

**For Immediate Release**

**The Collier Community Foundation & donor provide \$587,000 to assist CCPS educators and staff with Hurricane Ian home damage and destruction**

(NAPLES, FL – January 17, 2023) – The Collier Community Foundation, thanks to a generous \$500,000 grant from the Wanda and James M. Moran, Jr. Foundation, has provided a \$587,000 grant to Champions For Learning to assist school educators and staff facing transportation and housing challenges due to Hurricane Ian. CCF provided additional funding through its [Collier Comes Together Hurricane Relief Fund](#).

Hurricane Ian left many at Collier County Public Schools with either significant flood damage or destruction of their homes, cars, and belongings, forcing them to move farther away from their school district.

With the CCF funds, 106 Collier County educator households will receive awards that range from \$300 to \$30,000. This grant will fund the following:

- Educators' deductibles for homeowners, flood, and car insurance.
- Rental increases for those who had to change rentals due to the storm.
- First, last and security deposits for those who had to move due to the storm.
- Awards for those whose homes or mobile homes were not insurable and experienced a total loss.
- Awards for those whose homes or mobile homes were not insurable and underwent a partial loss and were displaced.
- Awards for storage expenses incurred for salvaged items.
- Awards for household items (furniture, etc.).
- Awards for home repairs not covered by insurance.

“We are proud that the Wanda and James M. Moran, Jr. Foundation has placed their trust in our Hurricane Ian relief efforts. We take that trust seriously and are committed to helping our community rebuild and repair through our Collier Comes Together Fund,” said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO of Collier Community Foundation. “Teachers and school staff are integral to our community, so it was an easy decision for the Moran Foundation to commit these funds to Champions For Learning to address the housing challenges our educators are facing.”

“Knowing that the Collier Community Foundation has invested in our Hurricane Ian relief efforts due to the integrity and intentionality of our selection process is a source of pride,” said Barbara Evans, Champions for Learning President and CEO. “We are grateful for their investment that affords our ability to anchor Collier County Public School educators and staff. The Education Foundation of Collier County is proud to be a conduit for these funds.”

*Photo captions: (l-r)*

*Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli, Barbara Evans, Nancy Ruben, Mary Farr, and Lindsey Touchette*

*Nancy Ruben, elementary school counselor, and Mary Farr, Barron Collier High School Spanish teacher, receive funds to assist with their housing challenges*

*Photos courtesy of Champions For Learning*

***About the Collier Community Foundation:***

*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, and has granted over \$268 million to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Learn more at [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org) or call 239-649-5000.*