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Avow Hospice Receives a \$5,000 Grant from Suncoast Credit Union

Naples, Fla., July 6, 2021 – Avow Hospice announced today it received a \$5,000 grant from Suncoast Credit Union to help fund weekly art therapy groups for children and teens participating in its Avow Kids grief and loss programs.

“Art therapy helps children and teens express their feelings after a significant loss,” says Patricia Childress, LCSW-S, ACHP-SW and director of Avow’s supportive services team. “Engaging in creative activities connects the head, heart, and hands in ways that give a young person control over what they have experienced. Expressing their feelings through art helps young people let go of those feelings and make sense of what has disrupted their lives.”

Avow’s board-certified art therapist, Shawna Scarpitti, holds weekly virtual and in-person sessions with children ages 5 to 17 who have endured losses from death, divorce, family separation, suicide, incarceration and other circumstances. Scarpitti also incorporates art therapy into workshops and special activities offered by Avow to children, often in conjunction with music therapy. Avow Kids partnerships with groups like the Naples Players and Naples Zoo offer other opportunities for incorporating art therapy into children’s grief healing.

About Avow

Avow was founded in 1983 as Collier County’s original, nonprofit hospice. Today, Avow’s nonprofit companies provide palliative care consultations for adults facing chronic or serious illness and hospice care and bereavement support services for children and adults.

The Avow Kids program supports children and teens through individual sessions, groups, workshops and special events. All services are without cost to families,

To learn more about the scope of services provided by Avow, call 239-261-4404 or visit www.avowcares.org.

About Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the ninth largest in the United States based on membership, and the 10th largest in the United States based on its \$12.6 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers

Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 74 full-service branches and serves more than 928,000 members in the following 39 Florida counties: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter and Volusia. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$32 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit: suncoastcreditunion.com or follow us on social media at: facebook.com/SuncoastCreditUnion, linkedin.com/company/suncoastcreditunion, twitter.com/SuncoastCU or instagram.com/suncoastcreditunion

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