

The Giving Spirit Inspires All Charities More Than Ever



by Sarah A. Cart

'Tis the season when families revisit Scrooge and "It's a Wonderful Life." As plans evolve for All Charities Weekend (ACW), Feb. 19 and 20, 2021, just imagine, what would Ocean Reef be without the giving spirit that has evolved into All Charities?

What would Ebenezer see in his dream as he took in an ACW-less Ocean Reef? How would Angel 2nd Class Clarence Odbody highlight a timeline devoid of All Charities giving? A meagerly staffed and equipped Medical Center, a subdued Academy, a dark Cultural Center, silent hallways and bare walls at the Art League, meandering felines abandoned by ORCAT, reefs, flats and mangroves left to die in the absence of the Conservation Association, and empty neighborhoods in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City...

How lucky we are to be able to dictate a different storyline during this season of giving! Particularly

this year when The Reef is busier than ever and the list of needs has multiplied geometrically. If you've wondered whether your support for ACW is needed or appreciated, know that it is. More now. More than ever.

"Due to the extreme stresses and exhaustion of the past nine months, we seriously considered taking a breather," confesses All Charities Chairman **Michael Berman**. But, he explains, "For the recipient partners, those entities that make Ocean Reef the most wonderful place on earth, it's clear this is no time to call a time-out, especially when the Ocean Reef Community Foundation also is receiving grant requests at levels not seen since Hurricane Irma."

Keeping everyone's safety and comfort paramount, it's clear the weekend will boast new creative approaches from Friday's opening and wine tasting through the final gavel Saturday evening. While small groups may choose to gather in private homes, for other participants, the Club will prepare "Gala-to-Go" meals, everyone will be eligible to purchase a raffle ticket for the 2021 Lexus, and the auction, including phenomenal surprise entertainment, will be a virtual event with live elements to enjoy from your own living room.

Auction items include a wealth of new packages and member-to-member offerings, including multiple new trips and stateside adventures for families or friends in the same social bubble from Florida to the Rockies and beyond. Locally, consider the excitement of a day's sailfishing,

the bliss of a Baer Furniture makeover or the pleasure of a dinner cruise to Miami aboard a 95-foot Burger yacht. Biking the Keys. Emerging post-pandemic with a new wardrobe of jewelry.

"And as in years past, the wines on offer will be phenomenal," promises **Dom DiNapoli**, who is co-chairing the event with **Linda Johnston**. She adds, "We are carefully curating an incredible list of Showcase items, and we trust people's hearts will inspire their support."

Additionally, **Diane Hill** and **Adele Acheson**, who will chair ACW 2022, have brought tremendous energy to bear as they complete the leadership team.

Wondering how you can help? Donate. Mark Feb. 19 and 20 on your calendars. Bid high and often when the online bidding gets underway. Take advantage of tax opportunities for end-of-year-giving (to do so, call the All Charities office before Dec. 31; they will be delighted to help). Become a Trustee.

All Charities' purpose:

Since 2008, All Charities has united the Ocean Reef community and raised over \$40 million, helping enable the Reef's Medical Center, Cultural Center, Art League, Academy, ORCAT, and the Ocean Reef Conservation Association to fulfill their missions, as well as uplifting thousands in Florida City, Homestead and the Keys through grants from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

Questions? Contact Lesa Crayne or Amy Cornaire in the All Charities office by calling 305-367-5963 or emailing allcharities@oceanreef.com.

Like those holiday stories from Frank Capra and Charles Dickens, ACW 2021 will be a tale of generosity. How blessed our Ocean Reef community is that we have the means to make it so. Even in the midst of COVID-19, life at Ocean Reef remains amazingly wonderful; thank you for supporting All Charities more now, more than ever.