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Grace Place Distributes 940 Backpacks at Annual Back to School Bash

NAPLES, FL (July 24, 2025)— Grace Place for Children & Families hosted its fourth annual Back to School Bash on Saturday, July 19, 2025, drawing over 1,250 attendees from the Golden Gate community.

More than 940 backpacks filled with grade-specific school supplies were distributed to children in kindergarten through 12th grade, helping ease the financial burden many families face each school year. The event was supported by generous donors and staffed by over 50 Grace Place volunteers.

Families also accessed free vision screenings and glasses fittings from the Naples Lions Club, along with resource booths from David Lawrence Centers, Healthcare Network, Healthy Start of SWFL, and the Alliance for Period Supplies.

The morning featured a pancake breakfast by a local Boy Scout troop, face painting, snow cones, popcorn, and activities with community partners including Great Wolf Lodge, the Children's Museum of Naples, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Naples Botanical Garden. FGCU's mascot Azul and local fire and sheriff's departments made special appearances.

"Back to School Bash is about more than just backpacks," said Lära Fisher, CEO of Grace Place. "It's about lifting a weight off families' shoulders and creating a community where children and parents feel supported and ready for the school year."

For more information, visit www.graceplacenaples.org.

ABOUT GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Grace Place for Children and Families, founded in 2004, is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place enrolls over 1,300 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.

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