



For Immediate Release

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***3rd Annual Friends of Foster Children Forever
Back to School Bonanza was a hit for all who attended***

(August 4, 2016 - Naples, Florida) – The Friends of Foster Children Forever (FFCF) held their 3rd Annual Back to School Bonanza for Collier County foster children and their families on Saturday, July 30, 2016. The annual event was hosted by the Golden Gate Community Center; the Center’s staff contributed their time and talent to make the day a success.

Over 350 foster children and their siblings were served at the event with over 100 volunteers helping to fulfill the FFCF mission. The day was filled with back to school supplies, haircuts, eye and dental exams, music, fun, food and activities.

The event, organized by FFCF, was a collaborative effort of several organizations and businesses including Arthrex who sponsored the event providing funding for school uniforms, food and music. Over 80 Arthrex employees volunteered their time to help foster children and their families prepare for back to school.

The Naples High School “Get Involved Club”, with the support of the Collier County Bar Association, gave each child a backpack filled with school supplies; the “Wise Old Owl” of FFCF helped children sign up for after school activities and tutoring; Laces for Love provided each child with a new pair of shoes; Runway International was onsite giving back-to-school haircuts; Books for Collier Kids offered new books to every participant; Literacy Volunteers offered translating services; Tempurpedic donated single sized mattresses for each foster child; the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provided free dental exams and vision tests were given inside the Vision Quest mobile vision van which provided testing and glasses, both funded by NCEF.

William C. Huff staff members donated their time to transport mattresses to the event and helped foster parents with loading and delivery arrangements.

The day was made even more special by Cold Stone Creamery and Dunkin Donuts Naples who supplied delicious treats for everyone to enjoy.

“Everyone pulled together making the day a great success,” said Jane Billings, Executive Director of Friends of Foster Children Forever. “We feel very fortunate to have so many agencies working alongside FFCF and appreciate all our sponsors especially Arthrex who does so much for the community.”

The mission of FFCF is to focus on the children they serve by providing targeted educational and enrichment opportunities that allow each child to fulfill his or her potential. The charitable organization works to fulfill the unmet needs of every child who enters, or is at risk of entering the foster care system in Collier, Hendry and Glades Counties. Foster children are the most at-risk of academic failure in our community and through the FFCF Academic Mentoring program, these children achieve and sustain good academic grades and develop a belief in themselves and that they can succeed. For more information about Friends of Foster Children Forever or how to help, visit www.friendsoffosterchildren.net or call (239)262-1808.