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Being the change she wants to see in the world

PROFILE IN PARADISE

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The Neighborhood Health Clinic — a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization with approximately 250 physicians and dentists, 100 nurses and 150 non-medical personnel donating their professional expertise to provide Collier County’s low-income, working, uninsured adults affordable medical and dental care — operates under the deft

leadership and guidance of CEO Leslie Lascheid. Her parents, Dr. Bill and Nancy Lascheid, founded the clinic in 1999.

For five consecutive years, the clinic has earned the coveted four-star ranking by independent evaluator Charity Navigator, putting it in the top 11 percent of evaluated charities in the United States.

“The more than 200 patients we see each week know that our volunteer-driven team is dedicated to providing quality care,” explains Leslie. “This rating, however, provides our clients, volunteers, donors and the community at-large with information about how we operate as an organization.”

The clinic’s \$2.3 million annual budget is funded completely by individual donations and contributions from the United Way and from foundation grants and donations from local businesses and religious and civic organizations.

Not only does the clinic do great work in the community, but it could serve as a template nationally on how to provide health care to the less fortunate. |

Talking points with Leslie Lascheid



Something your mother was always right about: You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Where did you grow up? Sewickley, Pa.

When and why did you first come to Naples/ Collier County, and what was your first impression? My first time to Naples was on a family vacation. I remember the picture-perfect blue sky, white sand and the calm of the Gulf of Mexico.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? A politician. I'm glad that I grew out of those thoughts.

First job: Plowing driveways and jump starting cars in Sewickley. I had to borrowing my brother's Jeep to do it.

Guilty pleasure: Ice cream.

One thing on your bucket list: I've had a wonderful life; my bucket is full of great experiences.

Next vacation destination: Exploring back roads, small towns and local restaurants in Italy.

Skill or talent you wish you had: I wish I could deliver my message clearly and concisely.

Advice for your kids and grandkids: Enjoy life. Savor the journey.

Best thing about being a grandmother: My grandson's giggle.

Trait you most admire in your best friend: His get-it-done attitude.

Something people might be surprised to find out about you: I earned a degree in aviation and have held a commercial pilot's license.

Favorite app on your smartphone or tablet: FaceTime.

Something that's been on your mind: How can we as a nation better care for our sick?

Something you'll never understand: Mean people.

Something you wish could go back to the way it once was: Having face-to-face conversations with people without cell phones.

Pet peeve: People who don't clean up after themselves.

What are you most proud of? My parent's commitment and true understanding of what it means to giveback to those in need.

Something the Paradise Coast really needs: An Isaly's Ice Cream Shoppe.

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