



NAPLES GARDEN CLUB

nurturing, growing & contributing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Naples Garden Club House Tour Results in Significant Grants

Naples Garden Club awarded \$93,000 in grants and scholarships at its April 2016 meeting. The Club raises funds from its annual House & Garden Tour fundraising event, which is conducted each February.

- Naples Botanical Garden received \$30,000 to support three summer interns as well as staff participation in the American Public Gardens Association's National Conference in Miami.
- Florida Gulf Coast University received \$11,000 for scholarships to be awarded to students studying horticulture, environment or conservation.
- ECHO, which is dedicated to reducing hunger worldwide, received \$10,000 to sponsor a local Community Garden intern.
- Habitat for Humanity received \$10,000 for the beautification of its Liberty Landing community in Immokalee.
- JFCS of Southwest Florida's Naples Senior Center was given \$10,000 for senior citizen field trips and garden projects.
- Youth Haven was granted \$10,000 to create an "Edible Campus and Learning Garden" for its resident youth who have been abandoned or neglected.
- Friends of Foster Children Forever received \$5,000 for internships at Naples Botanical Garden for high school age foster children.
- Naples Zoo received \$5,000 to revitalize its Backyard Habitat and Butterfly Garden. Four 2017 summer camp participants from Avalon School in Naples will receive a total of \$2000 to attend Camp Wekiva, a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th grade youngsters sponsored by The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

NGC President Roberta Ross remarked, "The Naples Garden Club is proud to continue to invest in our community, which fulfills our Club's mission to foster the appreciation and support for horticulture and its role in enhancing our local environment. Our first house tour was held in 1955. For over 61 years our annual House & Garden Tour has generated nearly \$1,000,000 for worthy recipients."

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President Ross also stated that “we sincerely appreciate the many individuals who, over the years, have opened their unique and exquisite homes to our tour held in early February. The search is underway again for four exceptional and distinctive homes for our 2017 Tour, in the Port Royal, Aqualane Shores and Old Naples areas. With these homes we will be able to give back to our Naples community. I urge anyone interested in opening their home for this premier event to contact Sharon Hildebrandt our 2017 House & Garden Tour Chair.” Mrs. Hildebrandt can be contacted by email at sah51547@gmail.com.

The Naples Garden Club is a nonprofit community-oriented charitable and educational organization established in 1953 to foster appreciation of floral design, horticulture and the environment. The club conducts the annual sold-out House & Garden Tour and Naples Flower Show, the largest juried flower show in Southwest Florida. For more information visit our website at NaplesGardenClub.org.



Photo L to R: Marci Seamples, Director of Development, Naples Zoo; **Jane Billings**, Executive Director, Friends of Foster Children Forever, Inc.; **Lindsey Touchette**, Director of Major Gifts, Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation; **Jack Mulvena**, President and CEO, Naples Zoo; **Ali Diaz**, Donor Services Manager, ECHO; **Alexandra Sindorf**, Community Garden Intern, ECHO; **Cindy Learned**, Director of Development, Naples Botanical Garden; **Brian Holley**, CEO, Naples Botanical Garden; **Jinx Liggett**, Executive Director, Youth Haven; **Dr. Jaclynn Faffer**, President and CEO, JFCS of Southwest Florida; **Trisha Griffin Porter**, Foundation & Grants Development Officer, Naples Botanical Garden; **Roberta Ross**, President, Naples Garden Club; **Joyce Zirkle**, Director of Finance and Operations, Youth Haven; **Karen Aldana**, Development Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity.