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A Unique Way of Life

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Thank You, Ocean Reef

By Sarah A. Cart

Here's a toast of gratitude to you, Ocean Reef, for coming through more now, more than ever: In the wake of the endurance, resilience and creativity that the Covid-19 pandemic demanded this season of All Charities, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's fundraising arm, it is a tremendous testament to your generosity that all the recipient partners will receive what they did in 2019 and 2020, and in some cases, more.

Also, thanks to the help of an extremely generous family, more money will be going off The Reef in grants than ever before.

Finally, in addition to other critical decisions noted below, the Foundation's Executive Committee (**Bill Nutt**, chairman; **Michael Berman** and **Steve Markel**, vice chairmen; **Alan Goldstein**, chairman emeritus; **Tom Davidson**, **Janie Sims** and **Steve Woodsum** vice presidents; **Cindy Manzo**, treasurer; and Yuri Mikolay, secretary) recognized and replaced the pandemic-related loss of Boutique D'Reef and Catwalk revenues.

While the circumstances

brought on by the pandemic were daunting for the All Charities team, they were devastating for our neighboring communities and potentially catastrophic for the institutions that define and sustain Ocean Reef's Unique Way of Life. The Foundation's grants committee had more requests from across the region than ever before. Enrollment at the Academy and its associates' scholarships almost doubled. The Medical Center expanded its services with the addition of an Urgent Care element while simultaneously ramping up and incurring the expense of running

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a vaccination program with a training component for nursing students from the College of the Florida Keys.

The Foundation worked with numerous partners to increase availability of the vaccine in Monroe County, Homestead and Florida City. And while entertaining fundraising events like Catwalk and Boutique D'Reef had to pivot online, revenue-generating concerts and other events were canceled. But even as income was down across the board, All Charities' recipient partners committed to retaining personnel and offering even more services, and new supporters came aboard to set participation records

for All Charities' Chairman's Circle, Community Trustees and Patron levels.

Covid-19 may have dictated there could be no live auction gala component as the culmination of mid-February's All Charities Weekend (ACW), and that all the offerings had to be "Covid-safe," meaning a large reduction in expenses and limited opportunities to raise revenue, yet the hard work and imagination of ACW Chairs **Linda Johnston** and **Dom DiNapoli**, working in concert with next year's ACW chairs **Adele Acheson** and **Diane Hill** and a tireless committee, yielded an event that surpassed everyone's expectations. And thankfully, the Foundation's executive committee determined to allocate some of its

contingency and impact funds.

As a result, the following distributions were approved at the Foundation's Annual Board Meeting on March 29:

- Ocean Reef Community Foundation Grants Committee \$1,614,704
- Ocean Reef Medical Center \$1,540,316
- Cultural Center \$953,513
- Academy \$619,784
- Art League \$309,892
- Conservation \$309,892
- ORCAT \$200,000

It is with a tremendous sense of gratitude for this remarkably generous community that the ORCF and All Charities look forward to ACW February 11-13, 2022, under the direction of chairs Acheson and Hill, and announce that ACW 2023 will be

headed up by chairs **Anne Marie Peretz**, **Barbara Olcott** and **Kelly Hertzman**.

All Charities, the point at which the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's fundraising efforts are concentrated and coordinated, strengthens the missions of the entities that enhance Ocean Reef's Unique Way of Life: The Medical Center, the Academy, the Cultural Center, the Conservation Association, ORCAT and the Art League, and enables the Foundation to fulfill its calling to the benefit of thousands in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City. All Charities has united the Ocean Reef community and raised nearly \$50 million since 2008.

Questions? Dial 305-367-5996 for the office or email allcharities@oceanreef.com.