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Circle of Friends Run Raises \$5,000 for Grace Place

Naples, FL — Circle of Friends recently hosted a *Run for Grace Place*, an event supporting Grace Place, an organization dedicated to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families in the Golden Gate community. Held at Gordon River Greenway, the event combined storytelling, community connection, and generous donations, making it a memorable morning for all who attended.

Before the walk/run began, long-time Grace Place volunteers and Circle of Friends members Sandy Cunningham and Delilah Archibald shared their personal experiences with Grace Place. Current students Adriana and Karelis captured the audience's attention with heartfelt stories about how the organization has impacted their lives, speaking with courage and poise. Former student Karla and her daughter also engaged with participants, highlighting the importance of Grace Place in supporting families after arriving in the United States.

Following the presentations, the community walk/run began. Circle of Friends' goal is to raise awareness of the meaningful work local nonprofits are doing and to encourage voluntary donations to sustain their programs. Thanks to the incredible efforts of Circle of Friends and the generosity of their supporters, more than \$5,000 was raised for Grace Place to directly benefit its students and families.

For more information about Grace Place and upcoming events, visit 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 Family Food Distribution program serving the enrolled families. For more information about Grace Place for Children and Families and to explore volunteer opportunities, visit www.graceplacenaples.org.