

# GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



## **Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Embracing Our Differences Receives Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation**

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – Sarasota, FL – Embracing Our Differences has been awarded a grant from The Venice Endowment Fund made possible by Gulf Coast Community Foundation in the amount of \$15,000. Using this grant, Embracing Our Differences will continue to provide free transportation for south Sarasota County students to attend the annual exhibit and benefit from the supplemental educational materials that the program provides to area classrooms.

The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use art as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting, throughout the community, the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice.

“The most important aspect of Embracing Our Differences is the educational programs we provide Sarasota and Manatee Counties,” says Executive Director Michael Shelton. “The students take away a deeper understanding of diversity and how it enriches their lives.”

Embracing Our Differences routinely partners with nonprofit arts organizations in the area to maximize resources and extend free transportation to any teachers who request it for their classes. In the face of numerous budget cuts, schools have difficulty funding field trips. The Embracing Our Differences partnerships allow students to experience two field trips for the cost of one. The partnerships make it possible for students to develop an appreciation for the arts while gaining an understanding of the value of diversity.

For details on the exhibit, or how you can request transportation for your students, please visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).

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### **About Embracing Our Differences**

Embracing Our Differences is a project of CoExistence, Inc. Started in 2004, the project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive, inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, tolerance, acceptance and respect. The 2012 exhibit opens Sunday, April 1 runs through May 28. For more details, visit [www.embracingourdifferences.org](http://www.embracingourdifferences.org).

### **About Gulf Coast**

Together with our donors, Gulf Coast Community Foundation transforms our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Gulf Coast is a public charity that was created in 1995 through the sale of the Venice Hospital. Since then, we have welcomed more than 500 charitable funds established by generous donors and have invested more than \$127 million in grants in the areas of arts and culture, health and human services, education, civic and economic development, and the environment. Learn more at [GulfCoastCF.org](http://GulfCoastCF.org).