

**For Immediate Release**

**The Collier Community Foundation grants \$300,000 provided by the Melkus Family and CCF donor to local foodbanks**

(NAPLES, FL – June 13, 2022) – Nancy Lewis served as Chair of the 2022 Food & Hunger Grant Committee that vetted the nonprofit requests, from mobile food pantries and grocery store gift cards to providing free meals and healthy snacks for early learning, after-school, and summer camps.

"The Melkus family is glad to help during these especially challenging times. In addition to the funding we provided, we hope our gift will create awareness to give other people the opportunity to come forward and make similar gifts," said Ken Melkus. "This gift truly represents a public-private partnership where the Collier Community Foundation served as the catalyst, the grant committee chaired by Nancy Lewis provided community service, and our family provided the financial resources. We hope this model is revisited in the future."

The funds were part of the Foundation's Your passion. Your Collier. campaign to address needs in mental health & substance abuse, housing & hunger, education & employment, seniors & veterans, environment & accessibility, and crisis & disaster relief.

"We recognize the pandemic and inflation's effect on food insecurity, and that action is needed now," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO of the Collier Community Foundation. "We are proud to support our local food banks with this grant and applaud Ken Melkus and his family on their awareness and action to care for those in need in our community. Informed giving provides powerful results."

The following nonprofits received funding to address food insecurity in our community:

- Cancer Alliance of Naples Inc.
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Inc.
- Child's Path
- Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition, Inc.
- Grace Place for Children and Families, Inc.
- Harry Chapin Food Bank
- Meals of Hope, Inc.
- Naples Senior Center at JFCS
- Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Inc.
- St. Matthews House
- St. Vincent de Paul
- YMCA of Collier County
- Youth Haven, Inc.

**About the Collier Community Foundation:**

*The Community Foundation of Collier County, DBA Collier Community Foundation™, is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the Collier Community Foundation manages more than 850 funds, works with hundreds of nonprofits, holds over \$274 million in assets, and has distributed over \$255.6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships. The Collier Community Foundation is one of*

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