FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOWNLOAD LINK: PROGRAM PHOTOS, LOGO

Avow Kids awarded $55,300 grant for children experiencing loss

Grant to fund programming that fosters resiliency and ensures a better future for grieving children

NAPLES, FLA. (Jan. 2, 2024) – Avow has been awarded a $55,300 grant from Champions for Learning as part of a multi-agency Future Ready Collier collaboration project to fund resiliency programming.

Funds are designated to Avow Kids, which provides support to children ages 5-17 who are experiencing grief or loss in any capacity. The grant will ensure the continued availability of the program and its resources, which are offered at no cost to participants. With guidance from bereavement counselors, each child builds self-confidence and perseverance in the face of adversity, learns how to foster healthy relationships and develops critical thinking and self-awareness and many other life skills.

"Avow Kids is honored to partner with Future Ready Collier in providing support to the children in our community who are grieving," says Lea Pascotto, manager of Supportive Care at Avow. "We offer a variety of workshops and camps to help each child understand and express their feelings so they can move forward with a better toolkit for emotional, mental, and physical well-being. With this funding, we aim to better the lives of children and unveil the possibilities that their futures hold."

Experiencing grief or loss can have a ripple effect in a person's life, regardless of age. For children, emotions from grief that are left undetected or ignored can have devastating impacts on grades, overall mood, relationships, behavior at home or school, mental and physical well-being

and more. Grief or loss can come from any number of life events, whether it is the death of a loved one, military deployment, divorce, instability in the foster care system or even the loss of a beloved pet. The Avow Kids staff and trained counselors are available to all children who are grieving, no matter the type of loss.

Avow Kids assists each participant in learning and implementing effective coping strategies while encouraging emotional expression through art, music, movement and group discussion. Participating in Avow Kids allows children to safely express and share their feelings surrounded by gentle support and understanding. Specialized bereavement counselors are available for individual and group sessions to help every child understand the complex emotions that stem from experiencing grief or loss. Through reflection and self-analysis, each child builds personal skills such as resilience, empathy, and perseverance to better prepare them for a well-balanced life and successful future. For more information about programs, visit avowcares.org/avow-kids/.

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, hospice care, and bereavement support services for children and adults. To learn more about the scope of services provided by Avow, call 239-261-4404 or visit www.avowcares.org.

About Future Ready Collier:

Future Ready Collier is a network of organizations, businesses, schools and community members working to ensure every child in Collier County is ready for kindergarten, and every young person enters adulthood with a vision and plan to accomplish that vision. Future Ready Collier is a FutureMakers Coalition Partner, and the goal of the regional coalition is to transform the Southwest Florida workforce by increasing the number of college degrees, certificates or other high-quality credentials from 27 percent to 40 percent by 2025. To learn more, visit www.futurereadycollier.org.

-END-

Media Contacts:

Holly Boldrin, APR, CPRC, Priority Marketing, Holly@PriorityMarketing.com, 239-267-2638 or 239-887-9335 (cell)

Kathy Becker, Priority Marketing, kathyb@prioritymarketing.com, 239-267-2638 or 239-470-2681 (cell)