



The Founders Fund Inc.

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For Immediate Release

The Founders Fund raises over \$500,000 for college scholarships

(April 10, 2014 – Naples, FL) Over a half-million dollars was raised for scholarships at the *Founders Fund 2014 Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament and Banquet*. The fundraiser was held at The Club Pelican Bay on April 7th with more than 180 golfers participating in the daytime golf event and over 250 attended the evening banquet and auction.

“Auctioneer Scott Robertson energized the crowd and brought in over \$200,000 during the live auction and ‘raise the paddle for scholarships’ portion of the evening,” noted Tom Lear, Chairperson of the Founders Fund Board of Trustees. “And, we were all very excited when the ‘Paris to Normandy’ Ama Waterways River Cruise, donated by Preferred Travel of Naples, brought in \$15,000 alone. It was an amazing event.”

The Founders Fund, Inc., which was founded in 1991, is a non-profit charitable organization with a mission to provide financial assistance to Collier County students in pursuit of a higher education. With the success of the fundraising event, which is held every other year, more Collier County students will be receiving scholarships this coming year.

Helping to make the event a success were sponsors: Major Sponsor – Craig and Kathy Johnson of Stallion Oilfield Services; Diamond Sponsor – The Atwood Group/Merrill Lynch; Platinum Sponsors – Anonymous Donor, The Brennan Family, and The Ibarra Calleja Group/Morgan Stanley; Gold Sponsors – Charles Schwab & Co. Inc, FineMark National Bank & Trust, Mercedes-Benz of Naples, Northern Trust, PNC Wealth Management, and Storm Force; Silver Sponsors – John R. Wood, Naples Signature Collection/Premier Sotheby; Pulte Group, The Lykos Group, Inc., and Victoria Harrison P.A./Downing Frye; Bronze Sponsors – Collier Enterprises, Home Tech, and William C. Huff Companies; Copper Sponsors – Fidelity Investments; In-Kind Sponsors – Bigham Jewelers, George Phillips, MY Shower Door, Occasions of Naples, Preferred Travel of Naples, Premier Beverage, The Club Pelican Bay, and WCI Communities. Others who made great contributions to the success of the event were annual benefactors and sustaining donors.

Each spring, The Founders Fund selects approximately 25 students from Collier County High Schools to receive scholarships based on good grades and financial need. The \$8,000 scholarships are awarded \$2,000 per year as a renewable scholarship based on maintaining a B average. Each fall, the total number of scholarships funded is approximately 100 which include those already in the program from the past three years.

The Founders Fund has granted over \$2.8 million dollars in scholarships to Collier County students since its inception and now has a scholarship commitment that amounts to over \$200,000 annually. Over 530 students have received scholarships; many are now teachers, medical professionals and active community leaders, thanks to the support of generous donors.

For more information about scholarships, sponsorships, or becoming a part of the organization, contact Sue Davenport at 239-593-0124 or visit www.thefoundersfundinc.org.

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