



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Live Like Cole Foundation Hosting Dock Ribbon Cutting on Cole's Birthday**

Vero Beach, Fla., Sept. 13, 2019 – Live Like Cole Foundation will be hosting the official ribbon cutting of the Live Like Cole Dock on September 25, 2019. This is a very special day, as it would have been Cole's 21st birthday.

The Dock at the Fountains were severely damaged from tidal surge associated with Hurricane Irma. The City of Vero Beach had to make needed repairs since it is part of Royal Palm Pointe Park, and heavily used by the public. The foundation, City of Vero Beach and WIL-CO Construction collaborated to complete the renovation.

Live Like Cole raised funds by obtaining Dock Sponsors, and they will be honored the night of the Ribbon Cutting. The generous people who sponsored the repairs are the Atkinson Family Foundation, Brackett Family Foundation, Dale Sorensen Real Estate, and Jodi Harvey.

"We are so thankful for all the support we have received from our community. My family and I could not think of a better way to celebrate my brother's birthday than with the community who has been there for us throughout the last 5 years" said Melanie Coppola, CEO of the foundation.

According to Vero Beach City Manager Monte K. Falls, the Royal Palm Pointe Dock opened to the public in 2001, along with the Royal Palm Pointe Park and The Fountains. The Dock offers access to the Indian River Lagoon for fishing and enjoying nature.

"This dock will give others the chance to put a line in the water at Royal Palm Pointe," said Falls. "I'm sure Cole will be happy about that."

The ceremony will be on Wednesday, September 25 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the Ribbon Cutting scheduled for around 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

Live Like Cole's mission is to encourage children and adults alike to support others, to foster self-worth and to help out their fellow man. The foundation honors and memorializes Cole Coppola, who died as a result of injuries suffered after being hit by a drunk driver days after his sixteenth birthday. The passionate manner in which Cole lived his life serves as an opportunity and a reminder to live like Cole, and to continue his legacy by making a positive impact on the community and the lives of others.

Over the years, the foundation has not only donated over \$150,000 to local charities and schools in the county, but also built the Cole Coppola Memorial Fishing Pier in Riverside Park.

“I didn’t have the opportunity to meet Cole, but through the foundation I have had the honor to meet his family,” said Falls. “Through them, I have an understanding of what an exceptional person Cole was.”

For more information about the foundation, call Margaret Mattingly at 772-907-5940, email [livelikecole@yahoo.com](mailto:livelikecole@yahoo.com) or visit [www.livelikecole.org](http://www.livelikecole.org).

# # #