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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida's Natural Growers Foundation Supports More Than 60 Organizations With Grants

In five short years, the Florida's Natural Growers Foundation has awarded grants totaling over \$650,000. For 2013, more than sixty separate organizations and seventy programs will benefit from grants awarded by the Foundation spanning the Central Florida area. Florida's Natural Growers Foundation is pleased to announce the 2013 organizations receiving grant awards. The awards were presented at the Florida's Natural Grove House Visitor Center on November 14. "Each year, the grant applicants increase and we have been fortunate to increase our giving in the past five years. We are pleased to include so many organizations in our grant awards this year. We know that the Central Florida area programs benefit from this charitable giving from the Florida's Natural Growers Foundation," stated Walt Lincer, President of the Foundation Board.

Activities from children and adult literacy programs to at-risk youth activities are included. "Fourteen of the organizations were recommended by our Grower Members," Mr. Lincer explained, "that select organizations in their respective communities where there is need." The Florida's Natural Charity Classic, a golf tournament held in March provides the majority of the funding for the foundation together with company and private donations. "Our entire cooperative celebrates the work of the Foundation giving. From employees to our grower-members, we see involvement through fundraising or volunteering at events. It is an important part of our corporate culture." commented Lincer.

Below are the organizations receiving grants for 2013 from the Florida's Natural Growers Foundation.

- Achievement Academy
- The Way Center - Women and Youth Center, Inc.
- Frostproof Care Center, Inc
- Help of Fort Meade, Inc.
- Healthy Start Coalition
- Heartland for Children
- Lake Wales Art Center
- Samaritan's Touch Care Center
- Breakfast Rotary
- Lake Wales Kiwanis Foundation
- Ft. Meade Middle/High School
- Vanguard School
- Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine
- Northeast Polk Literacy Council
- Polk State College Foundation
- Polk Training for Handicapped Citizens, Inc.
- Cornerstone Hospice Foundation
- Junior League of Winter Haven
- Redlands Christian Migrant Association
- Junior League of Greater Lakeland
- Professional Opportunities Program for Students Inc.
- READ Polk Inc./ Lakeland
- Our Children's Academy Rehab Center
- Our Children's Academy
- Heartland Food Reservoir
- Scholarship Recognition, Inc.
- Southeastern University
- Umatilla Kiwanis Club
- Citrus Center Boys & Girls Clubs—Winter Haven
- Citrus Center Boys & Girls Clubs—Lake Wales
- Citrus Center Boys & Girls Clubs—Haines City
- Lake Wales Care Center
- Mason Smoak Foundation
- Leadership Hendry and Glades Counties, Inc.
- Polk Education Foundation
- Florida Specialty Crop Foundation
- Red Cross of Mid Florida
- Lake Wales Soccer Club
- Habitat for Humanity, Winter Haven
- Polk County Agri-fest/Polk County Farm Bureau
- Good Shepherd Hospice
- READ Polk Inc.
- The Randy Roberts Foundation
- United Way of Central Florida/ Family Fundamentals
- Lake Wales Literacy Council
- Lake Wales Charter Schools
- Lake Wales Family Literacy Council
- Valleyview Elementary
- Lake Wales YMCA
- Sertoma Camp Endeavor
- United Way - Let's Grow Initiative - Success by 6
- Webber International University
- Bok Tower Gardens
- Explorations V Childen's Museum
- Florida Engineering Society Ridge Chapter - MATH COUNTS
- Circle of Friends
- Circle of Friends-Camp Joy
- Warner University
- Peace River Center
- Kidspack
- Lake Wales Public Library
- Keep Polk County Beautiful

About Florida's Natural Growers

First formed in 1933, the growers' cooperative was named *Florida Citrus Canners Cooperative*, as its main function was canning grapefruit sections and juice for its grower members. After the development of frozen concentrated juices in the 1940's, the Cooperative invested in the necessary infrastructure and became one of the largest juice processors in the state. In 1969, the Canners Cooperative eventually changed its name to Citrus World, Inc. to better reflect its diverse product line. Today, the majority of the Cooperative's sales are derived from the *Florida's Natural*® Brand squeezed from 100% Florida oranges. The cooperative now uses *Florida's Natural Growers* as its name.

Florida's Natural Growers is comprised of fourteen grower organizations representing almost 1000 individual growers who own nearly 50,000 acres of citrus in Florida. Florida's Natural Growers operates its processing plant in Lake Wales, Florida, with a juice packaging plant in Umatilla, Florida. The Lake Wales facility employs 650 employees and can extract over nine million pounds of fruit every twenty-four hours in peak season. Brands produced in Lake Wales include *Florida's Natural*®, *Florida's Natural Growers Pride*®, *Donald Duck*®, and *Bluebird* .