

## STARability Foundation receives \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County

STARability Foundation has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the Community Foundation of Collier County to support its social enterprise, the STAR\*Made Studio, and vocational services program.

Launched in 2019, the STAR\*Made Studio offers vocational training and life skills development like communication and decision-making to individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. The studio, which employs two participants as part-time assistants, also offers individuals enrolled in STARability's programs an opportunity to learn a craft, express their creativity and build their confidence.

This grant will help STARability hire two more participants as part-time studio assistants, expand the studio's product line and teach participants product development and job-readiness skills. Participants make hand-poured candles, jewelry, greeting cards, home décor and other products that are sold at STARability's STAR Store, to businesses and at arts and crafts shows.

### About the Community Foundation of Collier County

The Community Foundation of Collier County, now in its 36th year, is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than 850 funds, collaborates with hundreds of nonprofits, holds over \$284 million in assets and has distributed over \$216 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and community programs. The Community Foundation of Collier County is one of



STARability Foundation participant Ryan makes a beaded bracelet, a new product developed with volunteer and Naples businesswoman Mary Smallwood, at the STAR\*Made Studio.

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### ABOUT STARability

The STARability Foundation is a Collier County-based nonprofit with a mission of serving individuals with intellectual and developmental

disabilities. With a professional staff and more than 100 volunteers, STARability delivers a full calendar of engaging, innovative and creative programs to ensure that participants, ages 14 to 70, can live their best lives. The STARability Foundation exists to Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing life-

transforming opportunities that emphasize Teamwork and connection to the community to build Awareness and Respect for their individual abilities.

To help support the work of STARability or learn more information about the nonprofit and its programs, please visit [STARability.org](http://STARability.org) or [facebook.com/STARabilityfoundation](https://facebook.com/STARabilityfoundation).

## Naples Children & Education Foundation Appoints New Development & Volunteer Coordinator

The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, announced the appointment of Laura Collett as its Development & Volunteer Coordinator. In this role, Collett will assist NCEF's Chief Development Officer in enhancing the non-profit organization's philanthropy in the areas of major giving, planned giving and endowments. She also will coordinate volunteer activities throughout the year.

"Laura joins the NCEF team with a passion for people and making a difference," said NCEF Chief Executive Officer Maria Jimenez-Lara. "Her participation in the Naples Winter Wine Festival and other activities throughout the year will help us achieve our mission of improving the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children in our community."

Collett graduated from Suffolk University in Boston with a Bachelor of



Laura Collett

Science degree in Management with a minor in Marketing. While earning her degree, she worked in her family's heat-treating company. Following graduation, she shifted to the company's Marketing Department, where she worked closely with the Sales Department at a nearby software company.

Collett moved to Westerville, Ohio to raise her children and helped create

several fundraisers for their sports teams. Later, she returned to Boston where she attained her National Producers License for Life and Health. She currently remains a licensed insurance agent. During her years at Northwestern Mutual, she volunteered by preparing and delivering lunches to the homeless.

### About Naples Children & Education Foundation

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is improving the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 50 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing more than 275,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. NCEF's unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations

and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.

### About Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, offers a weekend of unforgettable memories. Guests enjoy world-class food and wine during intimate dinners in private homes and are invited to bid on once-in-a-lifetime travel and wine experiences during an electrifying live auction. Since its inaugural event in 2001, the NWWF has raised nearly \$220 million, making a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

For additional information on the Naples Children & Education Foundation or the Naples Winter Wine Festival, contact Lisa Juliano at [lisa@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:lisa@napleswinefestival.com) or 239-514-2239.





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