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## **Grace Place High Schoolers Bring STEM Learning to Life in Putt-Putt Engineering Challenge**

**Naples, FL (July 14, 2025)** — High school students at Grace Place for Children & Families recently put their STEM skills into action during the Putt-Putt Engineering Challenge—an engaging hands-on project where teams designed and built original mini-golf holes from scratch.

The challenge encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones and experience how the math and science they've learned in the classroom applies in real life. From measuring angles to solving design problems, the experience blended creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Elementary students also joined as official course testers, creating a fun and meaningful cross-age connection—and giving the high schoolers a proud moment to see their work in action.

Grace Place extends a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who showed up ready to help with drills, saws, and encouragement. Their support was key in helping students safely bring their ideas to life—many of them using tools for the first time and building confidence along the way.

"This challenge gave our high schoolers the chance to try something totally new," said Marcie Curry, Chief Program Officer. "They weren't just learning engineering concepts—they were applying them. It was hands-on, collaborative, and full of those lightbulb moments where you see math and physics come to life."

The Putt-Putt Challenge is one highlight of Grace Place's STEM-focused summer programming, which runs through July 25th. With activities like drone flight simulation and the Barbie Bungee Drop, students are staying curious, challenged, and connected all summer long.

### **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](http://www.graceplacenaples.org).