



The Freedom Institute
Christopher Marker, CEO
2706 Horseshoe Dr. S. Naples, Florida
239-427-1776
Chris.Marker@FreedomInstitute.net
www.freedominstitute.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Freedom Institute Students Raise \$4,300 for Golisano Children’s Hospital Through ‘Freedom Fair’

Students at the Freedom Institute of Collier County successfully hosted their Freedom Fair on April 23, raising \$4,300.00 in support of Golisano Children’s Hospital.

The student-led event transformed the campus into a lively, carnival-inspired celebration featuring games, music, food, and interactive activities that brought together students and attendees for a meaningful cause. In addition to fundraising, students also organized a toy drive, collecting new items for young patients at the hospital. Proceeds from the event will help support families with transportation needs, provide items for pediatric play areas, and assist with financial challenges related to children’s medical care.

The Freedom Fair was part of the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Annual Impact Project, which encourages students to identify and address needs within their community. This year’s initiative was led by sophomores Grayce Wilder and Lauren Sharp, whose leadership helped turn the project into a successful and impactful event.

“The Impact Project is meant to be student-led, but these two have taken leadership to the next level,” said Briana Chieco of the Freedom Institute. “They managed community

outreach, inspired their peers, and demonstrated what it means to serve others with purpose. I couldn't be prouder to see them leading the way and understanding the importance of philanthropy.”

Attendees enjoyed a wide range of activities, including a dunk tank, DJ entertainment, cotton candy, sno cones, and more. Donated food from Chick-fil-A, along with generous support from community partners including Rita's Italian Ice, the Naples Police Department, Taylor Rentals, DJ Sage and Chef Vincenzo Betulia with Bar Tulia, helped make the event possible. These partners contributed through discounts, in-kind donations, and services, highlighting the strong community collaboration behind the event. Guests also enjoyed a special appearance by the Chick-fil-A Cow, adding to the festive atmosphere.

By combining fun, service, and student leadership with the support of dedicated community partners, the Freedom Fair showcased the Freedom Institute's commitment to developing students who are engaged, community-minded, and prepared to make a meaningful impact.

About the Freedom Institute of Collier County

The Freedom Institute is an innovative high school program offering personalized and flexible learning pathways that build critical thinking, financial literacy, and the foundations of engaged American citizenship. Through an AI-enhanced curriculum, a blend of high school and college courses, and real-world experiences including internships, college and career preparation, and job placement students gain the skills, knowledge, and values essential for economic freedom and workforce success. The Institute's American Dream Conversations at Freedom series brings civic, business, and thought leaders directly to students to share lessons about life, liberty, and the pursuit of excellence.

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