



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF COLLIER COUNTY  
*FOR GOOD. FOREVER.*

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Community Foundation of Collier County supports Captains For Clean Water with a \$7,500 Grant**

**Naples, FL (May 20, 2020)** - The Community Foundation of Collier County is proud to support the Captains For Clean Water (CFCW) Fishing Guide Relief Fund with a \$7,500 grant to help boat captains who have been affected by COVID-19. The pandemic has caused many captains to lose the majority of the seasonal business they rely on to support their families throughout the year. The CFCW Fishing Guide Relief Fund will be used to book Florida fishing guides over the next few months to take their families out and conduct waterway clean-ups.

This grant will have the dual benefit of beautifying our coastlines and supporting small Collier County water-based businesses, many of whom were unable to receive assistance from either the Payroll Protection Program or obtain unemployment benefits. Thanks to a quick response from conservation partners, leading industry brands, and generous donors, the CFCW Guide Relief Fund will initially support 100 guides locally and statewide.

"Clean water will be key to our state's economic resurgence, ensuring a full recovery for our tourism and fishing industries," said Capt. Chris Wittman, Captains For Clean Water Program Director. "This generous grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County helps keep this critical part of our outdoor economy alive to fight another day. With increased funding from individuals and partner organizations, we can support as many guides' families as possible, while also highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship through the clean-ups."

Donations can be made at [www.captainsforcleanwater.org/guides](http://www.captainsforcleanwater.org/guides) or sent via check directly to Captains For Clean Water at PO Box 1653, Fort Myers, FL 33902. Please indicate "Guide Relief Fund" in the memo line. 100% of funds go directly to guides and their families. Impacted guides can also sign-up to participate on the website.

"As our area's philanthropic first responder, the Community Foundation is happy to support this vital initiative. This grant will help provide a much-needed boost to the fishing industry, whose culture is deeply ingrained in Collier County's history," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, Community Foundation of Collier County President & CEO. "We know our community is passionate about providing support to our residents and our environment, and we encourage the public to participate in this effort."

***About the Community Foundation of Collier County***

*The Community Foundation of Collier County is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization, established in 1985 to increase and focus private philanthropy in the area. Today, the Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than 750 funds, collaborates with hundreds of nonprofits, holds \$225 million in assets and has distributed over \$168 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and community programs since its inception. The Community Foundation of Collier County is one of Florida's fastest growing community foundations. For good. Forever. Learn more at [cfcollier.org](http://cfcollier.org) or call 239-649-5000.*