



For Immediate Release

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The Founders Fund Awards Scholarships to 27 Collier County Students

(April 28, 2016 – Naples, FL) College scholarships were awarded to 27 Collier County students by The Founders Fund during an annual ice cream social held at the Club Pelican Bay on April 21.

The non-profit organization awarded over \$200,000 in renewable scholarships to local students during The Founders Fund annual reception which honors scholarship recipients and their families. Each student was presented with a renewable scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 per academic year.

Scholarships are awarded to Collier County students seeking financial assistance in order to pursue a higher education. The scholarships are non-restrictive and are given to help students with college and post high-school educational expenses. Students receive their renewable scholarships with the agreement they are a full-time student and maintain a B average or better in their college studies.

This year's 27 recipients, plus the 84 students already in the Founders Fund program, brings the total to 111 students who will receive Founders Fund scholarships this fall. The commitment and annual budget needed to distribute scholarships is \$222,000 each year. Funds needed to grant the scholarships are raised through a fundraising golf event held every other year, donations from Club members, and the generous support of local business sponsors.

The Founders Fund, Inc., founded in 1991, is a non-profit/tax-exempt charitable organization. Since its inception, over 600 students have been awarded more than \$3.4 million in scholarships.

2016 Scholarship Recipients:

Barron Collier High School: Jessie Renaud

Everglades High: Tawny Wood

Golden Gate High School: Joe Alusma, Andree Ducasse, Erik Garcia, Miriam Granja

Gulf Coast High School: Rita Bekhash, Jaime Polanco, Sarah Rice

Immokalee High School: Karina Estrada, Javier Flores, Cesar Hernandez-Isidro, Graciela Olvera

Lely High School: Diana Alas, Cristian Lopez-Quezada, Leslie Renee Ramirez

Lorenzo Walker: Mario De La Luz, Andrea Gamboa, Juan Medina, Maggie Moxam

Naples High School: Joshua Ehlers, Sydney Record, Megan Sullivan

Palmetto Ridge High School: Sasha Iglesias, Briana Ravelo

St. John Newman: Georgina Castro

The Club Pelican Bay (Child of an Employee): Joshua Siahaan

The scholarship fund, originally set up to help the children of the Club Pelican Bay employees, has expanded over the years to include Collier County high schools. Employees of the Club Pelican Bay and their families are also eligible for scholarships. This year one child of an employee was chosen to receive a scholarship.

For more information about scholarships or sponsorships, contact Adrian Pratt at 239-593-0124 or visit www.thefoundersfundinc.org.

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