



2020

IMPACT REPORT

GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Photo by Alex Driehaus

OUR MISSION



GRACE PLACE PUTS FAITH INTO ACTION,
PROVIDING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY
BY EDUCATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

OUR MISSION

9 IN 10 CHILDREN
9 IN 10 CHILDREN
9 IN 10 CHILDREN

9
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88 PERCENT OF STUDENTS ATTENDING GOLDEN GATE CITY SCHOOLS LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOMES BELOW \$34,000 (130% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR).

That's about 9 in 10 children. Most live in loving, crowded homes where English is not the primary language spoken, homework help is scarce, and every family member is needed to manage and provide for the household.

But with access to educational opportunities, everything changes. Education means pathways to advanced employment, higher income, financial stability, dignity, and independence. Education has the ability to break the cycle of poverty, but more than that, it can change a person's life, and by extension, all those they impact. We've seen it happen.

Since 2004, we have partnered with our donors, volunteers, and local organizations to develop a comprehensive model that addresses poverty with a multifaceted and multigenerational solution. We believe that the greatest hope for a family's sustainable rise out of poverty is when they can rise together.

According to the United Way of Collier County and the Keys ALICE Report, it takes a household income of more than \$75,000 for a family of four to survive in Collier County. Demographic information above is from collierschools.com and aspe.hhs.gov.



\$4.6 M
RAISED

8,697
SERVED

\$4.6 million includes funds raised for education programs, the food pantry, operational expenses, and the Grace Place Family Literacy Model®

8,697 includes individuals served in our education programs, the food pantry, and the Grace Place Family Literacy Model®

Photo by Alex Driehaus

IN 2020, GRACE PLACE FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS SERVED 1,394 STUDENTS, RANGING IN AGE FROM BIRTH TO 74-YEARS OLD.

This year began with much to celebrate. We experienced our highest fall enrollment numbers ever recorded. Our Grace Place Family Literacy Model® launched its first pilot program at Guadalupe Center in Immokalee. And we gathered to commemorate our Campus Ribbon Cutting, the culmination of a seven-year project that added over 20,000 square feet of learning space to our campus.

In November, Grace Place became one of only three organizations in the nation to receive the *Pearl Literacy Award*, presented by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. The Award recognizes exemplary, community-based work in adult and family literacy.

By mid-year assessments, our students showed outstanding growth and development. We welcomed a new generation of Grace Place advocates with our young professional group, the Grace Place Ambassadors. And our annual gala, Celebration of Grace, had a record fundraising year, netting \$237,000.

When COVID-19 reached Collier County in March, Grace Place closed its campus for educational programs and remained open to run the food pantry. But while the offices and classrooms were empty, the work was only beginning. Our team reacted quickly, calling each one of our over 450 families for wellness checks within a week of lockdown.

Our programs pivoted to online learning within days of closing our campus. We built an interactive Family Home-Learning Guide accessible through our website. Teachers, coordinators, managers, even directors, regularly submitted videos, lessons, and assignments to keep students busy and engaged. By June, we had a structured schedule of in-person and virtual programming.

To say this year has been difficult seems like an understatement. But while the challenges have been plenty, we have also experienced tremendous bravery, innovation, compassion and generosity. In the most vulnerable time, people have still opened their hearts to give. And because of this, we have continued to be able to do great things. Despite the obstacles, we end the year as we started, celebrating what we have been able to accomplish together, and with hope for the future.

2020
A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

EMELIDA AND JESUS

EDUATION CHANGES EVERYTHING

It wasn't long after she came to the United States that Emelida met Jesus. She was cleaning houses at the time. He worked as a cook in a little market she frequented for lunch. "He would ask for my number every day," Emelida recalls with a wide smile. "I resisted at first, but eventually I gave him my number, and we went out." They were married that same year. A year after that, they had Emely. Two years later, Marley was born.

By then, Jesus had left the little market for a higher paying position at Mel's Diner. Emelida had her hands full at home, raising two children under the age of three. When Emely started to approach the age to enter kindergarten, Jesus and Emelida recognized the necessity to enroll her in an early childhood education program. Jesus and Emelida spoke very little English themselves and never at home. Emely rarely heard the language, and Jesus and Emelida worried she would struggle throughout school if they did not give her a strong start. Looking to their community for advice, Jesus's sister recommended Grace Place.

The first year of Bright Beginnings, they came as a family - Jesus, Emelida, Emely, and Marley. They had perfect attendance. "It was important to my husband and me that we be punctual. We understood the gift our family was receiving, and we wanted to be respectful of that," Emelida explains.

You see, Emelida had a different start in life than the one she was determined to give her children. Her family had a small farm in rural El Salvador. She was the fourth oldest of ten children. After the third grade, she was needed at home to help on the farm and take care of her younger siblings. She wasn't able to return to school until the age of twenty. She would sometimes work 11 hour days on the farm and then study at night. It was after she'd completed the ninth grade, seven years later, that she decided she had bigger dreams for herself and her future. "I didn't want to work on my family's farm for the rest of my life. I didn't want to have children and watch them work on the farm their whole lives."



As the family continued in the Bright Beginnings program, the time commitment increased from one day a week to two, and then to four. Although Jesus was working and unable to remain in the class, Emelida and the children remained committed.

After Emely began kindergarten, Marley and Emelida continued in Bright Beginnings. By the time Marley entered kindergarten, he'd spent four years in the program. "I can see the difference between my children's experiences in school. Emely is very smart, but Marley knew more when he started kindergarten. He was better prepared," Emelida lovingly remarks. "And it's not only my children. I learned English and I have learned how to support my children in their learning. When I became pregnant with our third child, Alexa, there was no question that we would return to Grace Place."

Alexa and Emelida were enrolled in Bright Beginnings when COVID-19 shut down the Grace Place campus. In an instant, Emelida needed to be the primary facilitator of all three of her children's educations. Because of her hard work in the Bright Beginnings program, she was prepared to fill that role. "It was tough. We live in a small apartment. I had to create separate spaces for Emely and Marley. Sometimes they would be in classes at the same time, and I knew they needed to listen and concentrate. I would also be working with Alexa on our assignments from Grace Place. At night, I would work on my English classwork," Emelida shares. "We all worked together. I couldn't have done it without what I learned at Grace Place."



Emelida and Jesus have chosen to keep their children home the first semester of the school year. Emelida and the children have developed a structured schedule and identified workspaces for each child in the household. Emelida and Jesus plan to send them back to school in January if the situation improves. In the meantime, Emelida continues to help her children develop a strong foundation for lifelong learning. "Our dream is that our children are academically prepared to choose a career where they will be afforded better opportunities and not have to work jobs like we do, cooking and cleaning," Emelida shared with tears in her eyes.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another."

While Marley is still undecided, and Alexa is only learning to talk, Emelida reports that Emely thinks she might like to be president someday.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION.

OUR PROGRAMS

BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES THROUGH EDUCATION

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

PARENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY LITERACY

Parents work individually and in a family unit to improve their parenting and literacy skills while their pre-kindergarten age children receive a high-quality early childhood education experience.



ACADEMY OF LEADERS

ELEMENTARY AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER

Elementary school leaders work with a teacher and a support teacher in every class and receive academic support and enrichment programming to improve their reading level while building their social and emotional skills.



MIDDLE AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER

Middle school leaders prepare to enter Collier County's college- and career-ready high schools by engaging in project-based curricula that foster the 21st Century skills needed to be successful and competitive.



THE LEAD PROGRAM

HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE AND CAREER ACCESS

Leaders Empowered to Achieve Dreams (LEAD) prepares students for post-secondary education with academic support, SAT/ACT prep, mentoring, financial aid assistance, and work opportunities.



Photos by Alex Driehaus

ADULT EDUCATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Adult learners gain English language proficiency, financial and digital literacy, and are assisted on the path to citizenship.

FOOD PANTRY

COMMUNITY HUNGER RELIEF

Food pantry clients receive fresh produce, meats, dairy, and non-perishables, along with supplemented personal hygiene and sanitation items.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Grace Place families receive the benefits of community partnerships with healthcare, housing, and financial assistance providers through augmented programming and referrals.

OUR IMPACT



Photo by Alex Driehaus

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

PARENT AND ADULT EDUCATION

89% OF BEGINNINGS 101 PARENTS REPORTED READING TO THEIR CHILDREN MORE THAN THREE TIMES A WEEK AT MID-YEAR, COMPARED TO 36% AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

72% OF PARENTS IN ENGLISH CLASSES DEMONSTRATED AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION BY MID-YEAR ASSESSMENTS

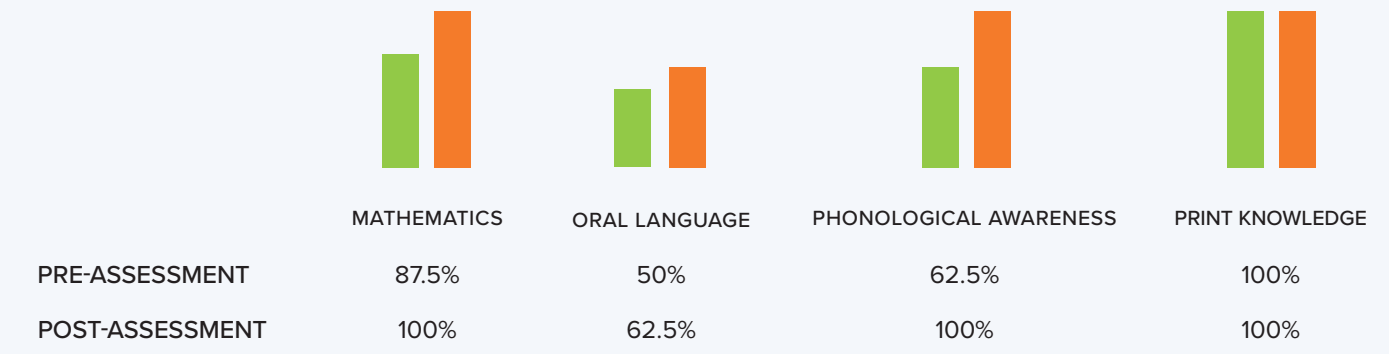
Students are evaluated using the CASAS Life and Work Reading and Listening Assessments. Due to COVID-19, year-end assessments were not able to be performed.

NEW CLASSROOMS

We launched a personal development and empowerment course for adults in the Bright Beginnings program, offering parents that have completed prerequisite courses the opportunity to acquire additional life skills that foster self-sufficiency and sustainability. We extended our reach, with a pilot Beginnings 101 class at Mike Davis Elementary School. And we added a new infant classroom, moving several families from the waitlist to enrollment.

SUMMER IN-PERSON VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

percent meeting or exceeding age-specific developmental milestones for kindergarten readiness



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

percent meeting or exceeding age-specific developmental milestones at mid-year



Students are evaluated using Teaching Strategies GOLD and Alphabet Letter Recognition Assessments.



SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

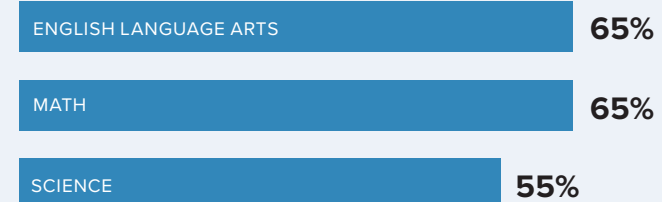
ACADEMY OF LEADERS ELEMENTARY

percent at or above proficiency at mid-year



ACADEMY OF LEADERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

percent at or above proficiency at mid-year



LEAD HIGH SCHOOL

percent at or above proficiency at mid-year



Comprehensive 21st Century Community Learning Center reports for the 2019-2020 school year are available at graceplacenaples.org/schoolageprograms.

100% OF SENIOR LEAD PROGRAM STUDENTS

- » GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL
- » WERE ACCEPTED TO AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE
- » ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR THE MILITARY

\$646,000

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

- | | |
|--|--|
| SHELNIMAR ALDAJUSTE
<i>Full Sail University</i> | DANIELLA NOEL
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> |
| AMANDA ANUY
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> | JONATHAN OLIVA-INFANTE
<i>Florida State University</i> |
| BIWIDLYNE CALIXTE
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> | WIDJINALIE PALISSIER
<i>Florida Gulf Coast University</i> |
| NEHEMIE CYRIAQUE
<i>University of Florida</i> | NELLY PEREZ
<i>Florida Gulf Coast University</i> |
| KIMBERLIE DORILUS
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> | DAPHNIE PHILLIPE
<i>Lorenzo Walker Technical College</i> |
| DJOULIA JEAN GILLES
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> | JAVIER ROSABAL
<i>Florida Gulf Coast University</i> |
| CHRISTINA JOSEPH
<i>Florida Gulf Coast University</i> | ANNETTE SANJUAN SANTIAGO
<i>Florida Gulf Coast University</i> |
| FRANCESCA JOSEPH
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| CYNTIA MARCELIN
<i>Florida SouthWestern State College</i> | JOANNA VALCIN
<i>Florida State University</i> |

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!



Photo Courtesy of Joanna Valcin

Photo by Alex Driehaus

ADULT EDUCATION

3,862
ACCRUED HOURS OF STUDY

BY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY
STUDENTS IN THE ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAM

NINE
STUDENTS PASSED THE U.S. CITIZENS EXAM

64%
MET DIGITAL LITERACY MID-YEAR MILESTONES

EVIDENCED BY THE NORTH STAR
DIGITAL LITERACY ASSESSMENT

Due to the abrupt end of programming as a result of COVID-19,
no year-end data is available for students enrolled in English as
a Second Language



Photo by Alex Driehaus

THE GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY

970,420
POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

7,303
INDIVIDUALS SERVED

This year more than any other, our Food Pantry served
as a vital resource to our community. You made it
possible for our Grace Place Food Pantry to provide
808,683 meals for people facing hunger.





Photo by Alex Driehaus

COVID-19

THANKS TO YOU, WE NEVER STOPPED

Grace Place and its families already had a strong communication network in place when COVID-19 shut down the country in March. Because of this foundation, we were able to pivot to a virtual learning and support program swiftly.

Within two weeks, we launched an online Family Home-Learning Guide to provide a structure of weekly lessons and age-appropriate projects for both the parent and child's learning. Our program team contacted every enrolled family to determine their health in the first week following campus closure. And a second time in the weeks that followed to assess the pandemic's impact was having, appraise their most significant challenges, and ensure they had access to the internet and a capable device. Our team offered assistance by connecting families to community resources, food support through our food pantry, and financial support from our COVID-19 Relief directed funds. Through various social and video conferencing platforms, families stayed connected with their teachers, classmates, Grace Place staff, and volunteers.

As the school year came to an end, our program team continued to work closely with students and their parents to help navigate the public-school system's online learning tools, sometimes speaking to a family multiple times a day. By summer, while many organizations were still closed, we were able to open all education programs safely, at a limited capacity.

The Grace Place food pantry never closed. Throughout the pandemic, we continue to provide emergency food, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and educational resources to some of our community's most vulnerable families.

With the help of community partners, local organizations, and generous individuals, Grace Place was able to help over 5,500 people throughout the first months of the pandemic. Because of you, we never stopped. And we won't stop.

PAT AND JIM

THE BOSSCHERS

When Pat and Jim Bosscher made Naples their winter home in 2014, they planned to relax and enjoy the sandy beaches, pristine waters, serene nature preserves, and championship golf courses. But, it wasn't until they discovered Grace Place through the Missions Fair at their church that they realized there was much more to this idyllic city by the sea.

"I immediately gravitated to Grace Place because of its mission," Jim recalls. "What intrigued me most is how Grace Place works with the whole family."

In their northern home outside of Detroit, Michigan, the Bosschers are active in a variety of charitable ventures. Jim co-founded a nonprofit organization that focuses on youth development, homelessness and healthcare. Pat has been a Stephen Minister in the Methodist church for over 20 years. Civic involvement has always been an important part of their lives, so they wasted no time getting involved in Naples. Jim started volunteering at Grace Place, serving on multiple committees and tutoring students in the Academy of Leaders program. Before long, Pat was volunteering in the food pantry.

Six years later, the couple's combined roles have included tutor, mentor, food pantry volunteer, donor, committee member, committee co-chair, Board treasurer, and Board chair. And since March, Jim has served as Interim CEO. They have invested invaluable intellectual capital, financial assets and countless hours to Grace Place, its staff and its families. But if you asked Pat and Jim about their contributions, they would tell you, "We've received so much more than we've given."

"The return on investment is so obvious. It not only feels good, but we also know the programs are working because we see the assessment results. Students' situations are improving in front of our eyes," reports Jim. "I have worked with adults who have received promotions because their language and literacy skills have improved. I have seen mothers become confident, capable teachers to their children. I have mentored students that have overcome more obstacles by the age of 17 than most people face in their entire lives," Jim explains. "Growing up in my family, things came easier. You had to work to pay for college and that sort of thing, but we didn't have obstacles like these families face."



Photo by Alex Driehaus

"I don't think we'd be nearly as fulfilled or happy as people if we didn't find Grace Place."

Like Jim, Pat feels that the comprehensive services Grace Place offers are the "secret sauce" of what makes it so unique. "There are not many programs that encompass the whole family, and I believe that's what makes the difference. The food pantry as a service is also very important. It's hard to focus on other things when your family is hungry."

While Grace Place and its families have made an impact on Pat and Jim, their unquantifiable investments provide countless children and families with access to educational opportunities to help them fully realize their potential.

"Becoming part of Grace Place has not only enriched our lives and made it more fulfilling, but it has also made us happier individuals. I don't think we'd be nearly as fulfilled or happy as people if we didn't find Grace Place," Jim remarks. That's a powerful gift.



Photo by Alex Driehaus

11,529
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$313,589
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS*

*independentsector.org

The accomplishments highlighted on the previous pages are only possible because of our generous donors and volunteers' contributions. It is important now more than ever to invest in our society's future, by investing in the education and well-being of our children and families today. Together, we will reap returns for generations to come. Thank you for changing lives with us.

VOLUNTEERS CHANGE LIVES

FINANCIALS

AUGUST 1, 2019 - JULY 31, 2020

UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
Operating Funds	1,417,826
Capital Development Funds	160,736
Endowment	321,107
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,899,669
Total Other Current Assets	488,265
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,387,933
FIXED ASSETS	
Fixed Assets	14,234,465
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,296,367)
Total Net Fixed Assets	11,938,098
TOTAL ASSETS	14,326,031

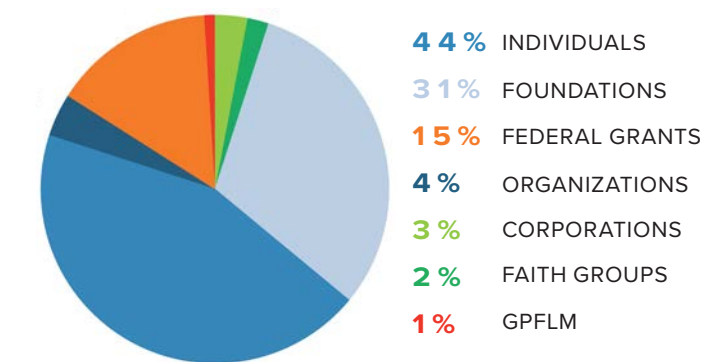
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
Total Current Liabilities	232,810
Mortgage Payable	525,813
TOTAL LIABILITIES	758,623
TOTAL EQUITY	13,567,407
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	14,326,031

SOURCES

General Donations	2,672,393
Fundraisers	440,550
Grace Place Family Literacy Model®	33,556
Directed Donations	1,058,385
Capital Donations	484,399
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	4,689,283

GIVING BY SOURCE



USES

Operating Expenses	2,529,682
Fundraising Expenses	192,264
Capital Expenditures	476,578
Directed Spending	1,058,385
Endowment	2,850
TOTAL FUNDS USED	4,259,759
INCREASE IN FUNDS ON DEPOSIT	429,524





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GRACE PLACE IS PROUD TO BE
A LEADER IN THE LIGHTHOUSE ORGANIZATION