



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grace Place for Children and Families Partners to Provide COVID-19 Testing During Saturday Food Pantry

Naples, FL - July 9, 2020 - Grace Place for Children and Families (Grace Place) has partnered with Lab 24 in Boca Raton, Florida, to administer COVID-19 testing during the organization's Saturday Food Pantry.

Grace Place and Lab 24 first partnered on June 27 to test 155 people at the Grace Place campus in Golden Gate City. The partners will continue testing each Saturday, beginning July 11 from 8 am to 6 pm until further notice. All community members are welcome, regardless of symptoms.

"We must keep our staff and students healthy and safe to provide the necessary educational support our students need. By identifying COVID-19 risks, we can help prevent the spread and better focus on our mission," remarks Jim Bosscher, Grace Place Interim CEO and Board Chair.

GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY DURING COVID-19:

In partnership with Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, Meals of Hope, and the generous donors to the Grace Place COVID-19 Relief Fund, the organization has distributed over 425,000 pounds of food (over 350,000 meals) to families in need since the coronavirus reached Collier County in March. This distribution is a nearly fifty percent increase over the same period last year.

GRACE PLACE SUMMER PROGRAMS DURING COVID-19:

Grace Place has welcomed back over 220 students to their classrooms (on-campus and virtual) for summer programs. The organization has taken thorough measures to ensure that all CDC health and safety requirements are met, including the wearing of masks, temperature checks, social distancing, and recommended teacher-to-student ratios. All summer programs are operating with a limited capacity and utilizing a staggered drop-off and pick up schedule.

ABOUT GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

Grace Place for Children and Families is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place currently enrolls over 900 individuals in its education programs. Its nationally recognized Bright Beginnings program, a Grace Place Family Literacy Model®, serves preschool children and

their parents. Grace Place School Age Programs, funded by the Florida Department of Education, provide after-school and college access programs to youth. The Adult Education program at Grace Place offers English language, literacy, computer literacy, and citizenship courses. Helping families throughout Collier County combat food insecurity, the Food Pantry at Grace Place serves over 250 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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