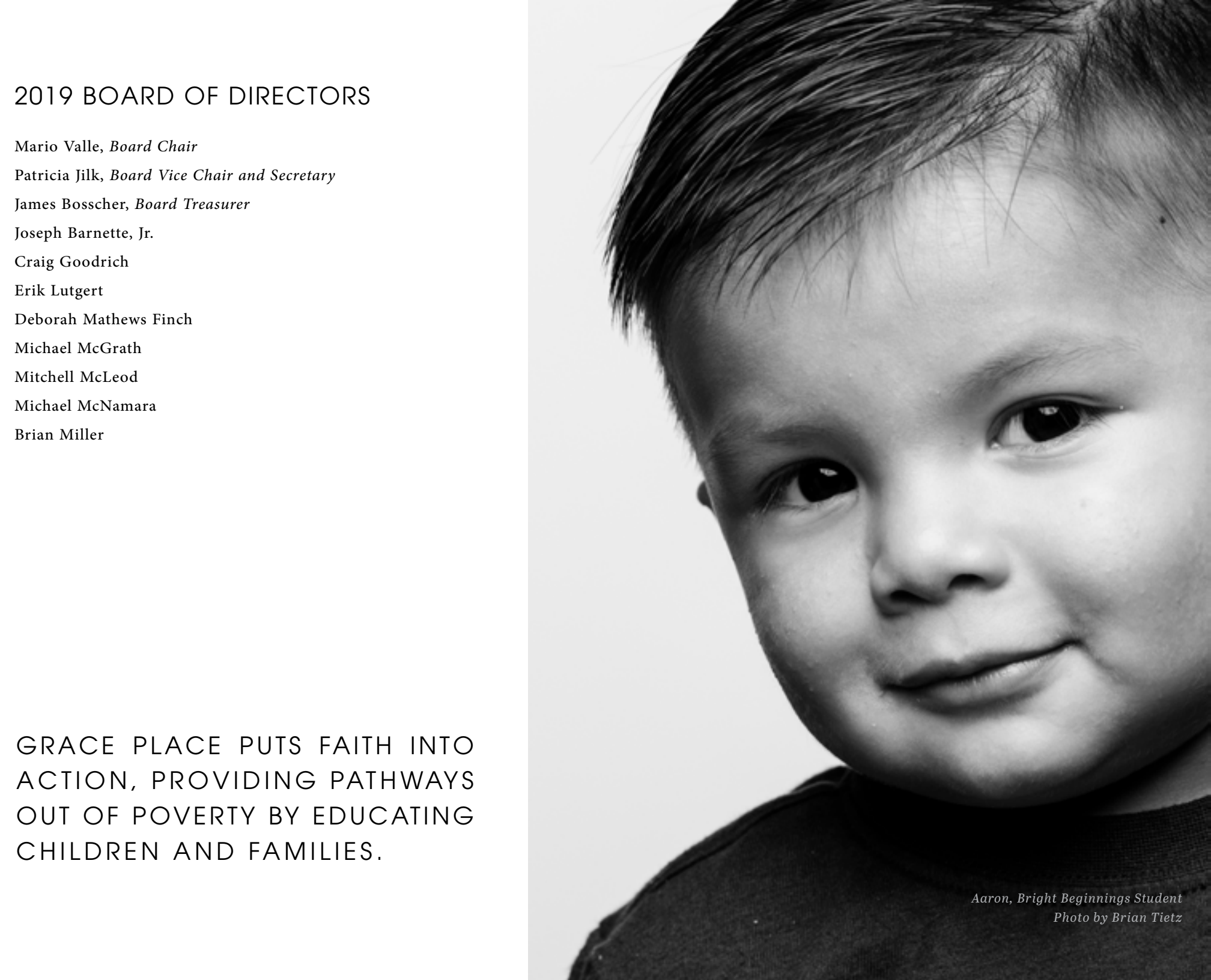
Michael McGrath

Mitchell McLeod

Michael McNamara

Brian Miller

GRACE PLACE PUTS FAITH INTO ACTION, PROVIDING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY BY EDUCATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.



*Aaron, Bright Beginnings Student
Photo by Brian Tietz*

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

As we celebrate fifteen years of educational programming and service to the Golden Gate community, it is exciting to see how much we've grown and the impact that Grace Place continues to have for children and families.

Our five-acre site has expanded to include five new buildings and a renovation to the existing chapel building. The grounds have been enhanced to provide new outdoor playgrounds and meeting spaces, creating a beautiful campus for children and families to enjoy. Our programs have grown to serve over 1,000 students through comprehensive family literacy, afterschool, and adult education programs. Still, our belief that education changes everything and that every individual deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential remains at the center of our mission.

This year, we opened the doors of the Jilk Family Center, a state-of-the-art enrichment center, and the final new building to complete the Campus Expansion project. We became the first organization of its kind in the world to receive Lighthouse Certification from the FranklinCovey organization, fully integrating the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*® into our educational programs and throughout the organizational culture.

Our Bright Beginnings program became a registered trademark as the Grace Place Family Literacy Model® and can now be licensed for organizations across the world to replicate. We celebrated the 2019 senior AP Leadership class, as 100% of them graduated high school, and 100% went to college or the military.

As you explore the following pages, you'll discover more accomplishments to celebrate, including the personal achievements of those that remain at the heart of our work – the students and the families we serve.

Thank you for believing in Grace Place and for your support as educational champions for our children and families. Together, we look to the future with excitement, promise, and great aspirations in continuing our work as an educational leader in the community.

MARIO VALLE
Board Chair

TIM FERGUSON, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

FACES OF GRACE

Fifteen years ago, we embarked on our mission to change lives and empower families through education. Today, that vision continues to be realized.

We've seen firsthand that when a person is empowered by knowledge, great things are achieved. That knowledge has a ripple effect that impacts many others. The idea that providing education to a person has a return on investment with endless possibilities, is what excites us most.

In honor of our 15th anniversary year, we've collected stories from some of the determined and impressive students your generosity has touched in a collection we call *Faces of Grace*. There are countless more success stories you're a part of at Grace Place. For more *Faces of Grace* visit graceplacenaples.org.

A special thank you to the remarkably talented photographer, Brian Tietz, for lending his time and gifts to put a face to the amazing individuals in these stories through the photographic collection, *Faces of Grace*.



CARLSON AND CHERLDI

This dynamic brother and sister duo grew up across the street from the campus and have been familiar faces at Grace Place since they were in diapers. Both attended Bright Beginnings with their mother, before enrolling in our Academy of Leaders program when they reached elementary school. Today, they are both thriving in school, reporting “mostly As and a few Bs.” They still consider Grace Place a second home.

Photo by Brian Tietz



ROXANA AND AARON

Roxana joined the Bright Beginnings program with her oldest child Aaliyah, when Aaliyah was one year old. She knew that to give her daughter the best start she could in life, she needed to provide her with a strong educational foundation. She learned about providing a language rich environment, promoting pre-literacy skills, and how to foster learning through play. When her second child Aaron was born, she had him enrolled in the program with her and Aaliyah within weeks. They've continued learning together. Today, Aaron is one of the brightest students in his classroom at Grace Place, and Aaliyah is flourishing in kindergarten. With Roxana as their first teacher, their futures look very promising.

Photo by Brian Tietz

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

GRACE PLACE FAMILY LITERACY MODEL®

AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, PARENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING FOCUSED TRACK:

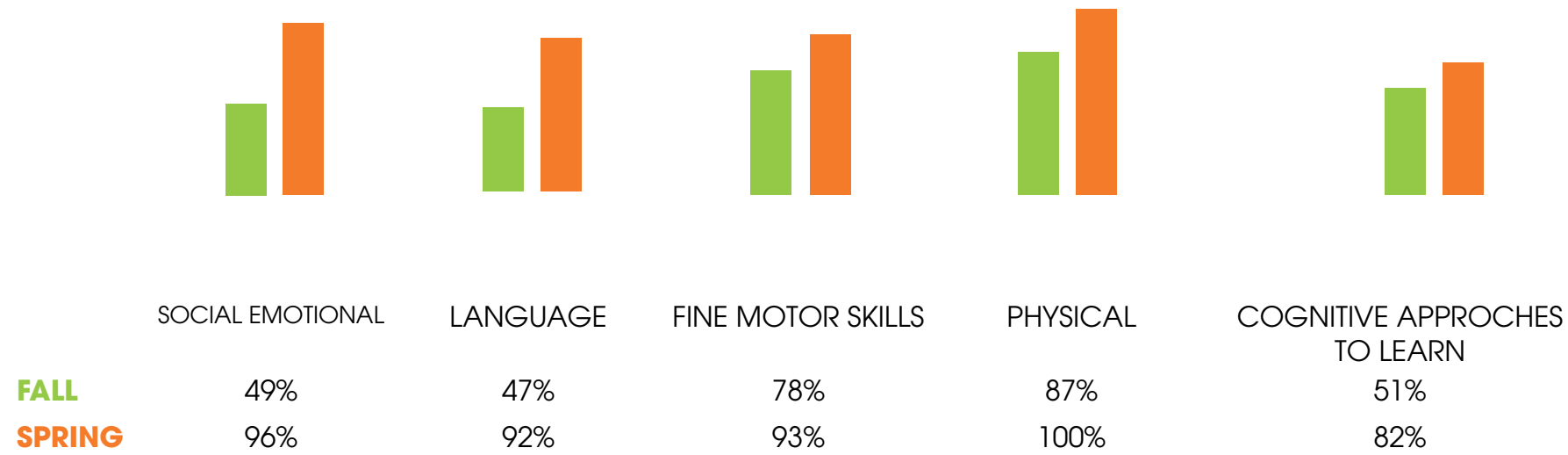
- » **SHOWED AN AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT OF 1.1 GRADE LEVELS IN READING***
- » **88 PERCENT DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGLISH LISTENING***

*As evidenced by the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems Life and Work Reading Exam

As we launch the homegrown family literacy program, Bright Beginnings, onto the national stage as the Grace Place Family Literacy Model®, we continue to hone and evolve its offerings here at Grace Place. With the support of our generous investors, we increased enrollment across the program and added new courses and new classes.

In addition to our existing parent and adult education classes, we added a course focused on building life and leadership skills while developing marketable skills for the workplace. An additional entry-level parent class was added, allowing more than 20 new families to join the program. We strengthened the participation of our Parent Leadership Council, empowering parents to find and use their voices.

2018 - 2019 FULL TIME ECE STUDENTS



With funding from discerning investors including the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and the Naples Children and Education Foundation, Founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, our early childhood education (ECE) offerings expanded. We added a full-time two-year-old classroom, an additional full-time three- and four-year-old classroom, and another weekday of programming for all four-year-old students enrolled in Bright Beginnings. We introduced Conscious Discipline, an innovative social-emotional learning, and classroom management program.

Through these enhancements, 192 children are better prepared to start kindergarten and 228 parents are better prepared to support them.



NOEMI AND EMILY

Noemi first came to Grace Place with her son, Francisco. As a young mother, she felt unprepared to be her child's first teacher and had heard that the Bright Beginnings program offered classes where she and her son could learn together. Noemi thrived, she became voracious for information and quickly became one of the most involved parents in the program. After her second child Emily was born, Noemi decided to take her passion for early childhood education and put it to work. She began taking classes to become an early childhood educator. Today, Noemi is a Support Teacher in one of the Bright Beginnings early childhood education classrooms, her daughter Emily is flourishing in kindergarten, and Francisco is a successful second grader.

Photos by Brian Tietz



DYLAN

When Dylan's parents first came to the United States neither one spoke English. Determined to provide the best future for their family they could, his mother Nelly enrolled in Bright Beginnings with Dylan while Dylan's dad, Elmer, started coming to English classes at Grace Place. Over the next six years, the family thrived. Dylan thrived. He developed language skills, he learned his alphabet (in English and Spanish), he met friends, established bonds with his teachers, and mastered the classroom environment. Dylan started our Academy of Leaders program last year and we continue to watch him grow and blossom.

Photo by Brian Tietz

ACADEMY OF LEADERS

462 STUDENTS SERVED

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAM FOR K-12

After fifteen years of providing community-based youth development experiences, we are keenly aware that creating a great academic program is only the first step toward having a lasting impact. We believe in taking a whole-child, multi-generational approach to tackling obstacles of poverty by teaching more than academics, and by engaging parents.

Integrated throughout our afterschool and summer activities are efforts to develop student's character and the soft skills needed for college and career readiness. Program activities combine academic enrichment with leadership development, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention

programs, arts, music, physical fitness, mentor activities, and career and technical programs. We facilitate parent workshops throughout the year, and encourage parents to enroll in our Adult Education program.

A mainstay of the program's design is to promote the aspiration to give back. High school students volunteer and work in the kindergarten through eighth grade classes. This past year, we developed a mentoring program between our middle and elementary-aged students. These peer-to-peer relationships have resulted in greater student investment in the program.



Photo by Alexis Horn

In addition to families that transition into Academy of Leaders from our Bright Beginnings program, we target students identified through our relationship with Collier County Public Schools to be most at-risk in Golden Gate. Our students' scores in math, science, and English Language Arts are a testament to what is possible if children are given the right opportunities.

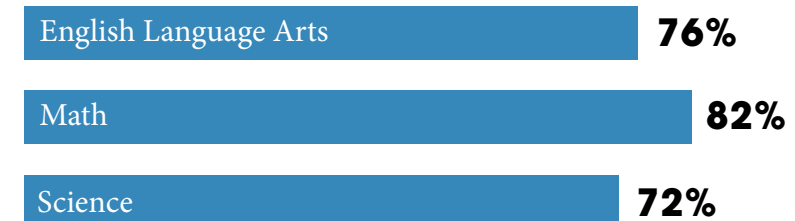
ACADEMY OF LEADERS ELEMENTARY

% at or above proficiency



ACADEMY OF LEADERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

% at or above proficiency



ACADEMY OF LEADERS HIGH SCHOOL

% at or above proficiency



GENESIS

It's quite possible that Genesis took her first steps at Grace Place. She and her mother have been enrolled in our programs since Genesis was born. In Bright Beginnings, Genesis spent four years learning, growing, and developing strong pre-literacy skills alongside her mother. When Genesis entered kindergarten, she was well prepared to succeed. Today, she is enrolled in Grace Place's Academy of Leaders afterschool program and has been invited to join the advanced studies and gifted learners program at Golden Gate Elementary School.

Photo by Brian Tietz

REBECCA

Rebecca joined Grace Place's AP Leadership program her freshman year of high school. Bright and determined, Rebecca has always been a high achiever, but the path to higher education was a mystery to her. Over her four years in the AP Leadership program, Rebecca took advantage of every opportunity. She's visited college campuses, attended college knowledge workshops and ACT Prep courses, and gained assistance identifying and applying for scholarships. This fall, she began her freshman year at Florida Gulf Coast University on a full scholarship (a Jubilee Scholarship).

Photo by Brian Tietz



AP LEADERSHIP

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

The AP Leadership program was developed to remove the obstacles to higher education that children from families with low income face. We help our students, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college, with the application process. We provide ACT and SAT preparation, coaching for application essays and guidance for selecting the right post-secondary education opportunity. We help students navigate financial aid, apply for external scholarships and give out our own scholarships too, including the prestigious Grace Place Jubilee Scholarships. **IN FY 2019, OUR GRADUATING SENIORS HAD \$601,600 IN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS.**

Since its pilot year in 2013, the AP Leadership program has boasted a 100% graduation rate, with 100% of graduates enrolling in college or the military. We are thrilled to continue that record this year.

100%

OF SENIOR AP LEADERS

- » GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL
- » WERE ACCEPTED TO AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE
- » ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR THE MILITARY

ADULT EDUCATION

200
STUDENTS SERVED

53%
DEMONSTRATED
NOTEWORTHY
GROWTH IN
ENGLISH READING
COMPREHENSION*

We believe that a safer, stronger, and more sustainable community for our children, begins with an educated adult population.

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

Last year, thanks to the support of our amazing allies, and a grant from Dollar General Literacy Foundation, 200 adults received English language and literacy education, digital literacy, financial literacy, and citizenship preparation. To make these existing efforts even stronger, this year, we broadened our programming and enhanced our assessments.

In collaboration with the Florida Planning Association of Southwest Florida, we extended the Financial Literacy Workshop an additional week. Students who completed the Financial Literacy Workshop were invited to participate in a pilot Homeownership Workshop offered in partnership with the HUD-certified nonprofit organization, Housing, Education, and Lending Program (H.E.L.P.). The *C.A.S.A.S. assessment used to evaluate the growth of our English language learners was migrated to an online testing system, allowing for more targeted and accurate testing, and saving time and money.



BENJAMIN

Benjamin had a growing family and knew he needed to learn English to advance at work. In the five years he took English classes in our Adult Education program, Benjamin received three promotions, ultimately managing a crew of ten. Today, he and his brother are running a business together and have both returned to Grace Place to learn from our Digital Literacy course.

Photo by Brian Tietz



AUGUSTUS "GUS"

Gus is a retired mechanic. Like many senior citizens in our community, he found himself needing the aid of our Food Pantry. But when Gus found Grace Place he found much more than emergency food supply, he found a community. He began volunteering three years ago. You will still find him, every week, among the dedicated food pantry volunteers giving back.

Photo by Brian Tietz

HUNGER RELIEF FOOD PANTRY

Food insecurity is a crisis for families all over the world, including families right here in Collier County. According to Collier County Public School's website, 66% of students in Collier County qualify for the free-and-reduced lunch program, meaning they fall below Florida's income eligibility gap lines. Hunger places unfair demands on parents, requiring them to make tough choices between food and other necessities. This can include the challenging decision to purchase inexpensive, but less nutritious food to stretch the household budget.

The Food Pantry supports Grace Place's mission by meeting the basic need for nourishment and health, which are essential for strong mental and physical development.

Thanks to our supporters, we helped provide an incredible 395,000 plus pounds of food, including fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products, to people facing hunger in our community.

39,020
PEOPLE FED

395,000+
**POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED**

CHANGE MAKERS

At Grace Place, volunteers not only make days better, they make them possible. It was a group of volunteers, and a visionary with a big heart, that founded Grace Place fifteen years ago. A decade and a half later, we remain a volunteer-driven organization.

The combined efforts of over 350 people make Grace Place possible by contributing their time, attention, and talents annually. Our board of directors, committee members, administrative, program, event support, and food pantry volunteers, are critical in our ability to serve the over 1,000 individuals enrolled in our education programs and the countless more served through the food pantry.

We hope you take pride in knowing that your gifts are making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you.



Mary Agnew	Diana Belbruno	Kay Brandon
Nazmiye Akyuz	Chloe Bellizzi	Emily Brovey
Jennifer Amatulle	Ian Bello	Thelma Brown
Arlis Ander	Al Bennett	Wes Bryant
Paul Ander	Jan Beshears	Jeanne Bucklin
Marcos W Araya II	Mary Beth Jones	Rod Bucklin
Delilah Archibald	Debra Blaine	Sue Buntic
Dianna Austin	Fredricka Bond	Joan Byerhof
Yesenia Avila	Robin Bonica	Kate Cahill
Karen Jean Bach	Monique Bontana	Barbara Campasano
Cheryl Ballenger	Michelle Borders	Allen Caswell
Michael Ballenger	Jim Bosscher	Augustus Chester
George Ann Bardenheier	Pat Bosscher	Thomas Clark
Joseph Barnette	Maria Botana	Joanne Colasanti
Doris Barrett	Nancy Bove	David Cole
Emily Batuman	Patricia Bradford	Edith Cole
Nancy Beights	Barbara Brandes	Kimberly Colector

Christine Connolly	Joyce Fletcher
Lindsay Corbin	Wealtha Flick
Darcy Cox	Carol Fox
John Cox	Bill Fox
Kimberly Craig	Kathy Freeman
William Crawford	Kathleen Friedler
Janice Cressman	Lisa Furlong
Pilar Maria Cruz	Marie Gannatti
Sandra Cunningham	Juan Garcia
Carole Damiano	Alyssa Gedeon
Lou D'Amico	Anne George
Connee Dawson	Craig Goodrich
Maris Delano	Luanne Gregas
Erin Delgado	Randle Grossman
Virginia Deneka	Susanne Grossman
Linda DiGiorno	Angela Grows
Carol Dlouhy	Richard Grows
Dewayne Dunnam	Andy Guenette
Elizabeth Eberhard	George Gulley
James Evans	Pat Gulley
Elaine Evans	Dennis Gulley
Teri Evans	Trisha Hare
Lisa Ewell	Pat Hart
Patti Fazio	Ray Hart
Betty Fedorjaka	Anne Hart
Leslie Feldman	Ed Heckert
Dianne Fiebrink	Patrice Heckert
Mark Fiebrink	Jacquelyn (Jackie) Hefner
Susan Filip	Kathy Henderson
David Finch	Fermin Antonio Hernandez
Barbara Finn	Jennifer Hinkle
Harry Fisher	Sharon Hoffman
Cindy Fitzgerald	Gail Hoopes
Patricia Fleck	Matthew Hott

LUIS

Luis, his mother, and his two younger brothers came to the Bright Beginnings program at Grace Place together in 2008. Luis was older than most of the children in Bright Beginnings and quickly found himself in the role of “helper” to the teacher. He developed a passion for giving back that he’s carried with him during his years in the after-school program. Today, Luis is enrolled in the Academy of Leaders high school program and considers his time volunteering in the elementary and middle school program among his favorite activities.

Photo by Brian Tietz

“VOLUNTEERS ARE LOVE IN MOTION!”

- ANONYMOUS

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Chris Howard | Claudia Luma | Diedre Milligan | Marion Renzetti | Donna Stapleton |
| Mary Hubert | Erik Lutgert | Jeffrey Mitchell | Whitney Rhyne | Jane Stark |
| Deborah Hurd | Judith Lynch | Jan Mitchell | Maureen Riley | Marilyn Steinberger |
| Pamela Hurd | Stewart MacFarlane | Tracy Moffatt | Jacklyn Robinson | Kathy Stried |
| Louise Isroff | Renette Majuste | Salley Moneymaker | Audrey Rooney | Robert Stried |
| Jami Jackson | Olivia Mancino | Gloria Moore | Paul Rooney | Julie Thiele |
| Douglas Jensen | Paula Mangan | Diane Morgan | David Rose | Pat Sue Thoma |
| Holly Jensen | Lolita Manzo | Richard Morris | Melanie Rose | Roger Thomas |
| Patricia Jilk | Nancy Marino | Boo Mortenson | Lynwood Rosser | Heather Thompson |
| Cindy Jonckheere | Phil Mathias | Carol Mumford | Carole Russell | Teshey Thompson |
| David Jonckheere | Deborah Mathews Finch | Connie Murray | Stan Russell | Brian Tietz |
| Clayton Jones | Jose Maya | Lesley Nietzman | Bill Safrin | Scott Tiffany |
| Debbie Jones | Ed Mayes | Lise O'Brien | Mary Margaret Sampson | Malerie Urquiola |
| Sherri Joyce | Geraldine McEnroe | Rosemary O'Connell | Jean Schlosser | Mario Valle |
| Lisa F Kanner | Rosemarie McGirl | William O'Connell | Roberta Stevenson Schrage | Faye Van Wert |
| Jerri Kautsky | Michael McGrath | Monica Osterhaus | Andrea Kathleen Shields | Vlady Vnukova |
| Jerry Kimble | Diane McGrath | Wei Ouyang | Donald Shippey | Hughes Wahl |
| Leo King | Rebecca McIntosh | Diane Palmer | Jeffrey Siegal | Deborah Wahl |
| Gail King | Julie McLeod | Jean Paprocki | Janet Silloway | John Walter |
| Suzanne King | Mitchell McLeod | Janet Perna | Deborah Silor | Alina Walther |
| Ramona Knight | Michael McNamara | Eve Perni | Nancy Simpson | Kate Wasmer |
| Nancy Kunz | Sherrie Meek | Russell Peterson | Susan Sissman | John Wasmer |
| Merceditas Lagmay | Juliana Meek | Helene Price | Arthur Smith | Maria Weiss |
| John Langenheim | Karen Merilien | Betty Pursley | Audrey Smith | Scott Weltzien |
| Barbara Laudano | Raymond Merz | Aaron Radcliffe | Clark Smith | Marge Wilmoski |
| Cindy Lewis | Sue Merz | Cathleen Ragone | Hal Smith | Arthur Winterhalter |
| Kathy Long | Harold Milkey | Diane Rahman | Axel Sotelo | Sally Yalley |
| Kevin Lopez | Brian Miller | Nita Rapp | Saundra Spilotro | Barbara Zack |
| Cynthia Lozano | Susan Miller | Valquiria Reilly | Laura Stacell | Larisa Zadorecky |

16,670
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

\$423,918
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER
HOURS*

*independentsector.org



Photo by Alexis Horn



JILK FAMILY CENTER

MEET THE JILKS

It didn't take long after moving to Naples for Pat and Craig Jilk to discover Grace Place. Pat was chairing the Education Grant Committee at the Community Foundation of Collier County when a passionate and enthusiastic woman came to the group asking for funding for a literacy program in Golden Gate. A longtime believer in the equalizing power of education, Pat and the group were immediately impressed with the mission of the organization. They decided to fund the small program. "Each year, for several years, we watched Grace Place grow in enrollment and programs, and each year we recommended a grant to Grace Place," Pat recalls.

Seven years later, with loyal support from the Committee and other generous sources, Grace Place was ready to expand. Like Pat, Craig is a firm believer in the transformational gift of an education. The couple decided to tour Grace Place. "At the time, the chapel building had been remodeled into classrooms. The old parish hall

building served as offices, classrooms, and the food pantry. Later, trailers were added for additional space. There was no doubt in our minds that this group needed more and better space to educate children and parents." Soon after, the couple became one of the first contributors to the upgraded campus. "Our first contribution was two classrooms in the new building. These classrooms were made in memory of my sister and cousin, who had been teachers," Pat reports.

Grace Place's momentum continued, and additional investors saw the importance of educational services in Golden Gate. The plans were laid for a complete Campus Expansion. As the campus grew, Pat and Craig became more involved with Grace Place. Pat joined the Board of Directors in October of 2017 and Craig served on the 2018 Grace Place Jubilee Scholarship Committee.



When the time came to secure funding for the final building on campus, Pat and Craig had seen the impact Grace Place was having firsthand. They wanted to ensure its legacy. "We contributed the funds for the final building built on the campus, the multipurpose building. Now, we have a completed Grace Place campus for the children and families in Golden Gate," remarks Pat.

"By offering high-quality educational opportunities, we believe that Grace Place makes a difference in the lives of Golden Gate children and their families. As the Grace Place adage states...education changes everything."

FINANCIAL PROFILE

AUGUST 1, 2018 - JULY 31, 2019*

We are pleased to report another year of strong support from our amazing donors, who allowed us to serve more families than ever before. As we look forward toward deeper involvement in our community and further growth, we remain dedicated to fiscal prudence to ensure viability and high quality educational programming for every family Grace Place serves.

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
Operating Funds	712,766
Capital Development Funds	201,531
Endowment	304,988
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,219,285
Total Other Current Assets	304,148
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,523,433
FIXED ASSETS	
Fixed Assets	13,303,874
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,679,054)
Total Net Fixed Assets	11,624,820
TOTAL ASSETS	13,148,252

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
Total Current Liabilities	27,868
Mortgage Payable	560,706
TOTAL LIABILITIES	588,574
TOTAL EQUITY	12,559,678
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	13,148,252

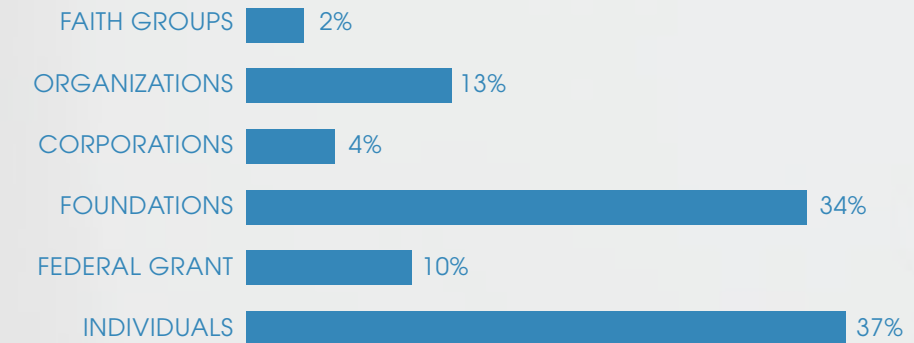
SOURCES

General Donations	4,484,937
Directed Donations	599,132
Capital Donations	567,758
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	5,651,827

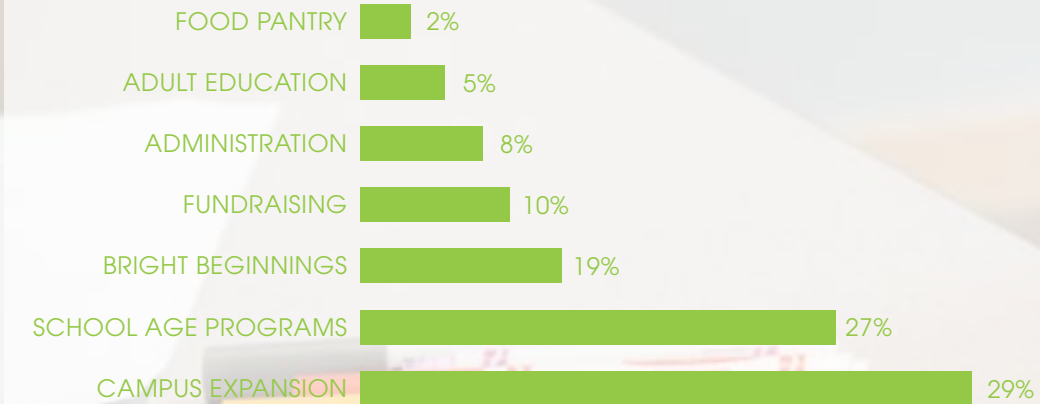
USES

Operating Expenses	3,449,828
Capital Expenditures	839,851
Directed Spending	593,302
Endowment	6,100
TOTAL FUNDS USED	4,889,080
INCREASE IN FUNDS ON DEPOSIT	762,747

GIVING BY SOURCE



USAGE OF FUNDS





PO BOX 990531
NAPLES, FL 34116
239.255.7200

ON THE COVER

RENE, YESSICA & SOFIA

Rene and Yessica have always believed in the power of education, so when Yessica heard of a program in the neighborhood that offered early childhood education classes she quickly enrolled herself and her daughters, Alice and Sofia, in Bright Beginnings. Over the next few years, they learned and grew together. Seeing the progress of his wife and children, Rene signed up for English classes to help develop his language skills. He and his brother would be starting a business, and he knew the importance of being able to easily communicate with his clients. Today, the family is flourishing. Alice has started kindergarten and is one of the top performing students in her class. Yessica and Sofia are still enrolled in Bright Beginnings, and Sofia shows Yessica something new she's learned every day. Rene recruited his brother into English classes at Grace Place and together they have launched their new business.

Photo by Brian Tietz



GRACE PLACE IS PROUD TO BE
A LEADER IN ME LIGHTHOUSE ORGANIZATION

 @GPNAPLES

  @GRACEPLACENAPLES

GRACEPLACENAPLES.ORG