

**For Immediate Release**

**The Collier Community Foundation grants more than \$62 million in FY 2023**

(NAPLES, FL – December 11, 2023) – The Collier Community Foundation (CCF) has awarded \$62 million in grants in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to nonprofit agencies and scholarships for secondary education and specialized training. This amount includes \$13.6 million in CCF Donor Advised Fund grants, \$23.9 million in Agency Fund grants, and \$7.1 million for the Golden Gate Golf Course affordable housing project. More than \$328 million in grants and scholarships have been awarded since 1985.

Due to solid donor support, several CCF grants were awarded to focus on solutions such as affordable housing. At the old Golden Gate Golf Course, \$7.12 million was granted to construct Collier County's largest workforce housing site. The project's first phase consists of 252 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments for essential workers such as teachers, law enforcement, emergency, and healthcare workers. The second phase will provide 120 one-bedroom apartments for seniors.

Funding also includes an initial \$25,000 grant and a subsequent grant of the same amount to help create a collaborative affordable housing hub organization to address this complex issue in a comprehensive, long-term fashion. CCF provided a \$30,000 grant to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary to expand land management capacity to protect our wildlife and clean water supply and improve our resiliency against future storms. Through strong connections with the donor community, an economic development grant from a CCF donor advised fund is helping finance programs at a new Empowerment Center at St. Matthew's House, giving at-risk residents increased access to educational opportunities for long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

"In addition to providing grants to address immediate community needs, we are also creating a framework for looking forward beyond the next grant cycle," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, Collier Community Foundation president and CEO. "Our board and staff are invested in planning today to provide long-term solutions for our community tomorrow, such as the critical issue of affordable housing. We are proud to play a key role in providing housing options for our essential workers and seniors that will allow them to live and work in our community."

**FY 2023 Grants and Scholarships by Category**

| <b>Category</b>             | <b>Total</b>        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Arts, Culture, & Humanities | \$1,495,229         |
| Education*                  | \$33,086,000        |
| Environment & Animals       | \$945,559           |
| Health                      | \$3,349,008         |
| Housing Affordability       | \$7,123,809         |
| Human Services              | \$10,376,801        |
| Public, Societal Benefit    | \$2,253,523         |
| Other                       | \$69,308            |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$62,019,371</b> |

*\*The Education total includes an agency fund transfer of \$20.2 million*

**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 over 850 funds, works with hundreds of nonprofits, and has granted over \$328 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.*