

EAST NAPLES FOUNDATION

Written By James Pusateri

The East Naples Foundation, Inc. is the philanthropic 501(c)(3) organization begun by the East Naples Civic Association. The Foundation was incorporated in January 2009 and immediately began sponsoring projects and fundraising funds to benefit the residents of the East Naples community.

The East Naples Foundation's first project is a continuation of a community project initiated by the East Naples Civic Association to develop a study of the U.S. 41 Tamiami Trail corridor between Airport Pulling Road and County Road 92. The study is referred to as the East Trail Study. The Foundation engaged the services of Johnson Engineering to perform the study whose goal is to provide a vision which would encourage planned growth, both commercial and residential, that is compatible with the unique natural resources of the area and will result in an enhanced quality of life for all residents. The first phase of that study; developed after basic research of existing developments, zoning and other relevant information and a public meeting where citizen input was received, resulted in a just completed vision statement for the corridor. The Foundation is currently engaged in fund raising through grant applications and other sources to complete the remaining phases of the study.

The East Naples Foundation's second project was the planning and holding of the inaugural East Naples Foundation Golf Charity Event. The event was held on October 24, 2009 at Naples Lakes Country Club. Through the generosity of the golfers and sponsor contributions, the Foundation received \$10,500 from the event after all the expenses. Additionally, numerous businesses contributed in excess of \$3,000 in gift certificates for raffle and other golf prizes. The Foundation plans to hold a golf charity event in late October or early November of this year and invites you to participate either as a golfer or sponsor or both.

Aside from the golf event, the East Naples Foundation has received other charitable contributions during the year and invites East Naples Civic Association members and others to remember the Foundation when making your planned charitable giving during the year. It is from these contributions that we are able to award scholarships to East Naples students seeking higher education, fund the annual Santa Run, the East Trail Study and other projects intended to benefit the citizens of our community. To make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to the East Naples Foundation and mail to 4915 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, #214; Naples, FL, 34113.