

# THE GREATEST TRAVEL SHOW ON EARTH

Benefitted the Founders Fund



Stacy Lee-Williams



Wilma Boyd, Olga Placeres



Susan Grofe, Jerry Nichols, Connie Moody



Entering the Greatest Travel Show on Earth



Rob McNaghten, Sue McNaghten



Alexa Simpson, Erin Garry



Penny Peck, Schuyler Peck



Frank Albanese, Karla Albanese



Gretchen Berger, Kristina Gear



Vin Sarni, Sandy Sarni, Pat Ermler, Rick Ermler



Jason Parrish the Ringmaster



Stilt Walkers



**MissNn:** The Founders Fund, Inc., founded in 1991, is a non-profit/tax-exempt charitable organization that provides financial assistance to young men and women from Collier County in their pursuit of post high school education and training.

Since its inception, over 650 students have been awarded more than \$3.6 million in scholarships.

## SNEAK PEAK OF THE FOUNDERS FUND LIVE AUCTION!

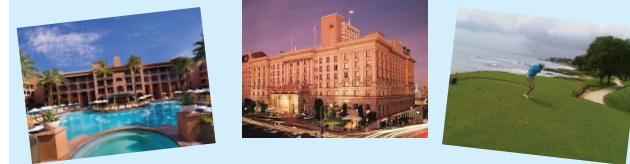


The 2018 Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament/Banquet is just around the corner and we hope you've made plans to attend the April 9th and 10th fundraising event. It will be two exciting days -- golf, cocktails, dinner and auctions. You'll have the opportunity to bid on an array of travel trips and adventures during the event.

Look for an email from the Club with a full list of auction items up for bid! More details will be included about the items below.

This Founder Fund Live Auction will feature eight fabulous trips and experiences including:

- **Autumn in New York** - 3 days/3 nights at The Lombardy hotel plus gift certificates for dinner and more
- **Bermuda Getaway** - 5 days/4 nights at The Fairmont Southhampton plus golf and more
- **Celebrate on a Mediterranean Cruise** - 7 day all-inclusive luxury cruise
- **Inspirational Golf Experience in Scottsdale** - 4 days/3 nights at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess plus golf
- **Wine and Dine in Northern California** - 3 nights at The Fairmont San Francisco and 3 nights at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn plus winery tour
- **Teeth of the Dog** - 5 days/4 nights at the Casa de Campo Resort plus golf and more
- **Golf Adventure for Four at Bay Hill** - 2 nights at the Bay Hill Club and Lodge plus golf and more
- **Chef Joe's Wine Cellar Dinner for 10** - 5 course wine dinner in the Club Pelican Bay wine cellar



The Founders Fund, Inc.  
707 Gulf Park Drive  
Naples, FL 34108

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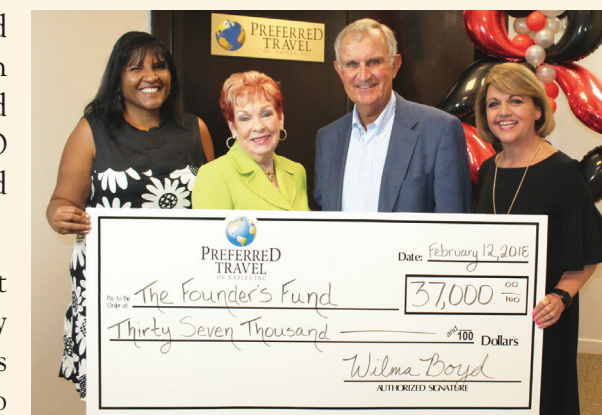
## "THE GREATEST TRAVEL SHOW ON EARTH" raised \$37,000 for scholarships

The Founders Fund is proud to announce that Preferred Travel of Naples' "The Greatest Travel Showcase on Earth" raised \$37,000 for our scholarship fund. The annual travel event was held on February 12 at Club Pelican Bay with over 600 guests in attendance; their largest show ever. Each year, Preferred Travel selects a non-profit charitable organization to benefit from the event, this year it was the Founders Fund.

This was the 11th year for Preferred Travel's annual extravaganza and this year's showcase theme played off of the famous 'Greatest Show on Earth' from start to finish with cirque de soliel type decorations and stilt-walkers greeting each guest as they arrived. Upon entering the show, two 14 foot balloon elephants graced the entryway where Wilma Boyd, President and CEO of Preferred Travel, along with Olga Placeres, CFO and Agency Manager, welcomed each travel enthusiast.

"This was our biggest event ever and one of the largest checks we have presented", said Boyd. "We truly enjoyed ourselves observing our guests introductions to new and exciting travel experiences. And, it's so wonderful to be able to support the Founders Fund mission to help Collier County students attend college."

A big THANK YOU to Preferred Travel of Naples!



Preferred Travel presents check to Founders Fund:  
Stacy Lee Williams - Founders Fund Administrator,  
Rob McNaghten - Founders Fund Board President,  
Wilma Boyd - President and CEO of Preferred Travel of Naples,  
Olga Placeres - CFO and Agency Manager of Preferred Travel of Naples

### GOLF EVENT IS QUICKLY APPROACHING . . . APRIL 9TH & 10TH!

We hope to see you at the 2018  
Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament and Banquet.  
If you haven't signed up yet, we still have room for you.



Visit [www.TheFoundersFundInc.org](http://www.TheFoundersFundInc.org) to register.



MESSAGE FROM 2016/2018 CHAIRPERSON  
**Rob McNaghten**



Life in Naples is one of paradoxes. Most of us who are retired and/or snowbirds enjoy living in this paradise. After all, Naples has been reported to be the happiest, healthiest city in the United States... and, why not? There are beautiful beaches, wonderful restaurants, lots of golf courses, and great weather. We enjoy the fourth highest per capita income in the U.S. and the highest in Florida.

But, there is another story here in Collier County. Almost 15% of residents live below the federal poverty line with 52% of Collier County school students living in homes where English is not the first language and sometimes is not even spoken. Almost 50% of school students are Hispanic and 12% are African-American; 62 % of the students are considered economically disadvantaged. For many housing is less than adequate. Habitat for Humanity of Southwest Florida averages 100 new, affordable homes each year but only builds enough homes for a fraction of the 1,000 or more applicants. More Collier and Lee County children live in poverty, rely on food stamps, and are uninsured compared to their counterparts statewide.

So for many, life in Naples is not the paradise we experience. This becomes apparent as Founders Fund Board members interview high school seniors applying for scholarships each year. Most come from families with incomes less than 80% of the median income for Collier County, roughly \$46,000. But it is not uncommon to interview students with family incomes considerably lower. The determination of these students to overcome their circumstances, attend college and build a better life is remarkable.

Members of Club Pelican Bay generously supporting The Founders Fund have played a major role in helping lift these young people from a life full of challenges to one of promise and opportunity. Currently the Founders Fund provides scholarships to almost 100 students attending colleges throughout the United States. Since 1991 over 650 students have received Founders Fund scholarships of more than \$3.6 million.

Our major fund-raising event, held every other year, The Ed Brennan Memorial Tournament and Banquet, is scheduled for April 9 and 10. Your participation in the event is an investment in the young people of this country. Your support is important in "Making Dreams Come True" for these young people.

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**The Founders Fund**

239-593-0124 or foundersfund1@gmail.com  
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*Scholars home for the holidays*  
**Annual Scholars Luncheon**



Jim Henderson, Lesly Chavez, Susan Brown



Linda Censits, Sydney Record, Dick Censits



Lyncee Romelus, Lesly Chavez



Founders Fund Scholarship Students

It was great to see our students home for the Founders Fund Annual Scholars Luncheon which was held on Friday December 29 at Club Pelican Bay with nearly 75 guests in attendance. Scholarship recipients and benefactors of The Founders Fund gathered together at the annual event to celebrate the accomplishments and aspirations of the current scholarship students.

Out of the 96 Founders Fund students currently attending college, 33 were home for the holidays and attended the luncheon.

After lunch was served, each student was invited to speak about their college studies, current college activities and future career goals. Their aspirations included careers in medicine, science, engineering, teaching, psychology, music composition, military, and more.



Joyce Krinsky, Benjamin Krinsky



Joan Thomas, Kevin Lopez



Cesar Hernandez, Penny Peck



Rob McNaghten, Olga Placeres, Sue McNaghten, Kristina Gear



**2017 High School Counselors Breakfast**  
*Provides important insights!*

Our annual High School Counselors Breakfast was held on January 24 for Collier County school counselors at Club Pelican Bay. Several Founders Fund board members, along with 11 Collier County high school representatives, took part in the informational breakfast.

Each year, the Founders Fund meets with the counselors to discuss current student needs, economic trends and the number of graduating students at each school. The breakfast meeting better prepares the counselors to guide students through the upcoming scholarship application process.

Karen Pulte and Susan Brown, Founders Fund Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, discussed the scholarship requirements with the counselors and talked about the ever-increasing needs of financial assistance to local students. They also reviewed special circumstances, academic merit along with financial need.



Karen Pulte, Carolyn Rambosk



Susan Brown, Jim Gambino



Rob McNaghten, Audrey Moss



Denise Szedelyi, Laura Roszkowski

**The Founders Fund Receives \$2,010 from J. McLaughlin's Sip & Shop Event**

The Founders Fund was the recipient of a Sip and Shop fundraising event at J. McLaughlin on January 29, 2018. The event raised \$2,010 to benefit the Founders Fund scholarship fund. Guests enjoyed light drinks and bites while shopping from the J. McLaughlin resort collections; 15% of the sales during event were donated to support the Founders Fund.



Denise Chan, Sales Associate for J. McLaughlin of Naples presents a check to Jim Marinelli, Founders Fund Board Member. Not available for photograph: Pam Lawson, J. McLaughlin Manager.