



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grace Place for Children and Families Receives \$75,000 ALICE Grant from United Way of Collier County and the Keys

Naples, FL – July 1, 2020 – Grace Place for Children and Families (Grace Place) has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the United Way of Collier County and the Keys to support its Bright Beginnings family literacy program.

“We are so grateful for the generous support from our partners, the United Way of Collier County and the Keys,” says Diane Ponton, Chief Program Officer at Grace Place. “This grant will have a direct impact on our families and students and help us provide them with the support and tools they need to succeed.”

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). While more than three-fourths of Grace Place families live at-or-below the Federal Poverty Line, nearly all live below the ALICE threshold for Collier County.

Grace Place’s innovative and multigenerational Bright Beginnings program combats intergenerational poverty by combining parenting education and literacy training for adults and high-quality early childhood education for preschool students, as well as opportunities for parents and children to practice learning together.

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 afterschool and college access programming 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, tutoring, mentoring, adult education, food pantry and other areas. Visit www.graceplacenaples.org to learn more.

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