

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Grace Place Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Fall Homecoming Festival**

Naples, Fla. (Oct. 15, 2024) – Grace Place for Children and Families marked a major milestone with its 20th Anniversary Fall Homecoming Festival, a joyous family-friendly celebration that brought together students, families, alumni, and community members to honor two decades of impact. The event held October 5, 2024, on the Grace Place campus, welcomed nearly 400 attendees who enjoyed a day filled with fall-themed activities and fun for all ages.

The festival featured a variety of autumn crafts such as fall wreath-making, scarecrow building, pumpkin painting, and leaf rubbing, sparking creativity and excitement among children and adults alike. Families participated in lively games and activities, including sack races, a “find the candy in the haystack” hunt, an inflatable corn maze, and face painting.

Guests indulged in delicious fall treats, including hot dogs, caramel apples, snow cones, and freshly popped popcorn, creating a classic fall festival atmosphere. The event was a heartwarming reunion, with many former students returning to reconnect with their Grace Place family. The event was a powerful reminder of Grace Place's 20 years of impact, educating thousands of students and empowering families in the Golden Gate community.

Reflecting on the event, Diane Ponton, Chief Learning Officer, who has been with Grace Place since its inception in 2004, shared "It was incredible to see so many familiar faces come back to Grace Place. This event was a beautiful reminder of how far we've come over the past 20 years. We've grown from a small homework club to a thriving community of learners and leaders. Watching our students and families celebrate together is what makes all our hard work worthwhile."

The celebration doesn't end here. Grace Place invites the community to join the festivities once again at *A Night in Emerald City* on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the Elite Jets Hangar. This signature event will continue commemorating Grace Place's 20th anniversary in style. Tickets are available now at <https://grace20th.givesmart.com>.

For more information about Grace Place and its programs, visit [graceplacenaples.org](https://graceplacenaples.org).

### **About Grace Place**

Grace Place for Children and Families, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place enrolls over 1200 individuals in its education programs each year. 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, provides afterschool, summer, and college access programming to K-12 youth. The Adult Education program at Grace Place offers English language, literacy, computer literacy, and citizenship courses. Additionally, the Food Pantry at Grace Place serves over 300 families each week. Collaborating with community partners, we offer medical and mental health screenings, referrals, and financial literacy classes in Golden Gate. Explore

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volunteer opportunities in literacy, mentoring, adult education, and more at  
[www.graceplacenaples.org](http://www.graceplacenaples.org).

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