

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Local Physicians Revive the Collier County “Physicians’ Community Talent Show”**

*Event scheduled for Nov. 11, 2023 at NCH Downtown is open to the public*

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**September 12, 2023 (Naples, FL)**---A group of Collier County physicians is reviving the once annual “Physicians’ Community Talent Show” on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at the Sugden Auditorium, Telford Building at NCH Downtown Baker Hospital in Naples. The event, which will raise money for three local healthcare charities, is open to the public and tickets go on sale September 1, 2023, on Eventbrite [<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/physicians-community-talent-show-tickets-707072331377>].

Proceeds of the Talent Show benefit three Collier County organizations that have been established by local physicians: Neighborhood Health Clinic and Physicians Led Access Network (PLAN) of Collier County, which both address access to care for the underserved, and the Foundation of Collier County Medical Society (CCMS), which awards scholarships to future medical professionals and supports the CCMS physician wellness program. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, and those interested can contact [naplesdocs2gether@gmail.com or call the CCMS office for further contact information, 239-435-7727].

“Our group of physicians revived the idea of the physicians’ talent show as an attempt to promote wellness to all physicians in our community and celebrate our local physicians while raising money for worthy healthcare causes,” said Dr. Rebecca Smith, event co-chair. “We invite all in southwest Florida to join us for a night of fun and philanthropy.”

Local Collier County physicians are the primary organizers along with an executive committee of representatives from local medical organizations and prior talent show participants. The talent show will feature musicians, singers, dancers, and an all-time favorite “Magic Act”. Collier County physicians are the main performers and are complimented by the local healthcare community including dentists, nurses, and area musicians.

The Physicians’ Community Talent Show was initially started by a group of physicians at Naples Community Hospital in the early 2000s, then became a well-organized fundraiser by community members Gregg and Sarah Billings in 2004. The event generated camaraderie among physicians, enthusiasm and support from the community, fostered good public relations between the medical and general Naples Community, and raised significant funds for the Neighborhood Health Clinic. When the Billings retired and left Naples, the annual show ceased. Grassroots interest from community physicians in reviving the show took shape with the dual purpose of helping alleviate physician stress and burnout and raising money for local healthcare charities. The CCMS Board of Directors and Naples Community Hospital Wellness Committee endorsed their efforts and the planning committee formed to bring the new show to Collier County.

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