

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Grace Place Receives \$25,000 from Hobbs Foundation to Support High School Program**

Naples, FL — December 4, 2024 — Grace Place for Children and Families is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$25,000 grant from the Hobbs Foundation to support its high school LEAD (Leaders Empowered to Achieve their Dreams) program. This generous gift will provide critical resources to empower 120 students in the Golden Gate community through educational opportunities, mentorship, and career exploration.

The LEAD program at Grace Place empowers students as they prepare for adulthood through an innovative cohort-based model. With cohorts such as GP: Freshman 101, GP: English Express, GP: TechWorks, and GP: Scholars, the program provides tailored interventions to address each student's unique needs. For two consecutive years, 100% of seniors have graduated on time, equipped with a clear and achievable post-secondary plan.

"This grant from The Hobbs Foundation is transformative for our students," said Marcie Curry, Chief Program Officer at Grace Place. "It ensures that we can continue to provide robust support to high schoolers in Golden Gate as they explore their individual paths— whether pursuing a 4-year degree, enrolling in technical school, or entering the workforce. With the support of the Hobbs Foundation, we remain committed to helping every student achieve a fulfilling and successful future."

This partnership between Grace Place and the Hobbs Foundation is built on a shared belief in the power of education to change lives. "At the Hobbs Foundation, our mission is to harness the power of education to empower families and transform communities. Grace Place for Children and Families exemplifies the transformative impact that a holistic approach to education and family support can have on underserved communities. We are proud to support their innovative programs that not only provide critical resources but empower youth to build essential skills and create pathways to a bright future," said Amanda Long, Managing Director of The Hobbs Foundation.

### **ABOUT GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Grace Place for Children and Families, celebrating its 20th year, is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place enrolls over 1,200 individuals in its education programs each year, offering the nationally recognized early learning initiative Bright Beginnings (nursery to 4 years old), which involves a parent in the early learning needed to be kindergarten ready, and comprehensive School Age Programs (grades K-12) funded by the Florida Department of Education. The

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organization also provides Adult Education courses and operates a Food Pantry serving hundreds of families weekly. For more information about Grace Place for Children and Families and to explore volunteer opportunities, visit [www.graceplacenaples.org](http://www.graceplacenaples.org).

**ABOUT THE HOBBS FOUNDATION:**

The Hobbs Foundation is dedicated to fostering meaningful opportunities for children across Florida through strategic partnerships with nonprofit organizations. The Foundation is committed to providing comprehensive community-based supports that inspire lasting achievement, foster healthy development, and promote a sense of belonging.

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