

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Dodging for a Cause and a Brighter Future: Grace Place Raises Over \$6,000 at 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament**

NAPLES, FL – [July 7, 2025] – Energy, enthusiasm, and a whole lot of dodging defined the 2nd Annual *Dodge for a Cause* tournament—an action-packed evening of fun, teamwork, and philanthropy in support of Grace Place for Children and Families.

More than just a dodgeball tournament, *Dodge for a Cause* was a vibrant celebration of community spirit and creative expression. Teams like the Halstatt Havoc and the Manatee Cove Maniacs came dressed in full costume, showcasing their dedication not only to victory, but to the mission of educational equity for the Golden Gate community.

One of the standout teams of the day, Dodge Dynasty, impressed the crowd with their unwavering commitment to character, staying in theme from the first match to the final throw. Their infectious energy brought smiles to the court and served as a reminder that giving back can—and should—be joyful.

Defending their title with grit and grace, the Suffolk Dodgers emerged victorious once again. Team captain and Suffolk's Director of Business Development, Megan Kohan, used the spotlight to highlight the impact of Grace Place's programs:

"Grace Place is the organization responsible for helping those employed by the construction industry learn to speak and understand English. When English is spoken on the jobsite, it allows communication between our amazing superintendents and project managers (who are here tonight playing) seamless and more efficient, making our whole community stronger! Thank you, Grace Place, for the work you do and for a really fun night tonight!"

The tournament raised more than \$6,000, all of which will go directly to support Grace Place's wraparound educational services—from early childhood learning and after-school enrichment to adult education and family literacy programs. Every dollar raised helps build a stronger, more connected Golden Gate.

Grace Place extends heartfelt gratitude to its generous event sponsors—Halstatt, Big Orange Splot, and Lee County Electric Cooperative—as well as to every player, spectator, and volunteer who brought passion, purpose, and energy to the court.

"This tournament is proof that when we come together as a community, we can have fun and make a real difference at the same time," said Lära Fisher, CEO of Grace Place. "Every dodge, duck, and dive helps open doors to brighter futures."

### **About Grace Place for Children and Families**

Grace Place for Children and Families is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to

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providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place enrolls over 1,300 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 350 families each week. Collaborating with community partners, Grace Place offers medical and mental health screenings, referrals, and financial literacy classes in Golden Gate. Explore volunteer opportunities in literacy, mentoring, adult education, and more at [www.graceplacenaples.org](http://www.graceplacenaples.org).

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