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# Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida Earns National Recognition

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By NH Staff Nov 07, 2016 **f G** ⋅ **y 0 i** 



Marcy Ricciardi, Chante Pemberton, Kate Walter, David Longfield-Smith, Rae Woods, Bree Fung and Dr. Allen Weiss accept the award on behalf of the entire Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida team. Photo provided.

**€** 

Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida, a community-led well-being improvement initiative, was recognized on Oct. 17 during the second annual Blue Zones Project National Summit in Texas.

Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida received the 'Leadership in Grocery Stores and Healthy Workplace Environments award' for its work with Wynn's Market and the City of Naples.

Blue Zones Project is helping communities optimize the places people live, work, and play to make healthy choices easier. Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida has been involved in the initiative since 2015 but was founded in 2010.

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31 communities in eight states have joined Blue Zones Project, impacting more than 2 million Americans. Blue Zones are proven to have the highest concentration of people living to 100 years or older.

The City of Naples became a Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite in October by offering healthier items in vending machines, creating videos to encourage employees to move naturally throughout their day, and do desk exercises.

"It is really exciting to see community leaders work together to meet the challenges associated with obesity and chronic disease in America head-on," said Katrina Worlund, vice president of Blue Zones Project. "With this honor, Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida demonstrates its commitment to innovative thinking and shares in the vision of making communities across the nation healthier."

NCH is sponsoring the Blue Zones Project for Southwest Florida.

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"This is a recognition of the commitment our community has made to enhancing the well-being of its citizens, and a testament to the community leaders and volunteers who are making that promise a reality," said Dr. Allen Weiss, CEO of NCH Healthcare System. "We are at the forefront of a well-being movement that is gaining traction across the country, and we will continue our work to become one of the healthiest communities in the nation."



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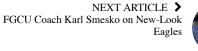


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