

# NAPLES

ILLUSTRATED



## CHRISTMAS AT THE COTTAGE

CELEBRATING  
AND PRESERVING  
THE OLDEST HOME  
IN NAPLES

STEPHANIE AND RICHARD PREBISH

## HOLIDAY SPIRITS

CREATIVE COCKTAIL  
RECIPES PERFECT  
FOR MERRymaking

AMERICAN  
MADE  
RETRO-GLAM  
LOOKS SHAKE UP  
THE DINER SCENE

*Festive Fun*



## IMPACT

# PICTURING THE FUTURE

It's never too early to start dreaming about the career path you might follow. A select group of prekindergarten students and five kindergarten graduates of **Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee** had the chance to envision the future by dressing in the uniform of a future job. Local photographer Brian Tietz donated his time—two full days, in fact—to photograph each of the students in the environment where they might one day work.

The center, founded in 1964, provides early learning and care to ensure children between the ages of four weeks and five years are equipped with opportunities to thrive and enter kindergarten ready to learn. The school has an extensive wait-list numbering in the hundreds. In October, the nonprofit organization launched the Brighter Future campaign to raise \$2.5 million to help provide care for even more students. The effort is strengthened by a \$750,000 matching lead gift from the George and Cindy Rusu Family Foundation.

To highlight the potential within each

child and the importance of investing in kids early, Ashlea Hanson, marketing and communications director for the center, spearheaded the unique visual community collaboration. Participating organizations and businesses included Arthrex, North Collier Fire Control & Rescue District, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Courthouse, Naples Airport, Elite Jets, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, DeAngelis Diamond, Physicians Regional Healthcare System, Tamiami Ford, and Hoffmann Family of Companies.

"I love how this project brought so many organizations and businesses together—all working toward a common goal of showcasing the potential and future success of our students," explains Hanson. "It's a true celebration of collaboration and community support. Kids are our future workforce. An investment in them is an investment in our shared tomorrow."

*(pathwaysearlyeducation.org)* —G.S.



## COMMUNITY

# LIFE LESSONS for Girls

The **Boys & Girls Club of Collier County** received a \$7,500 grant from the Women's Foundation of Collier County, allowing it to



continue a program to mentor young women. The Junior Women of Initiative (JWOI) program will once again give 15 to 20 middle school girls the opportunity to work alongside adult female mentors in building their self-esteem, confidence, and personal awareness while fostering vital life skills necessary for future success.

To be eligible for the program, which consists of 15 workshops over seven months, candidates undergo an interview process. Selected girls and their parents sign a written commitment to attend all meetings and participate in all activities.



Workshops are designed to develop and improve public speaking skills, as well as enhance interpersonal skills through manners, social etiquette, and professional behavior. Mentors are strong, successful women from the local community who volunteer their time helping prepare the young girls for a life in which they can be productive and make a difference in their community. ([bgcc.com](http://bgcc.com)) —G.S.



**WOMEN FROM THE COMMUNITY TEACH VITAL LIFE SKILLS TO YOUNG GIRLS THROUGH THE JUNIOR WOMEN OF INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

TASHEEKIA HARRIS