After half a dozen years of championing the cause, we are thrilled to announce that the College of the Florida Keys (CFK) new Upper Keys Center is finally a reality. Prominently positioned at MM106 on the Overseas Highway, the new 38,000 square-foot Upper Keys Center offers bachelor’s and associates degrees as well as workforce training opportunities for the people and businesses of north Monroe County.

The new campus, which replaces designated classroom space at Coral Shores High School, provides the necessary space for twice as many students. The UKC features nursing labs, a bio-chemical lab, apprenticeship labs, an auditorium and a Learning Resource Center. It also houses a testing center, which provides access to thousands of professional testing and certification exams.

CFK gave a heartfelt thank you to Friends at Ocean Reef Club, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, and many more who helped make this big idea become a reality at the Center’s on-time grand opening in August.

The Foundation donated $1 million in 2020 for the center. Our CFK UKC Committee – chaired by Bill Nutt and comprised of Jim Anderton, Michael Berman, Tom Davidson Sr., Alan Goldstein, Ed Hajim, and Steve Markel – secured an additional $1.25 million in pledges from generous community members to help make it happen.

Sharing his gratitude, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra said, “This is only the beginning, but it is a beginning that represents hope and opportunity that results in social and economic mobility for our entire upper Keys community. Thanks to our friends from the Ocean Reef Community and the EDA, CFK opened the doors to expanded higher education opportunities in the Upper Keys. CFK is fortunate to have great support from the Ocean Reef Community.”

Programs offered in the inaugural semester include nursing, paramedics, business administration, supervision and management, construction technologies, hospitality management, public safety and general studies. Not only will the new campus train local people with skills needed at Ocean Reef and allow existing employees to gain skills, a community that offers affordable higher education attracts and retains motivated, skilled workers and their families. Case in point, ORC Chef Philippe Reynaud attended the opening with his 18-year-old daughter Monique (pictured) who plans to earn her AA at the new campus as part of her path to becoming an elementary school teacher.

Visit the College’s website at www.cfk.edu/UKC to explore the exciting opportunities available at the Upper Keys Center.

The CFK Upper Keys Center Grand Opening on August 5th was a great day for the Upper Keys! Seen there celebrating are (from left to right): Medical Center at OR CEO Keith Young, Ocean Reef Club Chef Philippe Reynaud, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, ORCF Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay, Medical Center at OR COO Chris Grant and CFK’s Dr. Carla Fry, who coordinated student nurses for OR’s vaccination program.
CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

By William J. N. Davidson, Sr.

It was just over ten years ago when we were all first introduced to the idea that the Club operated on a financial model of a “Three-Legged Stool.” This idea was easy to grasp, that the Club’s success was supported by three pillars: the Club Membership, the Operating Income and the Charitable Giving. This idea was also formed over ten years ago when Bob Schmetterer, also a past Chairman of the Club’s Board of Directors, led the charge to create the Foundation. Through that effort, Bob and the entire Management Committee, wrote the support for our Club’s Brand Vision that first talked about this Unique Way of Life including these three organizations.

So much has changed in the last ten years, yet the many traditions and Member passions within our Club and Community remain the same. Each year, the Club and the Community work to do more for the community of Ocean Reef and to make a meaningful difference for the community of Ocean Reef and to make a meaningful difference for the community of Ocean Reef.

We have two years of board changes to report. In 2020 we thanked and recognized retiring directors Jill Sullivan and Carla Wood. Each served six years on the board, as well as on the Grants and Development Committees, respectively. We were also excited to welcome four new board members in that time: ISP Upper Keys Center Committee, and former All Charities Co-Chair, Teresa Holmes; and former All Charities supporter and philanthropist Jeff Levitini in 2021.

Looking forward to the future, we recently added Richard Weinstein as our foundation president. Most of you already know Richard from his long tenure with the Club and we now look to him to take the Foundation and our All Charities Fundraising event to new heights. All Charities began just before there was a three-legged stool. This is where, in one single weekend event, the Foundation raises all the funds to provide support to our wonderful amenities and charities.

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We also lost two board members, one after a long history with us and another we hoped was just at the beginning of one.

IN MEMORIAM

Just as Richard T. Farmer was a “founding father” of Ocean Reef Club, he was also with our Foundation from the earliest days and a stalwart supporter who gave generously of his time and talent over the decades. He served on our Board of Directors and executive leadership committee for more than 22 years while playing an outsized role in our growth and success during that time. Dick Farmer had many successes in life and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation had the great fortune of benefiting from his resulting knowledge, experience, relationships and wisdom. We expect one of the many ways he will live on for generations is through the thousands who will continue to reap the benefits of his work through our Foundation, which is stronger and better thanks to his leadership.

Linda Johnston came into her role as a Co-Chair of the 2021 All Charities Weekend during a pandemic that called for almost completely re-inventing the event and she did so with great aplomb. Utilizing her knowledge and connections and passion for Ocean Reef she met the uncertain and unprecedented challenge with creativity and strong determination to make it a success for the nonprofits who needed it now more than ever. Moving forward, behind the scenes, she stepped in with a vibrant and polished performance, co-hosting the film that served as our first ever virtual event. We celebrate her in the coverage of the resulting successful All Charities event that you can see this issue. Linda was a caring inspiration to our event committee and staff and a hero to the charities we serve which have benefitted so much from her efforts. She will be greatly missed.

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The Ocean Reef Community Foundation, work in concert to create a private community like no other. We see the Club delivering outstanding member experiences in the areas of dining, fishing, shopping, golf and tennis. Really the family fun events that we see featured on our front cover was the appropriate balance between these two would deliver the best overall Membership experience. With those limits defined, a cap was placed on the amount of group business during the winter season and a Social Member Waitlist began.

Today, this model still delivers the best experience for the Club amenities but it also supports and delivers benefits for a different kind of “Three-Legged Stool” that is focused on the safety and security for the Club amenities but it also supports and delivers benefits and the primary fundraisers for a number of non-profits within the community. In the “One Ask, One Give” initiative, we not only support these collaborations in times of emergency, but we also see these collaborations in times of emergen-

One of the most important aspects of this initiative is the recognition that the Club operated on a financial model of a “Three-Legged Stool.” This idea was also formed over ten years ago when Bob Schmetterer, also a past Chairman of the Club’s Board of Directors, led the charge to create the Foundation. Through that effort, Bob and the entire Management Committee, wrote the support for our Club’s Brand Vision that first talked about this Unique Way of Life including these three organizations.

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More than a dozen hunger relief agencies were funded to feed families with everything from drive-through food distributions, to grocery gift cards to refrigerated trucks for farm distribution. Meanwhile the fund continued to grow from seeing close to $800,000 granted in the first eight months and collecting almost $1.4 million since its inception to date. With that additional funding and the most basic support to innovative projects like St. Peter’s Fleet, which kept fishermen employed and used their catch to feed those in need, while the Keys were closed to all visitors, the Committee began to shift their focus in preparation for the coming vaccine.

With the funding available and the existing relationship with the College of the Florida Keys and their nursing program, plans were offered to these same surrounding communities to support immunization of mass vaccination centers and special vaccine outreach. Vaccination numbers reached a plateau, prompting the Committee to rebocus their efforts on combatting vaccine hesitancy and mistrust and championing education. To do so a new partnership was formed with both the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami and the United Way. Between these organizations the remaining funds could be better applied to continue the fight against COVID-19 and the growing concerns with the new Delta variant. The fight is not over, but with the amazing generosity of the Membership along with the operational guidance from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, we know the number of lives we have touched in the surrounding communities is unspeakable for such a short timeframe. We also know that whether it is a family member of a Club or ORCA, we are all in this together and for all of our many other support services such as contractors and caregivers for our families, we are all grateful for the generosity of this Membership, that continues to share the many good fortunes we all enjoy.

## COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants Report

“There’s no question that the Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Relief Fund played a critical role in meeting basic needs in the wake of the pandemic and expanding and expanding access to vaccinations and related education in our surrounding communities,” according to Executive Director Yuri Mikolay. She credits the close cooperation of dozens of local organizations and county/state officials on weekly calls for both social services and hunger relief agencies for more than a year and a half, which continue monthly to this day, to identify constantly changing needs. Relationships and coordination with donors and funders were also key to adequately covering needs countywide. Grants totaling more than $1.38 million were made over 20+ months, as follows chronologically:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$276,000*</td>
<td>The cornerstone of our relief effort, which allowed us to refer individuals for assistance. Vested applications to provide small grants up to $250/month to cover basic necessities like transportation, utilities, childcare and direct to thousands of individuals, including numerous furloughed Ocean Reef employees from both areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$729,980 + $656,525</td>
<td>Funds totaling in seven grants over 12+ months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,386,505 TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Feeding South Florida          | |
| $100,000                       | Donors of mass drive-thru food distributions in both Homestead and throughout Monroe County and breast milk deliveries to the immunocompromised Keys partners with limited storage capacity. |

| Star of the Sea                | $20,000* initial grant for hunger relief efforts with limited storage capacity. |
| $48,000*                      | Public gift cards to supplement pantry offerings when adequate food was not available to buy. |
| Star of the Sea                | $5,000* Baby formula |
| Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition | $20,000* Van to deliver meals and transport high-risk expectant mothers, infants and children for medical care |
| FarmShare                      | Two used refrigerated containers to preserve unpicked crops for distribution to food pantries. |
| Star of the Sea                | $3,600 Payments to Faubasquel Retail, LLC to cover costs to deliver rescued produce in their donated refrigerated trucks to local food pantries throughout the Keys. |

* Indicates the grant was fully MATCHED by funding partners.

### Additional Smallers Goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,500*</td>
<td>Computer platform to issue Monroe County agencies including ORCC, ORCHI and managing virtual applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000*</td>
<td>Big Cappit First Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000*</td>
<td>Burton Memorial UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000*</td>
<td>PROC Folves &amp; Lovaves Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000*</td>
<td>First Baptist Church of Key Largo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000*</td>
<td>First Baptist Church of Islamorada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Keys Area Interdenominational Resources (KAR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000*</td>
<td>Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500*</td>
<td>Metropolitan Community Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000*</td>
<td>St Peter Catholic Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Meal and Assistance Programs in Homestead/Florida City ($30,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000*</td>
<td>Florida City Food Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000*</td>
<td>Greater Miami Youth for Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000*</td>
<td>Touching Miami With Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star of the Sea</td>
<td>$317,850 Named for the patron saint of fishermen, this project donated over 500 meals to furloughed work force back to full time providing high quality protein to hunger relief efforts Keys-wide when protein was very difficult to purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Health South Florida Foundation</td>
<td>$22,250 Healthcare Heroes program and tablets and vaccines for patients to communicate with family and the greater community in cooperation with Unimed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000*</td>
<td>Osteomyelitis support for Homestead &amp; Mariners Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe County School District</td>
<td>$10,000* Van to deliver meals and transport high-risk expectant mothers, infants and children for medical care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000*</td>
<td>Rapit test for Monroe County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Keys Area Health Education Center</td>
<td>$6,000 Virtual workshop and support for Monroe County social services providers to help clients avoid eviction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.</td>
<td>$10,000 Holiday Helper gift program for disadvantaged children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### United Way of Collier and the Keys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,500*</td>
<td>Holiday Helper gift program for disadvantaged children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000*</td>
<td>Holiday Helper gift program for disadvantaged children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| College of the Florida Keys Foundation | $43,407* to support vaccination outreach events in both areas |

### Community Health of South Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$142,848* to support vaccination outreach events in both areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| University of Miami Miller School of Medicine | $250,000 Creation of the ORCF COVID-19 Health Toolkit including Access Fund to compensate community health workers and efforts to combat furloughed health care professionals. |
| $250,000* to support immunization campaigns through the University program over 10 months |

### Florida Keys Area Health Education Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$28,700*</td>
<td>Nurse line and virtual food education events for medical professionals and social service providers and the greater community in cooperation with UHN.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monroe County Health Department/ School District

| $317,850*                      | COVID-19 Youth Vaccination Campaign Art Contest prizes |

### Star of the Sea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$20,000* Continuation of Key West afterschool and backpack school nutrition programs defunded due to COVID-19 demands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| United Way of Collier and the Keys | $7000 Appropriate program for workers at three Keys hospitals set for January 1, 2022 |
| United Way of Collier and the Keys | $10,000 Holiday Helper gift program for disadvantaged children |
Thank you Cindy Brammer, Tim Brammer and MaryAnn Larkin, Co-Chairs and the 2020 All Charities Weekend Committee.
MEMORIES FROM 2021 ALL CHARITIES WEEKEND

We hope you recognize the “screenshots” below from the 2021 All Charities Virtual Gala, our well-received solution to the challenge of not being able to gather together for an in-person Gala & Live Auction due to the pandemic. A huge thank you to Ocean Reef Club-member and our favorite son of a son of a sailor, Jimmy Buffet, who generously agreed to welcome viewers in the video and perform two songs. Silver linings!

Thank you
Dominic DiNapoli & Linda Johnston
Co-Chairs
and the 2021 All Charities Weekend Committee

THEERTICALINK

2022 PREVIEW

Online bidding starts
Friday, February 4 at bidORC.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Opening Night Wine Tasting
and NEW Bourbon Tasting
Silent Auction Showcase
Opal.Luxury by Lester Lampert Jewellers
4 – 7 p.m. | Carysfort Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Silent Auction Showcase
Opal.Luxury by Lester Lampert Jewellers
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Carysfort Hall
NetJets Aircraft Display
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Ocean Reef Airport
Burgers, Beers & Bidding
Compliments of Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce
Noon – 2 p.m. | Carysfort Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Silent Auction Item Pick Up
Opal.Luxury by Lester Lampert Jewellers
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Carysfort Hall
Dine, Live Auction and Dancing
7 p.m. | Town Hall

oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org
allcharities@oceanreef.com

THEERTICALINK

Adele Acheson and Diane Hill

Co-Chairs

Thank you
Dominic DiNapoli & Linda Johnston
Co-Chairs
and the 2021 All Charities Weekend Committee
2021 ALL CHARITIES EFFORT REPORT

While the circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic were daunting for all the All Charities team, they were perilous for our neighboring communi-
ties and precarious for the institutions that define and sustain Ocean Reef’s Unique Way of Life. The Foundation’s Grants Committee had more requests than ever before at the Assembly and its associated scholarships almost doubled. The Medical Center expanded its services acquiring Urgent Care and a vaccination program. The Cultural Center theater sat empty. Nonprofits couldn’t gather together or fundraise. Thanks to the generosi-
ty of the Ocean Reef Community, and despite the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, our All Charities recipient partners received at least what they did in 2019 and 2020, and in some cases – most notably the Medical Center and Foundation Community Grants Program – more.

ORCF Community Grants to Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys Charities

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation awarded more than $1.6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City as a result of the Ocean Reef community’s generosity in participating in the 2021 All Charities effort. The Ocean Reef Community Foundation Committee approved grants totaling $14,498,169. The Ocean Reef Community Foundation also provided funds in the form of matching grants to other nonprofit organizations.

In addition to grants totaling $14.5 million, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation Board of Directors approved awarding $17,500 to Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys and $7,200 to the Florida Keys Children’s Shelter.

2021 All Charities Participant and All Charities 2021 Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Academy at Ocean Reef</td>
<td>$507,236</td>
<td>$112,548</td>
<td>$619,784</td>
<td>$4,298,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Center at Ocean Reef</td>
<td>$780,363</td>
<td>$173,150</td>
<td>$953,513</td>
<td>$3,703,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Reef Art League</td>
<td>$253,619</td>
<td>$56,274</td>
<td>$309,892</td>
<td>$3,430,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Reef Community Foundation</td>
<td>$1,389,609</td>
<td>$225,095</td>
<td>$1,614,704</td>
<td>$4,524,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Reef Conservation Association</td>
<td>$253,619</td>
<td>$56,274</td>
<td>$309,892</td>
<td>$2,424,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Reef Medical Center Foundation</td>
<td>$1,310,892</td>
<td>$229,424</td>
<td>$1,540,316</td>
<td>$4,604,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORCAT</td>
<td>$187,014</td>
<td>$12,986</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$807,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects, Baptist Hospital Hospital</td>
<td>$100,000 -</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$851,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS                                             $4,782,351       $865,750                  $6,648,101           $50,175,366

* Subject to change due to potential pandemic-related refunds on unfilled auction items.

2021 All Charities Effort Report

Total 2021 Community Grants: $1,605,815

ProjectArt

$5,000

Youth Art education program at the High School

Redlands Christian Migrants Association

$12,500

Replacement of a small, failing play ground equipment

South Florida Council of Boy Scouts

$20,000

Scavenger expenses for day camp for the homeless area

South Florida Science Center & Aquarium

$25,000

Bringing the Science Passport educational program to 10 elementary schools in Homestead/
Florida City

Special Olympics Florida Monroe County

$18,000

Programs to serve special Upper Keys individuals with intellectual disabilities

St John’s Episcopal School

$6,225

25 laptops for Coding & Computer Engineering Program

St John’s Martyr Catholic Church

$11,350

Replacement of school’s failing deck, stairs and benches for safety

Star of the Sea Outreach Mission

$36,000

Upper Keys Hunger Relief Program

Start Smart

$19,902

Homestead/Ftl Police Department “See Something, Say Something” Youth Community Service Campaign

Three Virtue Organization

$15,000

Tune Police Academy Scholarships for locals committed to serving in the Homestead Police Department

Tillie

$6,000

Florida Keys Youth Basketball League

Touching Miami with Love (West Homestead Site)

$25,000

Youth Development Boosting Program

United Way of Collier and the Keys

$9,000

Expense of the Early Literacy Program to serve an additional 60 preschool children

VOCES for Florida Keys Children

$7,500

Children’s Wills project to provide families through the 10th Judicial Circuit Court

Wellsping Counseling

$20,000

Homestead & Upper Keys Counselling Foundation

YMCA of South Florida

$2,500

Homestead AfterSchool Program

Key Largo Summer Camp and Aller -
school Program scholarships
Grants Committee 2021-2022
Jane Sims, Chair
Patty Davidson Kathie Mankel
Rob Daugherty Linda Owens
Alan Goldstein Amy Upjohn
Marie Jacobs Kathy Weiland
Ken Karl Steve Woodsum
Cynthia Lee

Act4Me
A recent testimonial from one of our grantee’s mom, “Our son Camilo is a 9-year-old boy with autism since he was 2. He is a very happy boy who now enjoys having sleepovers and recently started playing board games. I love that because of the therapy started thanks to Act4Me, he only wanted to be alone. I thank you for Camilo’s grant, he has improved his communication so much since he started with your program. Thank you for the support and help to so many families who need it. Your contribution makes a big difference in our lives! God bless you!”
Rosa Zipa, Camilo’s mom — Maida Berberian-Bignon, Director

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc.
The Adrienne Arsht Center is so grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s steadfast support of our arts education programs. Since launching Rock Odyssey over a decade ago, and Kitty Hawk four years ago, the Center has brought over 260,000 5th and 7th graders to Knight Concert Hall to experience the performing arts with these specially commissioned educational works aligned to state standards and district goals. Thank you for enabling us to eliminate financial and geographical barriers, ensuring that all children in Miami-Dade County have access to high-quality performing arts experiences.
— Beth Markowitz, Interim Director of Foundation Relations

Camillus House, Inc.
Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s investment in the children Camillus House serves in Homestead ensures our community’s greatest treasure—our kids, our very future—are taken care of with no need to worry. From enriching extracurriculars to spiffy school uniforms, a diverse cross-section of kids gets to focus on learning and playing and growing strong at a critical time in the pandemic. And it’s all thanks to your donors who stepped up to the challenge when it counted most and made ORCF’s generous grant award possible. Camillus thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for empowering kids.
— Hilda M. Fernandez, CEO

The Arc of South Florida
Arc’s Florida City programs are extremely appreciative of funding received from Ocean Reef Community Foundation. This has been an unusually difficult year in many ways. A staffing shortage combined with many of the remaining staff and children recovering from COVID, and we have not yet spent the funds. However, the funded projects that will improve conditions for the children, in the facilities and on the grounds, will soon be underway. Arc is excited about project completion in the near future and will provide an update soon. Thank you ORCF for your generosity, especially in these hard times.
— Laura Secord, Director of Children & Youth

Branches, Inc.

ASoA thanks ORCF for its generous, $10,000 grant to provide the care, and special needs, of boys and girls with autism and their families in the Upper Keys. Children of autism are adversely sensitive to changes, adjustments, disasters, and emergency situations. Add COVID, and they are living in a very dangerous environment. This year, ASoA provided Sensory Boxes to all Monroe County Police, Firefighters, and first responders. Per public demand, ASoA is now placing Sensory Boxes in all Monroe County public and private schools, and daycares, to better assist children with autism when in crisis.
— Jill Campbell, Executive Director

The Arc is excited about project completion in the near future and will provide an update soon. Thank you ORCF for your generosity, especially in these hard times.
— Laura Secord, Director of Children & Youth

There is no space in my house for me to do my virtual college classes. When Kim realized I was doing Zooms in my car she made Branches available to all of the college students to have a quiet place to do classes. I was able to have reliable internet, supplies I needed for classes, snacks to keep me motivated, and people around me to keep me motivated. I made the Dean’s list both semesters. I did my classes the last two semesters and I was so frustrated, but with the help of Branches I was actually able to have my best semesters yet!
— Melvin Amaya, 2nd year college student at MDC (Branches Alumni)
Burton Memorial United Methodist Church

Food Pantry
I would like to say thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continuing donation towards our food pantry. Through our perishable donation program, we have been able to secure 14,12 tons of food from Winn Dixie and Publix YTD, an innovative way to recycle food. This picture shows the refrigerated truck paid for by your generosity. On an average week, it makes one to two trips to the stores to collect the week’s food donations. Through this program, we provide families with meals, produce, bakery, and deli foods that would have otherwise gone to waste. — Kenny Foote, Pastor

Child Development Center
We are very grateful for your generous donation. We had 16-25 school age children enrolled, many of which are from less fortunate families. Their ages range from five to twelve. Most of the parents work in hospitality or landscaping but are unable to give their kids the experiences we can give with the help of your generous support. Hands-on arts and crafts, gardening, and cooking classes are essential learning experiences that the students treasure. Seeing the excitement on these children’s faces when we traveled to a coal destination for fieldtrips was also priceless. — Nilda C. Bienalalaz, M.W.ED, Director

Caring For Miami
I would like to thank the ORCF for their generosity that provides free dental care to the uninsured community. Aside from the 384 patients that have received free care in the areas of Florida City and Homestead we recently provided care to 25 individuals in the Upper Keys at the Good Health Center. Many of these patients found themselves needing assistance for the first time due to job loss resulting from COVID 19. For me, it is a blessing to be able to fill an individuals need for nothing in return. The gratitude and appreciation of our patients is unmatched to anything I’ve ever experienced. — Mary Wick, Community Outreach Coordinator

Centro Campesino Farmworker Center Inc.
With the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and their supportive funders, Centro Campesino was able to assist 25 low-to-moderate income households in the Homestead, Florida City, and Upper Keys area. Eligible households who have or continue to be financially impacted by COVID-19, were awarded $1,000 in emergency financial assistance to help cover rental and/or utility expenses. This support invaluable to our community. On behalf of the Centro Campesino team, thank you! — Barbara Cesar, Director of Education

Chapman Partnership, Inc.
“My heart is happy,” that’s what children of Chapman’s Mentoring Program expressed during a summer painting session with their Mentor. While parents of homeless children are consumed and focused on their family’s immediate needs, what these children most lack is a nurturing role model. Through Chapman’s Mentoring Program, each child entering our Homeless Assistance Center is supported throughout their Chapman experience and encouraged to put their proud stamp on our world. This session focused on keeping their heart right-side up even if their world around them seems upside down. — Victoria I. Hopta, Resource Development Officer

Chapters Health Hospice of South Florida
ORCF funding has increased the ability of Chapters Health Hospice of South Florida (CHH) to provide end-of-life care and services to people facing life-limiting illnesses. CHH has already touched several lives through hospice care, the Valor Program, special needs provisions, Memory Garden, and other ways. We are honored to be able to provide a greater quality of life at a unique time in a person’s life and support their families, as well. CHH has served 281 patients – 118 of which were Upper Keys residents – conducted two Valor Program veteran pinning events, gifted a Memory Bear, and much more. — Vivian Dodge, Executive Director

The Children’s Alliance of Florida
The Children’s Alliance of Florida is grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s generous donation to support the renovation and expansion of our Beyond the Closet program. Funds will allow us to expand our current space as well as create a small food pantry. We expect to serve over 200 foster and high-risk children and families throughout the year, providing them with clothing, hygiene items, food, school supplies, and birthday boxes. The renovations will start within a month and we are so excited to re-stock our resource closet with clothing and supplies purchased with the ORCF funds. — Nicole Vasconcellos, President

Community Health of South Florida, Inc.
Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHS) is extremely grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s generous grant of $25,000 which is helping to build a critically needed Children’s Crisis Center. This center will be a 24 hour inpatient facility adding 20 additional pediatric crisis stabilization beds to South Florida and more importantly strategically located to be a resource for children suffering with mental illness and living in southern Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The center will treat 1000 children annually regardless of their ability to pay and is scheduled to open Fall 2022. — Blake Holt, President
DMF Employment Opportunities

Getting back on your feet is not always something you are able to do alone. With your support, not only have we had the opportunity to return to the heart of what we dedicate ourselves to, but we’ve been able to march ahead and continue with our mission of being a beacon of hope for young adults with unique abilities. Through hard work and dedication we have overcome the obstacles of the last year and half to keep our participants employed, helping others rejoin the workforce, and creating new opportunities for participants that have sought our support. The future is bright thanks to you. — Dr. Frank Wood, Executive Director

The College of the Florida Keys Foundation

The College of the Florida Keys enthusiastically expresses its most sincere appreciation to Ocean Reef Community Foundation for its continued support. Most CFK students have financial need and COVID/19 has created additional pressures. The scholarship support from ORCF has helped CFK’s Upper Keys Center students in need with support for necessities such as course materials, technology, health care, food, housing, and child care. These critical “life” issues, if left unattended, can derail a student’s education. This grant has been critical to keep deserving CFK students on track. — Dr. Frank Wood, Executive Director

Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc.

We would like to say a big thank you to you our donors, for providing the resources and means to give adults and teenagers an educational experience that will positively impact their lives. It enables us to reach students and adults in Monroe County a way we wouldn’t have otherwise. We can bring speakers to the Keys for an exciting new look at everyday issues adults and teenagers are faced with. We are excited to be able to host such informative and enlightening events and look forward to reprinting back to you with photos after the events and appreciation from the populations we serve. — Sharyl Schwab, Executive Director

Feeding South Florida

We are so grateful for the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for our work in South Dade and North Monroe. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come, but the support of Ocean Reef is helping bring hunger relief to communities right now, including Monroe had never heard of Feeding South Florida before COVID-19, but needed support with her kids home from school. Seeing so much good food has been helpful has she and her family continue to navigate challenges. From all of us at Feeding South Florida, we send our deepest thanks for your generosity. — San Velez, Executive Vice President

Florida Keys Children’s Shelter

On behalf of the FKCS Team, I’d like to thank ORCF for their ongoing partnership role in helping us care for children and their families here in the Florida Keys. We invite you to take the new, virtual tour of our Jelsema Shelter on our website, and imagine what it might feel like as a child being placed with us. It is difficult to understand the trauma so many of our children have endured. We take solace in the fact that once they are in our care, healing can begin. In continuing to fund the Upper Keys Coaching Program, ORCF has directly affected the lives of over 500 children every year. — Ben Kammer, Chief Executive Officer

Family Central Inc.

Because you care, 200 at-risk, vulnerable families who have taken the difficult step of reaching out for help will be guided as they navigate challenges due to lack of affordable housing, difficulty finding employment, or obstacles due to COVID. This community is marked by poverty, low education, and immigration issues which create barriers to navigating and accessing needed resources for individuals and children. The generous funding from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation will allow our team to strengthen families and link them to services while maintaining the dignity they deserve. — Wendy Solomon, Chief Operating Officer

Florida Keys Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FKFAPA)

Our association would not have been able to help as many children during this COVID epidemic if not for your generous grant. With the school uncertainty each child in state care got a Chromebook that is compatible with school systems. We covered the expenses for these students for their senior needs. Senior photos to senior class rings to senior cap and gowns. “Thank you Ocean Reef for your grant that made a child in my home feel like every other senior in her high school. Due to your generous donation my child was so excited to know he was going to go to prom. Florida Keys Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FKFAPA)

Florida Impact to End Hunger

Thank you to ORCF for helping us launch the Homestead Food Access Coalition! This has enabled us to recruit 13 SNAP-recipients from the Homestead area to form the Coalition, and hire a local resident to support the project. Moving forward, we will meet regularly to understand the challenges facing the Homestead community around food and nutrition. In the end, these conversations will guide Florida Impact’s future projects in the area, and form part of a series of policy recommendations presented to local stakeholders. These policies will build long-term, sustainable change in the food system. Sam Hopwood, South Florida Regional Director

Faith Fellowship School

Faith Fellowship School just wants to say thank you. These new desks came in at the perfect time. It allows for more space in our classrooms especially during this time of social distancing. Without your help this unexpected cost would have taken other resources that we so desperately need. We realize as always God meets our needs. And again we want to say thank you for being willing and able to help. — Pastor Vinny Kalsa

Florida Keys Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FKFAPA)
Greater Miami Youth for Christ

City Life KIX is thankful for the Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s belief in our young leaders. Despite difficulties faced over the past year, our young leaders showed up and turned the pandemic into an opportunity to grow in leadership. With your help, we will continue to develop our indigenous leaders this year! We will do this through our Leadership Academy, service projects, team building outings, college tours and job training.

Thank you for your deep-seeded belief that there is powerful leadership gold under the surface in West Homestead. — Stacy Morales, City Life KIX Director

Genesis Hopeful Haven, Inc.

Ocean Reef Foundation gave what our girls haven’t been trusted with before — keys. Previously, they waited outside of home until someone let them in. Before, they were guests in their home, friends weren’t allowed to even visit. Then, meals were eaten alone. Now, they have house keys! Now, they take selfies in their space. And they can eat at their dining table, with friends. Thanks to Ocean Reef, we’ve furnished our first ever girls home. We’re so grateful and excited to watch our girls thrive. A safe home provides hope for a bright future that wouldn’t be possible without you. — Frizee Santarchy, Executive Director

Good Health Clinic

Thank you for supporting our medication program! So far this year we have provided over $700K in and nearly 1000 prescriptions for needed medications. These medications improve patients lives by managing diabetes and hypertension, treating infections, curing hepatitis, alleviating torturous heartburn, and providing life saving breaths via rescue inhalers. It is the everyday help needed so our medical staff can provide the treatment enabling patients to be healthy enough to work and provide for their families. — Kate Banick, Executive Director

Greater Miami Youth Symphony

The Greater Miami Youth Symphony is very grateful for the support of the Ocean Reef community. Through these difficult times, funds help us sustain quality music education programs desperately needed to support the happiness, quality of life and self-actualization of students that is needed now more than ever before. More than the benefit of being creative, these programs extend beyond the musical moments — creating leadership opportunities, problem solving skills and social/emotional coping mechanisms which support the growth of the whole child. Thank you for your continued support. — Jessica Munch-Dittmar, Executive Director

Guidance/Care Center, Inc.

The funding received by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has ensured that those individuals served by the Guidance/Care Center, Inc. and needing medications for ADHD truly have an ADHD diagnosis. GCC clients are easily tested via the laptop and software at no cost in our office due to the generous grant provided for these assessments. This testing followed by a psychiatric visit has improved individuals overall mental health. Thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for ensuring essential and appropriate mental health services are available to upper keys residents. Thank you! — Maureen Dunleavy, Regional Vice President

Health Information Project, Inc. (HIP)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students and their families have been experiencing profound trauma, including food, housing and job insecurity, family and friends sick or deceased from the virus and increased mental health issues. HIP is so incredibly grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and its donors for stepping up so that high school students across Homestead and South Dade could receive life-changing, life-saving, peer-to-peer health education and access to community resources. Thank you for your support of the emotional and physical health of our community’s children. — Valerie Brennan, Director of Operations, Health Information Project (HIP)
On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys Board of Directors and supporters, thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for our $50,000 grant. This funding is going directly to building local, affordable housing in Islamorada. The four units currently under construction will house 4 families, hopefully as soon as December 2021.

— Lindsey Post, Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys

Grants have united parents with their baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The economic burden families endure when their newborn is admitted to the hospital is devastating when the family is already struggling financially. This funding eliminated one prevalent burden and stressor for NICU families — the cost of transportation to and from the hospital. You brought parents to their baby, as many times as they were able to get there. Parents deserve to be and need to be with their baby in the hospital... thank you for giving them that opportunity.

— Elizabeth Sinton, CEO

ICU Baby

Thanks to the Ocean Reef grant we were able to update our bathrooms and our ADA liftchair, our new countertops and faucets and mirrors look fantastic, and the lifecar helps our handicap members get into the water and our ADA liftchair, our new countertops and faucets and mirrors look fantastic. Thanks to the Ocean Reef grant we were able to update our bathrooms

— Greg Hallock, Manager

Jacob’s Aquatic Center

One of our swimmers’ parents expressed it best: “[My son] learned swimming techniques that he is still using (big arms and learning to float on his back). Skills that ‘make swimming more enjoyable and safer for him.’ He was also introduced to lifetime activities like, he rode on a paddleboard and snorkeled for the first time. These are experiences that enriched my son’s life and can become pursuits he enjoys for the rest of his life. In short, the program includes intangibles, the value of which for children with special needs is impossible to measure. I recommend the program enthusiastically.”

— Tara Bleser Carson, VP

Kids 4 Kids USA, Inc.

On behalf of Kids Come First in The Florida Keys, Inc.

Kids Come First provides school supplies, clothing, shoes and personal items to students by individual referral form or from their on site school closet. There are approximately 8,000 students in our Keys schools, more than half are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Providing students access to the materials needed for school, relieves the stress of students, parents and teachers. Our goal for every student is to have their needs met, providing self esteem, pride and the opportunity to succeed. KCS, PKS & CSHS students appreciate the donars on the CRCF. Thank you with LOVE KIDS/AHEC/ROXS — Roxane Posada, Executive Director

Kids Come First In The Florida Keys, Inc.

The Keys AHEC Health Centers have been able to grow and expand its medical and oral health programming due to the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Our partnership has provided medical care for vulnerable students, COVID-19 testing not otherwise available anywhere else, vaccination promotion events, and a dental sealants program for second and seventh graders. The newest project supported that will have the greatest impact is the mobile Dental Unit where the Foundation is one partner in the procurement of the unit that will be able to provide oral health treatment and care.

— Michael Cunningham, CEO

Keys AHEC Health Center

“Kristi House’s Project GLOW Drop In Center provides a tranquil, healing environment to provide services for teen girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. We are so grateful for ORCF funds which have helped us with Center start up and client needs, enabling us to provide therapy, education, enrichment groups and jobs training so that young women can reclaim their lives and pursue productive, healthy futures.”

— Amanda G. Allison, Esq., CEO

Kristi House, Inc.

JB, a sixth grade Middle School student, was an average “C” student who began falling two of her core classes, risking advancement to the seventh grade. JB was constantly disrupting the other students. JB’s English teacher began to notice she was sleeping during class. When she approached JB, she was in tears — JB could not see the whiteboard; did not understand the lesson, making it impossible for her to learn. After receiving her new glasses from our Harken Program, JB’s self-confidence soared. She stopped causing disruptions in class and is on track to be an “A” student.

— Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.

The Key Largo School AVID is learning the importance of building successful strategies to help guide them on the college and career-going paths. With ORCF’s help the students have designed class T-shirts to wear for team building and leadership activities on campus and are looking forward to their upcoming college visits at FAU and FIU. We cannot thank Ocean Reef Community Foundation enough for all of their support in helping this underserved population of students, as many of them will be the first in their families to advance on a path toward college.

— Michael Cunningham, CEO

Key Largo School AVID

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Kristi House, Inc.

Years AHEAD

One of our swimmers’ parents expressed it best: “[My son] learned swimming techniques that he is still using (big arms and learning to float on his back). Skills that ‘make swimming more enjoyable and safer for him.’ He was also introduced to lifetime activities like, he rode on a paddleboard and snorkeled for the first time. These are experiences that enriched my son’s life and can become pursuits he enjoys for the rest of his life. In short, the program includes intangibles, the value of which for children with special needs is impossible to measure. I recommend the program enthusiastically.”

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— Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.
The Mexican American Council, Inc.

On behalf of South Dade’s farmworker families, MAC thanks ORCF for their support. Investment in our community truly changes lives, from empowering youth with the knowledge to navigate their best college and career paths to ensuring they have the technology to succeed. This year, support from ORCF assisted 19 youth achieve their college preparation goals. Students were accepted into FIU, FGCU, and MDC. Thank you ORCF for giving students access to a quality education and technology. ORCF is changing lives and ensures that through hard work and focus the American Dream is as achievable as ever. — Edward C. Garza, Executive Director

The Motivational Edge

Due to the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and the funds received, The Motivational Edge has been able to provide mentoring, life-skills, and therapeutic coping mechanisms to a group of highly vulnerable girls who live in Homestead and have experienced or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. We are very grateful for the impact this support has allowed us to have with these highly traumatized young women. — Jessenia Francisco, Partner Relations & HR Director

MUJER, Inc.

The steadfast support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has made a significant impact and profound difference in the lives of our most deserving Take Stock scholars in the Upper Keys. ORCF recognized Mariah Bell, Zareska Mazola Ortega, and Angel Martin as the OCRF Named Scholars. The ORCF plays a vital role in making the dream of a college education a reality for our deserving Upper Keys Take Stock scholars. Thank you! — Chuck Lein-Mason, Executive Director

MCEF Take Stock in Children

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation grant has always been important as it allows our agency to work with children – children who have witnessed abuse in their home or have been victimized by someone that they know. The ORCF grant was even more important during COVID19 when children felt totally isolated from school, friends and family. Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation for your continued investment in our children and our community. — Jan Rodriguez, Children Therapist

Ocean Studies Charter School

The teachers and students of Ocean Studies Charter School cannot thank the generous souls of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation enough. In the short time we have been in school, we have already seen so much progress in our students’ reading abilities due to the new literacy curriculum, Flying Start to literacy, that you all graciously provided us. Teachers pulling small learning groups in All grades, K-5 have used this award winning resource to target educational gaps due to the sad disruption of our Covid years and we see it working! Kids are loving to read and the teachers are SO grateful! — Jessica Martinez, Program Coordinator

ProjectArt

Support from Ocean Reef Community Foundation has allowed ProjectArt to solidify our presence in the Homestead community and strengthen our partnerships with the Miami-Dade Public Library System and Miami Bridge, a homeless youth shelter. As we enter our 5th year, we are excited to return to our library spaces, offering our students and families weekly, tuition-free art education and artistic residencies to local, emerging artists. We are grateful to The Ocean Reef Community Foundation who has generously supported our mission since day one, helping us serve over 300 students in Homestead. — Sandra Portal-Andreu, Senior Director of Communications & Development

PATCHES PPEC

Our electronic medical records project is about to go live this week. Gathering of paperwork and scanning was a daunting task but has relieved so much space. We have created a program designed to give the nurses and therapists more hands-on patient time, eliminate paper charting and make communication with physicians, hospitals and drug stores seamless. Our patient’s conditions can change from moment to moment – this new system will be able to provide data to physicians and hospitals without waiting for paper responses. Thank you so much for making this priceless option available to us. A. Kyle Smith, R.N., BS/N Administrator

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)

Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation, for your donation of $12,500. This donation will make possible a new and safe playground gym for our two-year old playground. Our child care center currently has 16 two-year old children that will benefit from the gym’s stimulating activities, that will enhance their fine and gross motor skills, as well as, their social development. Because of your donation, the gym will have a direct impact to over 200 families in the upcoming years. — Guadalupe Leal, Area Coordinator

MCEF Take Stock in Children

The steadfast support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has made a significant impact and profound difference in the lives of our most deserving Take Stock scholars in the Upper Keys. The Florida Prepaid College Foundation matched this year’s grant award enabling the Monroe County Education Foundation to apply $150,000 towards scholarships. MCEF recognized Mariah Bell, Zareska Mazola Ortega, and Angel Martin as the OCRF Named Scholars. The ORCF plays a vital role in making the dream of a college education a reality for our deserving Upper Keys Take Stock scholars. Thank you! — Chuck Lein-Mason, Executive Director

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Jeffrey Berger, Scout Executive

unique because the program can be found throughout the United States. A young person in Homestead can continue their program in North Carolina, helpful, courteous, and kind are all attributes that resonate throughout life. Scouting is

impression on youth and prepares them for life. Teaching youth to be trustworthy, loyal,

Elementary School with a Scouting program. Scouting is a program that makes a positive

Thank you for your generosity and directly supporting over 100 migrant youth of Redland

Carla Duhaney, Chief Operating Officer

by providing live science demonstrations that will inspire the next generation of scientists

Key Largo. This program allows us to fulfill our mission to “Open every mind to science”

Program to over 1000 at-risk, Title 1 elementary students in Homestead, Florida City and

We are grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for giving the South Florida

South Florida Science Center and Aquarium

We are grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for giving the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium the chance to present our STEM Passport to Education Program to over 1000 at-risk, Title 1 elementary students in Homestead, Florida City and Key Largo. This program allows us to fulfill our mission to “Open every mind to science” by providing live science demonstrations that will inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. — Carla Duhaney, Chief Operating Officer

South Florida Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America

Thank you for your generosity and directly supporting over 100 migrant youth of Redland Elementary School with a Scouting program. Scouting is a program that makes a positive impression on youth and prepares them for life. Teaching youth to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, and kind are all attributes that resonate throughout life. Scouting is unique because the program can be found throughout the United States. A young person in Homestead can continue their program in North Carolina, Texas, or wherever the family’s path takes them in the USA. This continuity is priceless! — Jeffrey Berger, Scout Executive

St. John’s Episcopal School

At St. John’s Episcopal School we work everyday to strive to be “A Level Above the Rest” by providing the best opportunity for lifelong success. We are aware that though talent may be distributed evenly, opportunity is not. Thank you from all the students and teachers of St. John’s for providing a new and exciting opportunity for our students! — Lakshmi Nair, Head of School

St. Justin Martyr Preschool

The staff and parents of St. Justin Martyr Preschool would like to thank the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continued support and recognition of the importance of the St. Justin Martyr Preschool program in our community. Over the past years Ocean Reef Community Foundation has kept our facility safe by helping St. Justin repair parts of the facility that are in need of repair. With the grant received this year we were able to renovate our outside deck that leads to the outdoor playground that was in much need of replacement. — Darany Diaz, Preschool Director

Lakshmi Nair, Head of School

though talent may be distributed evenly, opportunity is not. Thank you from all the students and teachers of St. John’s for providing a new and exciting opportunity for our students! — Lakshmi Nair, Head of School

Star of the Sea Foundation, Inc.

SOS is extremely grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for funding multiple methods of food acquisition—primarily recovered food from South Florida—to keep SOS’s St. Justin’s Food Pantry stocked each week. This support directly affects the availability of fresh, healthy foods and staple items for hundreds of working-poor Upper Keys residents who struggle to afford the basic costs of living. The nutritious foods are strengthening the health of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic and simultaneously freeing up client’s household funds for other living and emergency expenses. — Lisa Niederman, Director of Programs and Development

Special Olympics Florida Monroe County

We would like to thank the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continued commitment to Special Olympics programs and athletes. This past year has held multiple challenges for our young people with intellectual disabilities. Due to health concerns, they have not been able to travel or compete in their sports. The ORCF funding has helped us to provide healthy opportunities for them locally at Key Largo School and Treasure Village Montessori School and provide resources for outreach to youth in the community who may be isolated due to COVID. — Ruth Holland, Special Olympics Florida Coordinator, Non- Competitive Programs, Monroe County

TIPS Florida Keys Youth Basketball League

The FKYBL is heading into our fifth season, and couldn’t be any more excited. With participation growing annually, youth basketball in the upper Keys continues to thrive, due in large part to the support provided by the OR Community Foundation. The FKYBL has been very successful in introducing hundreds of young athletes annually to the game of basketball, while developing life skills like teamwork, commitment, and social development along the way. Local Middle and High School Teams are reporting record numbers going out for basketball tryouts now, as interest in the game continues to grow. — Melissa O’Keefe, FKYBL Commissioner

Three Virtues Organization, Inc.

We serve 100 families a month, and more recently, with the partnership with the No Kid Hungry initiative, we are providing a special distribution to 25 families who have children ages 0-5. On a monthly basis that is 125 families, approximately 500 individuals a month. That is not counting the other individuals that walk through our doors when they have an emergent need and come to us for assistance. Ocean Reef Community Foundation has made it possible for us to acquire food products and provide safe (at the correct temperature) products to our families. — Alpha Newmorm, Executive Director
Start off Smart, Inc.

**Community Policing**

Our Community Policing Unit is externally grateful for the strong and continuous support from ORCF. The residents in our community have been hit hard by the pandemic, and being able to help them with basic needs and back-to-school support has been immeasurable. “Our community through the support of ORCF has been empowered and been able to build a deeper relationship with their police department and officers at a time when relations are strained, but desperately needed. COVID has created barriers that we together have built bridges to overcome. Thank you again to ORCF and all of the donors. — Homestead Police Chief Alexander E. Rolle Jr.

**Police Academy Scholarships**

My mission is to find quality candidates from our community, that have roots and understanding of Homestead and the South Dade area. The generous scholarships provided by ORCF and their donors have created pathways for us to do just that. Aside from removing financial barriers, the ORCF scholarship has allowed the police department to have greater involvement and ultimately more success in the recruitment and hiring process. As much as this benefits our Dept. it also enhances our continued community relations initiatives. This wouldn’t be possible without ORCF. — Captain Fernando Morales, HPD Professional Compliance

**United Way of Collier and the Keys**

Some of my happiest memories as a parent are reading with my daughter. Reading together provided a chance for us to bond and helped her build important pre-literacy skills that she took with her into school. I am deeply grateful for ORCF’s support of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, allowing United Way of Collier and the Keys to expand this opportunity to other families. With ORCF’s support, we are empowering families throughout the Upper Keys to also build lasting memories and prepare their children for success. — Leah Stockton, Florida Keys Area President

**Key Largo After-School and Summer Camp**

I’d personally like to thank Ocean Reef for their generosity. The amount of low income families that depend on the scholarships we give them with your help is around 400 kids. It’s truly a blessing to see the smiles on the kids faces after an incredible field trip, swimming day, or all around enriching traditional day at camp! We simply could not reach this much of the Upper Keys Community without your help! — Jessica Beamer, Upper Keys Park Director

**Homestead Area After-School and Summer Camp**

As the Camp Director of the YMCA Traditional Summer Camp, I want to thank Ocean Reef for providing campers this summer with the opportunity to participate in our program. The children were able to enjoy fun and interactive activities which included outdoor physical fitness, literacy, project-based learning, social emotional learning, and fieldtrips. Again, I want to thank Ocean Reef for the opportunity and for the impact that your assistance had on our campers, that without your generosity would have not been able to experience the best summer ever. — Vicky Reyes, Site Director, Youth Development Miami

**YMCA OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation!!

**Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc.**

Due to the generosity of those who support the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc. was able to ensure that its scholarship recipients could stay in school during the pandemic. When colleges and vocational schools went online, approximately half of the scholarship students required computers or software updates to continue their education. ORCF’s grant made that happen. And when the holidays came, no person in a household with a child in the guardian ad litem program was left off our giving list as a result of the additional funds received from ORCF. — Susan Raffanello, President

**Wellspring Counseling, Inc.**

Because of this grant, I was able to provide social skills training course to a group of 10 youth through the KIX program. The KIX staff have shared that the kids have begun to use these tools in their everyday lives, handling stress better, controlling their emotions in healthy ways, having better communication with their caregivers and becoming more confident. At-risk kids who learn these skills can have better success in school, relationships and in jobs. In addition to my work, 23 individuals in Homestead have also benefitted from life-changing therapy through Wallspring, thanks to ORCF! — Alicia Fox, Wellspring Therapist in Homestead

**Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc.**

( Homestead Site)

Thank you, ORCF, for saving lives. This year was especially challenging for our youth as they were lured away from online school by our neighborhood plagues of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, gang activity, and gun violence. You provided our youth the opportunity to escape these neighborhood influences and empowered them to develop character, engage in school and career/college planning, maintain physical health, serve their community through volunteering, and gain needed on-the-job skills as summer interns. — Jason Pittman, CEO

**2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS**

2021 COMMUNITY GRANTS
**CAN’T STOP**

By Richard Weinstein, ORCF President

I was looking for a song online the other day and came across an incredible number of songs with the word “Can’t” in their title. “Can’t Buy Me Love” by the Beatles is where it started and then went on to “Can’t You See”, “Can’t Stop Loving You”, “Can’t You Hear Me Knocking”, “Can’t Get Enough of Your Love”, and Mr. Hammer still says “Can’t Touch This”.

In each case you can sense a desire to access something that seems to be just out of reach. The *Link* and its counterpart, *Link Online*, are a way to connect you with the Foundation as well as our surrounding communities. It is our way of taking the important ideas of philanthropy and putting them within easy reach; here you can see the meaningful impact that results from your generosity. You can explore the broad initiatives and many ongoing programs that are undertaken by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation that are a direct result of your support.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers said they “Can’t Stop” and neither can we. Each year we work with Club Member Volunteers to deliver the All Charities fundraising event - the One Ask, One Give initiative. It has served the Ocean Reef Community well for the past 14 years, keeping the nonprofit institutions at Ocean Reef strong, while giving back more and more to the families in the nearby Keys and South Florida - just outside our Community.

As you consider the stories in this issue of *The Link*, see if you find something you and your family are passionate about. There are many ways to get involved, from working with our All Charities event as a volunteer, donating an item or bidding on a one of a kind experience in the live or silent auction, to a more personal involvement, by setting up a Donor Advised Fund or creating a Lasting Legacy at Ocean Reef. We are here to help you in creating, implementing and achieving you and your family’s philanthropic goals. Together, with sincere apologies to Mick Jagger, we can get, significant Satisfaction.

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Time and the IRS are not known for their flexibility, but we are...

Open a fee-free, named Charitable Fund by December 31st to get your 2021 tax deduction and all the time you need to decide how to best distribute your charitable gifts.

Learn more at oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org

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