

Bentley Foundation Launches Grant Program for Future Emergency Responders

Outreach Program to Support Cadets Enrolled in Programs at Florida SouthWestern State College



A new outreach program was announced at Bentley Foundation's Annual Meeting on Feb. 26, 2026. To honor the outstanding advanced life support services provided by the North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District (NCFD), the Bentley Foundation, Inc. will provide funding for cadets through the Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Foundation. This support will assist qualified cadets pursuing careers as firefighters or emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The training programs will take place at NCFD's Fire Academy.

A total of 12 grants are anticipated to be awarded this summer to qualified cadets, helping them enhance their skills and credentials.

Bill Welbourn, President of Bentley Foundation, Inc., says, **"We in Bentley Village recognize the excellent work of the emergency responders of the North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District, who frequently serve our community. The new grant program is a wonderful way to thank them for their dedication to us and our neighboring areas."**

With anticipated donor enthusiasm, the Bentley Foundation, Inc. is poised to increase the number of grant awards in 2027, potentially supporting more projects and expanding its impact. Bentley Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity entering its second decade. The Foundation's primary goal is to provide scholarships to employees and their dependents and to support enrichment programs for residents of Vi at Bentley Village. Additionally, it supports several outreach projects that assist people throughout Southwest Florida.

We remain fully committed to our core "Wings" Scholarships for Bentley Village employees and their families. Please know that every dollar raised for that effort stays dedicated to it, and we encourage continuing support for this valuable program. Those wishing to support the new grant programs for firefighters/EMTs may select "where needed most" on the contribution form to be included with our Annual Appeal, which will reach your cubby in mid-March.