



Grace Place

A faith-based community center teaching literacy, language and life skills to at-risk children and impoverished families in Golden Gate city.

"Back to School" NEWSLETTER FALL 2009



BEE-come a Volunteer

The BUZ-Z-Z is about Volunteering. Join our team this Fall. Bring a friend!

Bright Beginnings: M, T, W, Th mornings, 9:45 am – 12 noon

Rock a baby, tickle a toddler, read a book to a preschooler, mentor a mom, provide hospitality, or drive a van. Volunteer for one 8-week session or as a substitute.

Elementary After-School: M, T, W, Th afternoons, 3:00 – 5:30 pm

Provide homework help, reading partners, and mentoring 1-2 children each week. Both regular volunteers and substitutes are needed. Volunteers are also needed to lead a 4-week enrichment group, teaching an interest or hobby.

Middle & High School Mentoring: Lunchtime/Saturdays/Flexible

Provide homework help and mentoring with 1-2 youth each week. Helpers for Computer Lab, School Projects, and Business Field Trips are needed too.

Adult English Literacy (ESOL): Daytime or Evenings or Saturdays

Work with an individual or a small group of adults learning English as a second language. Training, curriculum, and support provided.

Food Pantry: Fridays, 9:30 – 11:00 am and 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Sort and bag groceries and bakery items, provide hospitality and intake, handle paperwork, distribute food (and enjoy a little time cooing at babies, hugging moms, and turning strangers into friends).

Special Events: Evenings, Saturdays, Sundays

Family dinners, parenting classes, family literacy gatherings, holiday events, field trips, special speakers, etc. Let us know what you are interested in and when you are available and we'll plug you in. Groups too!

Other: Office, Work Projects, Computer Lab, Library, Event Planning, and more!

Okay, not everyone likes to rock a baby, tutor a child, or teach an adult... but EVERYONE has skills and gifts to share! Don't miss out on the fun of being part of the Grace Place team – join us in serving in a variety of ways.

Grace Place

for Children & Families, Inc.

A 501(c)3 non-profit Organization
Established June 2004

Programs:

Bright Beginnings
Elementary After School
Middle School LINKS
Summer Day Camps
Youth Development
English Literacy Classes for Adults
and Emergency Food Pantry

Board of Directors:

Theo Etzel, Chair
Pat Carroll, Chair Elect
Phil Plessinger, Vice Chair
Patty Vlasho, Treasurer
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Molly Godley Bill Hazzard
Jane McLaughlin Beth Thompson
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Executive Director:

Rev. Stephanie Munz Campbell

Tax-exempt Donations:

Individual Checks
Charitable Grants
Planned Giving
Stocks & Securities
www.justgive.org

Mail: PO Box 990531,
Naples, FL 34116

Site: 4300 21st Ave. SW,
Golden Gate city, Florida

www.graceplacenaples.org

Office: (239) 455-2707



a United Way Collier County Partner Agency



If you don't have any charity in your heart
you have the worst kind of heart trouble. -- Bob Hope

Letter from the Director

Today's young children are tomorrow's voters, workers, taxpayers, parents, and community members. Numerous studies tell us that early experiences establish the architecture of a child's developing brain as well as their sense of personal identity and moral code. Nurturing and positive relationships with adults – in the home and in the community – build a strong foundation for future growth and development. To ensure that all children grow into solid community members and active participants in our economy, we must work together to meet their needs.

Although we know that supporting healthy child development is better than trying to make up later for stressful, deficient, or damaging early experiences, many children in our community lack the helping hand they need. A growing body of research is showing that the benefits of providing high-quality child development services far outweigh the costs. Conversely, we know that strong and prolonged stress (which can ensue from poverty, neglect, physical or emotional abuse, maternal depression, or family substance abuse or violence) disrupts brain architecture and leads to substantial cost to both the individual and society in the future.

The effects of building strong brain architecture during a child's early years continue throughout a person's life – through employment, and all life experiences. Investment in early childhood development services provides far greater quality of life and economic gain than the cost of the initial investment, both for individual children and for society.

At Grace Place, we see this every day. These are not just statistics and studies and facts, but children with smiling faces and beautiful names, mothers and fathers who become friends and partners with us, and a rich, diverse community that is changing individual lives and permeating this neighborhood and our greater community.

We need your investment in these young lives and working-poor families to continue to make a real difference and to make our corner of the world here in Collier County a stronger, safer, better place for all of us, now and for years to come.



Grace and peace,

Rev. Stephanie Munz Campbell
Executive Director



FOOD for thought...

As more and more working-poor parents struggle to feed their families, the Grace Place Food Pantry has provided an essential bag of groceries, bakery products, and some fresh seasonal produce to over 900 families this year – along with a grace-full welcome, a kind word, a caring friend, and hugs, cookies, or books for the little ones.

We are grateful to the following organizations for providing many of the basic food items: Harry Chapin Food Bank, Collier Harvest (bakery products), Naples Harvest (fresh produce), and Kids Against Hunger (rice-and-bean casserole packets). We are always in need of additional food drives organized by churches, businesses, neighborhoods and community groups.

Items we run out of:

- Dry milk (quart packages)
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Bags of dry beans
- Bags of rice

Items needed each week:

- Canned meats
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter

Drop your gift off at Grace Place during these times:

- Monday-Thursday 9am - 6pm
- Friday 9am - 5pm



WISH LIST

Things we need (new or gently used):

- Nutritional snacks
- 100 folding or stackable chairs
- office chairs
- commercial quality door mats
- baby, toddler & pre-K toys, equipment, clothing
- school-age books, learning games & prizes
- school supplies & office supplies
- hand sanitizer, tissues, wet wipes
- Wal-Mart or Target gift certificates

Please call 239-455-2707 about specific questions. **THANK YOU!**

NOTE: We are not able to handle furniture, electronics, household items, or adult clothing.



The SPOTLIGHT is on Holly Brown...

Holly Brown has brought a wealth of accounting experience, an attention to detail, tenacity for developing effective tracking and reporting, and a passion for serving the community, to her role as **Bookkeeper** at Grace Place. Holly joined the staff last fall and has quickly made herself an invaluable and positive member of the team! Holly is the child of a United Methodist minister and her husband, John, is a retired minister too. Most recently she served as the finance manager of the United Way in Williamson County (Nashville), TN, but she has also worked for a Housing Authority, YWCA, The Salvation Army, banking, and accounting for a law firm. Holly and John retired to Naples to enjoy the warm weather and beach, but we are glad she carves out time each week to provide essential financial management work for Grace Place!



BEE a Mentor - Change a Life

All young people have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society. However, not all young people get the support they need to thrive. Many need caring adults in their lives to offer guidance and friendship. Spending time with young people full of potential and promise is very rewarding for the adults too!

Grace Place is partnering with **One by One Leadership** to develop mentors for *Golden Gate* middle and high school students. Training, support, guest speakers, and special events will be provided as well.



**Mentor a child
1 hour a week**

**Call Mary
455-2707**

Adults who are interested in spending **one hour a week** with a young person, may choose from the following options...

Choose a time that works for YOU:

- ♥ **Lunch hour (M-F)** mentoring at school
- ♥ **Tuesday afternoon** mentoring at LINKS Club
- ♥ **Saturday morning** mentoring at LINKS Club
- ♥ **Other** (flexible times may be arranged)

COMING EVENTS

SPECIAL DATES Sign-up NOW to Help Your Neighbors...

- ♥ **Bright Beginnings Saturday Seminar:** Sept. 12, Oct. 17, Nov. 21
- ♥ **United Way "Walk for the Way":** Sept. 26

♥ **Kids Against Hunger Event** at Grace Place: October 31

- ♥ **Grace Place Family Christmas Party:** December 19
- ♥ **Field Trips, Work Projects, Parent Programs:** dates T.B.A.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:30 - 5:30 ▪ Office</p> <p>10:00 - 12:00 ▪ Bright Beginnings ▪ Pre-Sch'l Playgroup</p> <p>3:00 - 5:30 ▪ Elem. After-School</p> <p>6:30 - 8:00 ▪ Adult ESOL*</p>	<p>8:30 - 5:30 ▪ Office</p> <p>10:00 - 12:00 ▪ Bright Beginnings</p> <p>3:00 - 5:30 ▪ Elem. After-School</p> <p>3:30 - 6:00 ▪ Middle-School LINKS Program</p> <p>6:30 - 8:00 ▪ Adult ESOL*</p>	<p>8:30 - 5:30 ▪ Office</p> <p>10:00 - 12:00 ▪ Bright Beginnings</p> <p>3:00 - 5:30 ▪ Elem. After-School</p> <p>6:30 - 8:00 ▪ Adult ESOL*</p>	<p>8:30 - 5:30 ▪ Office</p> <p>10:00 - 12:00 ▪ Mom & Tot English</p> <p>3:00 - 5:30 ▪ Elem. After-School</p> <p>6:30 - 8:00 ▪ Adult ESOL*</p>	<p>8:30 - 2:30 ▪ Office</p> <p>9:30 - 11:00 ▪ Sorting & Bagging for Food Pantry</p> <p>2:00 - 5:00 ▪ Food Pantry open</p> <p>Call 239-455-2707 for schedule information.</p>	<p>10:00 - 12:00 ▪ Middle School LINKS Program</p> <p>Check schedule for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field Trips ▪ Special Events ▪ Work Projects ▪ Parent Programs
* Adult ESOL also meets other days and times as space is available					

"Brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone." James 2:14

THANK YOU for changing lives and being partners in this ministry!

Donations Received May 1 - July 31, 2009

Grants

Island Country Club
Leadership Collier 2009
Professional Givers Anonymous
United Way of Collier County

Capital Campaign

Baker, Dick & Monica
Code Family Foundation
Ettinger, Ethel
McLaughlin, Jim & Jane
Vlasho, Lou & Patty

Church Partners

(General & Designated giving this period)

Christ Lutheran Women,
Cape Coral
Church Women United
Cypress Lake UMC Women
East Naples UMC Women
Emmanuel Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran Women
First Presbyterian
First UMC
First UMC Fellowship Class
First UMC Son Seekers
First UMC Women
Lighthouse UMC Women,
Boca Grande
Moorings Presbyterian Women
Naples United Church of Christ
Nativity Lutheran Women,
Weeki Wachee
North Naples UMC
North Naples UMC Seasonal Circle
St. John's Episcopal
St. Peter's Lutheran Women
Trinity by the Cove Episcopal
Unity of Naples
Vanderbilt Presbyterian
Wesley UMC Marco

Community Foundation

Of Collier County

Charles & Helen Donahue Fund
Roy & Carolyn Neumann Fund

Sustainers

Ackerman, Mark & Laura
Alwan, Jackie
Austin, Jim & Mary Jane
Aydelette, Rob & Charmaine
Bergmann, Roger & Peggy
Brown, Ed & Jean
Campbell, Jim & Es
Campbell, John & Stephanie
Campbell, Laren
Dulaney, Sabrina
(Dulaney Insurance Agency)
Etzel, III, Theo & Kim
Godley, Molly

Sustainers (continued)

Hahn, Jim & Nancy
Haried, John & Margaret
Hill, Scott & Kelly
Homer, Bob & Shirley
Lefkow, Brooke & Lisa
Plessinger, Phil & Grace
Ponton, Richard & Diane
Rus, Arlyn & Claire
Salem, Al & Marilyn
Simonis, Charlotte
Thompson, Thomas & Beth
Tinsley, Mark & Lynn
Vlasho, Lou & Patty
White, Ed & Allison
Willis, Peggy

Benefactors: \$1,000 +

AMA Services, Inc.
Batian, Jean
Copperleaf Golf Club
Ettinger, Ethel
Lyon, Doug & Katie
Skidmore, Gerald & Sally
Vanarsdale, Sonny & Karen
Vogelsang, Paul & Patricia
Worley, Gordon & Geneva

Contributors: \$500 - \$999

Etzel, Ted & Mary
IU Alumni Club
King, Leo & Gail
Moore, Tim & Jackie

Donors: \$100 - \$499

Alexander, James & June
Beam, Harold & Barbara
Bennett, William & Barbara
Blessing, Buck & Joan
Boot, Marjorie
Borad, James & Florence
Boyd, Robert & Elle
Brichford, Barbara
Brown, Philip & Teresa
Burneson, Patricia
Chiarello, Gustav & Linda
Dahbura, Abbud & Mary
Grandi, Don & Kathy
Hebeka, Elias & Barbara
Homer, Bob & Shirley
Horton, Alan & Beverly
Hunting, Jim & Joanne
Huprich, Don & Donna
Jones, Tudor
Kurz, George
Lyons, Vee
Makara, Mark & Kristin
Marshall, Jack & Nancy
Moore, David & Pamela
Page, Gary & Jane
Ramos, Julio & Maria

Donors: \$100 - \$499 (continued)

Reynolds, Frances
Schwartz, Doug & Lisa
Stryker, Bruce & Adelheid
Thomack, Will & Marilyn
Tigges, Dwight & Pam
Vanderveen, Peter & Lois
Wivell, J. Earl & Joan

Gifts: \$5 - \$99

Adams, Bill & Patricia
Baker, Dick & Monica
Barancik, Maury & Majja
Brown, Camille
Collins, Jim & Ellabeth
Elliott, Charles & Lou Ann
Gossard, Dick & Carol
Hart, Alex
Hoppe, Herbert & Joanne
Kanour, Velda
Kiwanis of Golden Gate
Krautsack, Richard & Alice
Lawson, Donald & Linda
McLaughlin, Jim & Jane
Montgomery, Bruce
Morse, Kip & Dorothy
Myers, Christopher & Joshua
Pedler, Ruth
Pierguidi, Richard & Nora
Robinson, George & Barbara
Sandollars of Naples
Schoeller, Michael & Monica
Sheibley, Ren & Edith
Stacell, Herbert & Laura
Strolle, David & Carol
Thompson, Carol
Tigert, Robert
Toennisson, Betty
White, Mary Nelson

Sponsor a Child (Summer Camp)

AMA Service, Inc
Andrews, Bet
Bowden, Del & Mary Kay
Brandon, Bill & Kay
Frank & Carol Johnson Fund
Hazzard, Bill & Sara
Helping Hands - Berkshire Lakes
Jones, Morris & Jeanne
Kids 2 Camp
Kutler, Stephen & Priscilla
Lindabury, R.E. & Vera
Mann, Shirley
Mulgrew, Susan
Munz, Robert & Connie
Noordhoff "Lift Group"
Pedler, Ruth
Peterson, Kathleen
Schulz, Fred & Karen
Smith, James & Debra
Smith, Lon & Susan

Summer Camp (continued)

Spencer, Ellen
Then, Joseph & Nancy
Zeritsch, Andree

School Supplies

Andrade, August & Gloria
Clarke, Bob & Mary
Foley, John & Joyce
Genson, David
Helping Hands - Berkshire Lakes
Jaekle, Ed & Betty
Landers, Donn & Sandy
Mann, Shirley
Pedler, Ruth
Stanley, James & Kathryn
Stoeckinger, Peggy

Food Ministries

Engel, Paul & Diane
Hoover, Bob & Pat
Mann, Shirley
Wilson, Kathleen

In Honor of:

Stephanie Campbell's Birthday

Campbell, Sarah
Vlasho, Lou & Patty

Roger & Carol Conant's 50th Anniversary

Abraham, John & Mary
Hardy, Gerald & Sheila
Quinn, James & Kathryn

Marian Miller

Miller, Susan

Recreation Tappers

Vogelsang, Paul & Patricia

In Memory of:

Don Cameron

Baker, Dick & Monica
McLaughlin, Jim & Jane

Anna Hersh

Yates, Robert & Diane

Patty Hunt

Hine, Dr. Norman & Joan
Plante & Moran Co.
Reep, Charles & Marjorie
Robinson, Gene & Mary
Welk, Wayne

Nancy Neumeyer

McLaughlin, Jim & Jane

Donald Quint

Quint, Juanita

Lucy Storter

Hartigan, Deanna

Robert Walker

Hartigan, Deanna

♥ Please forgive us for any errors and please notify us of any needed corrections.

♥ Thank you to individuals who give through their local churches.

We are counting our blessings!

There are too many other in-kind gifts and special efforts made to even count. Listed are some recent blessings.

Property Projects

Angeles Lawn Care (donated garden landscaping)
Conditioned Air (discounted service and unit)
Platinum Excavating
(donated labor and loader for access road project)

Shoes & School Supplies

Kicks for Kids (shoes)
Laces of Love (shoes)
FL Conference UMC
Bentley Village

Children's Books

(classroom & take home)
Seacrest Country Day School
First Books of Collier County

♥ Thank you... to individuals & groups who donate food, school supplies, gift certificates, games, recreational equipment & items from our "wish list."



Grace Place Internship helps Elly reach her dream to BEE a College Student!

"Being an intern at Grace Place not only allowed me to gain work experience, but it gave me life experience as I became close to my co-workers and the kids," says Elly. "Working alongside people who were there every step to guide me in my learning process as an intern gave me the motivation and skills to become prepared for the college experience ahead of me."

Elly was born in Cuba and has lived in Naples for five years, the youngest of two children, and is now attending FSU. She was a role model for the younger children at Grace Place and says, "There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you helped a child learn the basis of fundamental tasks such as a math problem that will give them the confidence to strive for the best."

Being matched with a mentor in a chosen career field is part of the internship program at Grace Place and Emily Bergmann, a speech therapist and FSU grad, has developed a close friendship with Elly as she guided her in her career plans and college goals. "Although I am miles away and without the aid of many people with my academics in college, I know I am always just a call away from Grace Place anytime I need someone to count on."



Scholarships to a Summer Music Academy helps Keith to BEE an Achiever.

With a little help, most of the children at Grace Place begin to achieve at school and in life. They turn from failing students into achieving students with the attitude, motivation, and skills they need to begin to set goals and dreams and succeed.

Keith Alcius, now going into 9th grade at GGHS, is a perfect example of this. He has overcome some of the greatest barriers to achieve some of his highest goals. Keith was born in Naples, the middle child of parents from Haiti. He started at Grace Place as a failing third grader and with some intensive help and a lot of encouragement, he has become an honors student with college and career goals.

One of the keys to Keith's success, has been his involvement in music and band. With Grace Place support and encouragement (and a used trombone), Keith attained Advanced Band and Jazz Band at Golden Gate Middle School. Some Grace Place supporters saw his talent and his motivation, and made it possible for Keith to attend a 4-week Lutheran Music Academy at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, this summer. Look for Keith to excel in the Golden Gate High School Titans Band this year, AND to continue achieving his goals and dreams!

Summer camp helped 100 kids learn to become all that they can BEE





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BEE-come
a Grace Place
Volunteer



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace Place for Children & Families, Inc.

is a faith-based community center
teaching literacy, language and life skills
to at-risk children and impoverished families
in Golden Gate City.



"A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned"

Please help Grace Place save some "pennies"
Help us be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us!

Call **239-455-2707** or email mary@graceplacenaples.org

WE NEED MAILING INFORMATION ...

- Correct mailing address
- Receiving this newsletter in error
- Off-season address AND dates
- Correct email address (allow us to send reminders and timely information at no mailing cost)

♥ **THANK YOU** for your help and support !

Putting Down Roots... Growing a Future

The Grace Place Board is currently engaged in constructive negotiations to purchase the site we are located on, a feasibility study and evaluation of site development opportunities, as well as a process of strategic planning for our future. Look for more information in January 2010 and plan NOW to help us secure the legacy of a permanent home for Grace Place.

**A permanent home for Grace Place
provides stability and an invested presence in our community
giving us the deep, life-sustaining roots
necessary to grow a strong and healthy future.**



Founded by the United Methodist Church, Grace Place is an ecumenical and community supported mission to our neighbors in need.