



For Immediate Release

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The Founders Fund to award College Scholarships to 24 Collier County Students during Zoom Celebration on May 28, 2020

(May 18, 2020 – Naples, FL) College scholarships are being awarded to 24 Collier County students by The Founders Scholarship Fund this month despite not being able to hold their major fundraising event this past spring. A special Zoom celebration and scholarship presentation will be held on May 28 to honor the scholarship recipients and their families.

The Founders Scholarship Fund, a local 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, will award \$240,000 in renewable scholarships to local students who have shown determination, academic achievements, and financial need to pursue a college education. Each student will receive \$2,500 per year for up to four years so long as they maintain a 3.0 average.

The Founders Scholarship Fund was founded in 1991 by Club Pelican Bay golf members and is a non-profit/tax-exempt charitable organization. Since its inception, over 700 students have been awarded more than \$4 million in scholarships.

“In the 29-year history of the Founders Fund, the need for scholarship assistance for high school graduates has never been so great due to Covid-19,” says Adam Crescenzi, Board Chair for the Founders Scholarship Fund. “We are so grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to award the scholarships and meet our obligations to over 100 students who are currently receiving renewable scholarships.”

Each year, scholarships are awarded to Collier County students seeking financial assistance 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 the renewable scholarships with the agreement they are a full-time student and maintain a B average or better in their college studies.

The commitment and annual budget needed to distribute scholarships is approximately \$250,000 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.

“We hope the economy recovers enough so our donors will have the means to support the Foundation next year as we know the need will surely increase,” added Crescenzi.

Although there was no annual reception and in-person awards ceremony due to Covid-19, the scholarship committee of the Founders Scholarship Fund selected the following students to receive scholarships.

2020 Scholarship Recipients:

Barron Collier High School: Michelle Cardenas-Arias, Adelyne Olson

Community School: Raquel Ferreira

Golden Gate High School: Alaysha Greene, Reuben Delgado Rosa, Nicanor Etienne, Cherlande Cheribin, Nehemie Cyriaque

Gulf Coast High School: Alejandro Hernandez

Immokalee High School: Alex Soriano, Natalia Garcia-Lopez

Lely High School: Taite Miller, Wood Lindor

Lorenzo Walker: Isis Roque-Perez, Emisael Vega-Avila, Widjinalie Palissier

Naples High School: Elizabeth Orstad, Olivia Saguto, Grace Williams, Daniela Bendo, Maria Cuellar

St. John Neumann: Elise Bouchard, Julia Hofacker

Club Pelican Bay: Roberto Reyes

Plans to honor the students in-person at a future date will be determined. For more information about scholarships or sponsorships, contact Stacy Lee-Williams at 239-593-0124 or visit www.thefoundersfundinc.org.