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Guadalupe Center Named as Beneficiary of 2019 NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival

Organizers also announce 2020 NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival dates and location

NAPLES (April 18, 2019) – NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival organizers have announced a \$10,000 donation to Immokalee’s Guadalupe Center, as well as the dates and location for the second annual NaplesNEXT in 2020.

A portion of proceeds raised from patron ticket sales to the inaugural NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival, held March 17-19, were earmarked for Guadalupe Center through NaplesNEXT’s fund established at the Community Foundation of Collier County.

“One of our missions for NaplesNEXT is to continue to bring value to the community with an event that gives back while inspiring, educating and enlightening,” said Stacey Vollman Warwick, NaplesNEXT’s executive director.

Dawn Montecalvo, president of Guadalupe Center, commented that “NaplesNEXT is a welcome new asset to our community and we are grateful to have been included as a beneficiary of its inaugural year.” Since 1984, Guadalupe Center has been helping children in Immokalee rise out of poverty through education.

Building on the success of the inaugural NaplesNEXT, organizers have also announced that the 2020 NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival will be held Monday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 3 at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. “We were gratified and honored by the overwhelming positive feedback from our 300-plus guests and partners, who were unified in their response about the meaningful impact the festival had on the community,” commented Warwick.

The first annual NaplesNEXT featured a blend of global and local voices addressing hot-button issues, including policy, the environment, health and medicine, society, sports, philanthropy, and beyond. The roundtables, panels and Q&A sessions with more than 50 speakers were capped by an hour-long conversation with former First Lady Laura Bush.

Warwick stated that the 2020 event will have a similar array of diverse speakers on national topics. “As 2020 is an election year, we intend to continue to make civil discourse a theme running throughout the event,” she said.

A balance between serious discussion of cutting edge thought and festive experiences will also continue to define NaplesNEXT. The 2019 event’s tagline, “big thinking, big fun,” was expressed by culinary experiences directed by the renowned James Beard

Foundation, live musical entertainment, and an interactive “March Madness” bracket luncheon.

A portion of proceeds from ticket sales to the 2020 NaplesNEXT will be earmarked for local nonprofits.

For updates on 2020 event details visit [NaplesNext.com](https://www.NaplesNext.com).

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