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Media Contact: Colleen Durham,  
Marketing and Events Manager  
[Colleen.Durham@graceplacenaples.org](mailto:Colleen.Durham@graceplacenaples.org)  
239.255.7213



## **First United Methodist Church Donates \$10,000 to Grace Place to Support School Bus Operations**

Naples, FL – January 14, 2025 – Grace Place for Children and Families is thrilled to announce a generous donation of \$10,000 from First United Methodist Church (FUMC), ensuring the operation of one of its school buses for the entire year. This gift is a testament to the church's unwavering commitment to supporting local families and children.

The donation effort was spearheaded by the United Methodist Women of FUMC following their visit to Grace Place. To add some excitement, the women's group challenged the men's group to a friendly fundraising competition, sparking enthusiasm throughout the congregation. Inspired by the vital work being done to provide pathways of education and opportunity for the Golden Gate community, the group issued a challenge to their congregation: raise \$10,000 to cover the operational costs of a school bus for the year.

The response was overwhelming. Thanks to the outpouring of generosity from the members of First Church, a total of \$10,482 was raised, surpassing the original goal. This incredible achievement reflects the spirit of giving and community that defines First United Methodist Church.

Grace Place's school buses are essential for providing children in Golden Gate with safe and reliable transportation to and from educational programs. This support ensures that students can access life-changing opportunities without barriers.

"We are deeply grateful to First United Methodist Church for their incredible generosity," said Lara Fisher, CEO of Grace Place. "Transportation is a cornerstone of access to education, and this gift will make an immense difference in the lives of the children and families we serve."

The partnership between FUMC and Grace Place demonstrates the power of collective action and the impact of faith communities coming together to create meaningful change.

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

### **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 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).