

# Children's charities receive \$13.4 million in grants

Representatives of Collier County's children's charities were all smiles as they received grant checks totaling \$13.4 million at an award ceremony held by the Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

"Hundreds of generous festival supporters are behind these grant awards," said Bob Edwards, festival chair with his wife Terry. "While the festival's vintner dinners and one-of-a-kind auction lots create memorable experiences, it's abundantly clear that children in need are in supporters' hearts and minds throughout the festivities."



Bob and Terry Edwards, Dr. Marcio Guelman, Dr. Teresa A. Dolan, Karen Scott, Dr. David S. Guzik, Dr. Virginia Dodd, Dr. Scott Tomar and Dr. Lauren Governale  
Photography by Louis Venne

Twenty-four local charities received grant checks totaling \$6.4 million to help fund programs and services over the next 12 months. Grants ranged in size from \$31,000 for St. Matt's Kids Camps to \$1 million for Boys & Girls Club of Collier County.

In addition, grants totaling \$7 million were awarded for multi-year, strategic initiatives aimed at continuing the fight against children's oral health diseases; providing out-of-school programs in Immokalee; improving children's vision through screening and providing prescription eyeglasses; and the continuation of Lunch Boxes of Love, an initiative that takes a bite out of children's hunger.

Most social service agencies in Collier County depend on funding from foundation grants, fundraisers and private donations in order to remain viable. "NCEF grants are directed toward the whole child, from the tops of their heads to the tips of their toes," said Karen Scott, NCEF grant committee chair. "We are very intentional about grant making, researching where gaps in services lie, multiplying grants through matching-grant programs, and focusing on making systemic changes in service delivery that will last for generations to come."

NCEF board chair Anne Welsh McNulty added, "NCEF's ultimate goal is giving underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County basic health care and education services that will improve their life-long well-being and chance at success."



Naples Children & Education Foundation grants check presentation

Since 2000, Naples Children & Education Foundation has been dedicated to making a profound and sustaining improvement in the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. The 2014 Naples Winter Wine Festival will take place Jan. 24-26. For more information about the festival or NCEF, or to make a donation, visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com) or call 888.837.4919.

Bob and Terry Edwards, Katie Schweikhardt, Noelle Malanson, Karen Scott & Steve Popper

