

**For Immediate Release**

**Collier Community Foundation grant with help from The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation will supply school uniforms for families in need**

**Naples, FL (July 21, 2022)** The Collier Community Foundation provided a grant of \$115,000, including \$60,000 from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, to Collier County Public Schools to ensure families who could not afford the expense of school uniforms were able to receive the necessary clothing to start the new school year.

“I believe education is integral to an individual’s ability to succeed and to a community’s ability to prosper,” said Richard Schulze, Founder of Best Buy and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. “By providing school uniforms to local students, we are giving children the clothing they need to attend school and the confidence they need to fully participate in class. When young children wear clean, well-fitting clothes, they feel better about themselves and are more ready to learn,” he added.

Many Collier County Public Schools, including all middle schools, have a school uniform dress policy. During this time of record inflation, the uniform requirement adds stress to not only families and students but also teachers and administrators.

“With so much to prepare for the new school year, I wanted to take the stress off of our school administrators,” said Lisa Morse, Director of Community Engagement and District Initiatives. “We have some amazing community partners, and when the Collier Community Foundation heard about our challenges, they quickly stepped up to support our students.”

Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO of the Collier Community Foundation added, “We are excited that the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation stepped up to help make this happen. We educate our donors on needs in our community, so they understand that families are struggling in our district to provide school uniforms for their children. The Schulze Family Foundation is a leader in our community whose actions inspire others to give. Their \$60,000 commitment along with other donor funds will close the gap for the school district.”

*Photo caption: Golden Terrace Elementary students are ready for the school year in their new uniforms. Photo courtesy of Collier County Public Schools*

**About the Collier Community Foundation:**

*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 \$274.4 million in assets, and has granted over \$255.6 million to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships. The Collier Community Foundation is one of Florida’s*

*fastest-growing community foundations. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Learn more at [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org) or call 239-649-5000.*

***About the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation:***

*The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation was created in 2004 by Best Buy founder, Dick Schulze, to give back to communities where he and his family live and work. The Foundation looks for meaningful investments that produce specific and measurable outcomes with a focus on human & social services, education, and health & medicine within the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area in Minnesota and the five counties of Southwest Florida which includes Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties. In all of its activities, the Foundation embraces its founder's vision to strengthen and support initiatives that lead to transformational change within our communities. For more information about the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, please visit [SchulzeFamilyFoundation.org](http://SchulzeFamilyFoundation.org).*