

THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO *PROCLAMATION*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund is a local, 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt charity founded in 2012 by a small group of residents of Pelican Landing and The Colony who were concerned that some of our "neighbors" were experiencing short term financial crises with no place to turn; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund's stated mission is to "help bridge the gaps that exist in our greater Bonita Springs/Estero communities' support systems by helping people experiencing personal crises and by supporting public education needs"; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund works in a unique collaboration with a network of over 40 charity and school "partners" to identify and quickly respond to short term, immediate financial crises, often responding within hours; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund is run entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers residing in Pelican Landing and The Colony, helping to keep administration expenses below 2%, allowing over 98% of contributions to go directly to those in need; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund is funded almost entirely by personal donations from local residents; and*

***WHEREAS,** The Bridge Fund, since its founding, has approved over 1200 "awards" totally over \$1,000,000 and benefiting more than 400 families and thousands of individuals in Estero and the surrounding communities and being a key support resource for our schools.*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** be it proclaimed that the Village Council of the Village of Estero, Florida, hereby recognizes and appreciates the efforts of The Bridge Fund as it carries out its mission of neighbors helping neighbors in need to provide critical support to some of the neediest residents of Estero and applauds the contributions of the The Bridge Fund "family" of volunteers and donors.*

***IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Village of Estero to be affixed, this 8th day of January, 2020.*

Bill Ribble, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Hall, MMC, Village Clerk