

COVID-19 Relief Efforts Report



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It is hard to believe that our COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee approved our first grants to help in Monroe County and Homestead just a little over three weeks ago on Sunday, April 5. One of the grants approved that day was to the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC). On Monday, we got our final report on how the first \$30,000 was distributed. I am pleased to share it with the community to let everyone know one of the many ways your donations are helping outside the gates.

First, some background on the project. Because the Foundation

is unable to make grants to individuals, we funded an Emergency Assistance Program through FKOC, which had an existing program that does just that with a professional staff Keys-wide. Today FKOC is “remotely” vetting applications and assisting families with medical care and medicine, food, transportation, childcare, communication and other essential needs and makes payments directly to the service providers.

It’s important to note that FKOC agreed to accept applications from individuals who live or work in Monroe County at our request so that all those who can show they work, or until recently worked, in the Ocean Reef community, are eligible to apply. FKOC did confirm that a number of Ocean Reef employees are included in the figures presented here.

As of 2 p.m. on Monday, FKOC reported:

- They had funded \$29,989.13 in requests

- Assisted 203 households and 485 individuals
- These included 169 children and 316 adults, 29 of which are seniors
- The top two requests were food and gas (provided through grocery store and gas station gift cards, which do not allow purchase of alcohol)
- An increase in the number of requests for phone, internet, and prescriptions
- The average total amount requested per household was \$165.65

The remaining \$10.87 rolled into the second round of funding approved by our committee at the end of last week. The second grant of \$50,000 is expected to cover another four weeks of funding, rather than the \$10,000 per week you might expect based on the first report, because of another small grant approved for an innovative Remote Crisis Case Management System that will enable them to process applications much faster and even more efficiently. It will also

eventually enable all the county’s “safety net” agencies to cooperate to ensure there is no duplication of services.

We appreciate your help in passing along information about available resources, including the FKOC Emergency Assistance Program for Households Impacted by COVID-19, to anyone in need. Find sharable flyers about the program and others at orfound.org, and information about additional programs and resources on our Facebook page.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the relief effort and have it matched dollar for dollar, please donate at orfound.org or mail your check made payable to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, with COVID-19 Relief in the memo line, to 35 Ocean Reef Drive, Ste. 148, Key Largo, FL 33037. Those with an ORCF Donor Advised Fund who wish to donate from their funds, and anyone with questions about the relief effort, can email foundation@oceanreef.com.