

PRESS RELEASE

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PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CELEBRATES NATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH WITH GRANT AWARDS

(NAPLES, Fla.) – The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida is pleased to announce grant funding awards during National Parkinson Awareness Month.

The Martin Foundation in Naples awarded \$20,000 to fund ongoing operating expenses and the League Club, Inc. of Naples who supports education, hunger relief and healthcare awarded \$5,200 to fund two exercise classes for 2019. The Parkinson Association is one of 35 area nonprofits to receive funding from the League. More than 100 agencies applied for funding.

Ed Wollman, longtime supporter and his firm, Wollman, Gehrke & Associates are also matching all gifts made this month up to \$1,500 through a Facebook challenge grant. Funding for this grant has surpassed the match.

“Our goal is to involve the community in our philanthropic efforts and shine a light on the wonderful organizations right here in our backyard,” said Ed Wollman. “We strongly believe that giving to a charity can inspire others to do the same.”

Parkinson Disease is the fastest growing disease in our community. Aging and exposure to chemicals are the two highest risk factors for receiving a diagnosis of PD. In the next twenty years, PD will surpass Alzheimer's Disease.

The Parkinson Association provides free services and programs that improve the quality of life for persons with Parkinson Disease and their care partners. This year we provided: 768 exercise classes, 300 support groups, 30 education programs, 216 speech/music therapy classes, 30 education programs, 14 social activities and 12 improv classes. With there is no charge to participate in the programs and services, the Association absorbs the cost of close to \$400 per household.

For more information, please go to the website at www.pasfi.org