

For Immediate Release

Collier Community Foundation receives a momentous unrestricted estate gift of approximately \$17 million

(NAPLES, FL – April 29, 2024) – The Collier Community Foundation (CCF) is honored to announce it has received an unrestricted estate gift of approximately \$17 million from G. Jeffrey “Jeff” Provol, a Naples resident whose legacy will significantly impact the community through his quiet yet visionary philanthropy. These generous funds represent the most substantial gift CCF has received in its 39-year history.

When Provol, 81, who wasn’t married and had no children, passed away on September 5, 2023, he left this enduring gift in the trusted hands of CCF so that the funds could address emerging and future issues and natural disasters. “It’s hard to put into words the impact these funds will have in the long run,” said Collier Community Foundation President and CEO Eileen Connolly-Keesler. “This gift will allow for larger impact grants to nonprofits critical to this community.”

This gift exceeds the \$14.45 million received in unrestricted funds established as the Wilfred and Joan Larson Fund in 2021, which has already resulted in over \$2 million in grants to the community.

Amy Dalen Garry, JD, principal and the chair of the Tax Advisory Group at HBK, is the personal representative of Provol’s estate. She said he had many interests through the years, such as car racing and collecting art, but was ultimately intent on lifting others with his wealth. “He was a private man, but he was a kind man. He really cared about other people. He wanted to make sure that what he had would benefit everyone,” Garry said. “He was very fortunate and successful in his life—and he didn’t take that lightly. He wanted to pass that on.”

Connolly-Keesler said, “It is perfect timing” for this unprecedented gift as the Community Foundation and its philanthropic partners prioritize gaps and address needs based on the recent Collier County Community Assessment survey, including workforce housing and the environment. She noted that Provol’s only previous donation to CCF before this substantial gift was to the Collier Comes Together Hurricane Ian Relief Fund.

When Provol worked with Garry and Roetzel & Andress estate attorney Lisa Lipman, he already considered the Community Foundation his biggest beneficiary. “It’s fantastic,” Lipman said. “The Community Foundation helps so many other organizations, this gives the Community Foundation the power to do more than they are already doing. I’m sure it contributes to the foundation’s sustainability overall.”

Added Garry: “He wanted it to go directly to organizations who could use it the most.”

As the baby boomer generation is transferring \$34.8 billion over the next nine years in Collier County, Connolly-Keesler agreed that providing unrestricted gifts to the foundation ensures long-term community sustainability. “This is how you build your communities—you ensure the

community you care about is taken care of today and 50 years from now, even if you bequeath a small portion of your estate,” she said. Provol’s gift guarantees that “there are reserves in this community for when things happen. He saw that you need resources when a crisis hits your community.”

Photo of Jeff Provol courtesy of Tax Advisory Group at HBK

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 or call 239-649-5000.