



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Decades and \$4.5M in Philanthropic Giving

Grants Awarded Today Total \$343,743

Naples, Florida, April 2, 2019 -- Grants awarded today to 35 area nonprofits by The League Club, Inc. of Naples, Florida total \$343,743 to support education, hunger relief and healthcare: 72,919 meals to combat hunger; 7,411 at-risk students gaining access to educational tools, academic support, & job training; 1,500 medical screenings and tests to improve healthcare; 6,580 new books to better prepare kids at Title I schools; 400 pairs of new shoes to enable kids to attend school and 750,000 diapers for needy babies.

President Charlene Barnette said, "For over three decades The League Club has strengthened this community through our philanthropic grants and volunteerism. This year, our Commitment to Community is stronger than ever. We believe this is essential to human well-being in Collier and Lee counties. Working together with our members, supporters, and business sponsors, we are able to make a difference in Collier and Lee Counties."

VP, Community Marilyn Bartter said, "2019 was a tough year for the committee. The need is great. Over 100 agencies applied for grants. The 35 grants we are making today represent the best collective wisdom of the committee. They will make a major difference in the lives of kids and families."

A keynote address was made by Angela Melvin, Founder of Valerie's House of SWFL. Angela shared her vision for a place solely to help children grieve. Her story was so compelling when she presented to the grants review committee that they asked her to share her story again at the event today to inspire a larger audience.

2019 Grant Recipients

Able Academy, Inc.	Legal Aid Service of Collier County
Baby Basics of Collier County, Inc.	Meals of Hope
Blessings in a Backpack SWFL	Naples Lions Club Foundation, Inc.
Books for Collier Kids, Inc.	Naples Senior Center at JFCS
Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, Inc.	Naples Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Collier County	Naples Zoo, Inc.
Champions for Learning™	New Horizons of SWFL
Collier Child Care Resources, Inc.	PACE Center for Girls Collier, Inc.
Community Cooperative, Inc.	Parkinson Association of SWFL
De LaSalle Academy of Fort Myers	Partners for Breast Cancer Care, Inc.
Friends of Foster Children Forever, Inc.	Path2Freedom, Inc.
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, Inc.	Physician Led Access Network of Collier County (PLAN)
Guadalupe Center, Inc.	Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)
Guardian Ad Litem Foundation, 20th Judicial Circuit, Inc.	St. Matthews House, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, Inc.	The Immokalee Foundation, Inc.
Healthcare Network of SWFL Foundation	Valerie's House of SWFL
Hope for Families Ministry Corp.	Youth Haven, Inc.
Laces of Love Charitable Foundation, Inc.	

Today's awards presentation was sponsored by FineMark National Bank & Trust, who offer a comprehensive array of banking, trust and investment services to clients interested in establishing long term, high touch relationships.

The League Club, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization of women in Southwest Florida strengthening communities through fellowship, education, volunteerism and philanthropy. The League Club is open to women who have been or still are active members of a Junior League that is a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International.

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