

# The Circle of Excellence:

Helping the Board of Collier County  
Commissioners in their initiative to make  
Collier County a "Community of Character"

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# “The Circle of Excellence”

- A Perpetual Calendar displaying 9 Positive Character Traits (Virtues), Positive and Negative Injunctions that define the Virtues, and 3 Expanding Areas of Application
- Each month a new Goal
- Part of a general program for Character Development in schools, businesses, and the community at large
- Created by the Character Council of Collier County
- Adopted by Collier County Public Schools, the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County, and the Ritz-Carlton, Naples

# The Purpose of the Circle

- To Identify and Define the qualities of Good Character
- To Provide Instruction for Good Behavior and to Discourage Undesirable Behavior
- To Provide an Interactive Learning Tool
- To get everyone on the SAME PAGE
- To assist CCPS comply with Florida State Law, Title XLVIII, Chapter 1003.42

# **Compliance with Florida State Law, Title XLVIII, Chapter 1003.42**

**“Members of the instructional staff of the public schools ... shall teach ... a character-development program ... which is secular in nature ... [and] shall stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, tolerance, and cooperation”**

# The Nine Virtues and Qualities:

- LOYALTY – stressing *Citizenship* and *Patriotism*
- *RESPECT* – stressing *Tolerance* and *Cooperation*
- *RESPONSIBILITY*
- *HONESTY*
- PERSEVERANCE
- *KINDNESS* (*Charity*)
- TEMPERANCE (*SELF-CONTROL*)
- JUSTICE
- WISDOM (CRITICAL-THINKING)

# Three Expanding Areas of Application

- Family
- Community
- World

# Opportunities for the County Government

- To promote Positive Character Development in the County's school children - and others
- To reduce the occurrence and frequency of undesirable behaviors among children – and others
- To improve the understanding and development of character community wide
- To Participate in District Sharing Legislation under HB 425
- To provide a Model for Character Education though out the District and the State
- To further the goal of the Commissioner's Resolution 99-475

# Resolution 99-475

- Resolved by the Collier County Board of Commissioners in 1999 and chaired by Pamela S. Mac'Kie "To establish Collier County as a COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER"
- 2001 – The BCCC creates the "Community of Character Council"
- The Council met once in 2002; decommissioned; reorganized as a 501c3 non-profit called The Character Council of Collier County

# The Character Council of Collier County:

- 2004 – Created a Character Education and Development Program for Collier County Public Schools, Program Report, Vol.1
- 2006 – Created The “Circle of Excellence”
- 2006 – The “Circle of Excellence” adopted by CC Public Schools, The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County, and the Ritz-Carlton, Naples
- 2006 – Sponsorship and Participation by local businesses, organizations, and government.

# The Program

- Nine Virtues for the 9 months of the school calendar year plus 3 expanding areas of application
- Scholarly and Comprehensive Definitions; including attributes and qualities that illustrate the definitions
- Phrases expressing both virtues and vices
- Suggested Readings
- Role-Playing Situations
- Recommendations for Implementation
- Environmental Assessment Tools
- Outcome Assessment Tools
- The “Circle of Excellence”

# Participants / Sponsors

- Collier County Public Schools
- Collier County Sheriff's Dept.
- City of Naples Govt.
- Boys & Girls Club of Collier County
- Hospice of Naples
- The Ritz-Carlton, Naples
- The Ritz-Carlton, Naples
- Garrett Richter
- Cohen & Grigsby PC
- International College
- IronStone Bank

# What Collier County Government can do:

- Join the “Circle”
- Display “The Circle of Excellence”
- Explain, Inform, and Instruct
- Encourage Discussion
- Model Behavior

# Costs:

- The “Circle of Excellence” Calendars – Free
- Support from the Character Council – Free
- Commitment, Personnel, Time, and Wall Space -- ???

# **An opportunity for Leadership**

Responsibility for content, commitment, and accountability for this “mandate” from Tallahassee rests with the local school boards and Board of County Commissioners