

Giving Traditions of the Season



by Sarah A. Cart

This will be the final day you receive a daily "12 Days of Giving" All Charities email – a small taste of the spectacular collection of luxuries and fun experiences to be offered come Ocean Reef's 15th All Charities Weekend (ACW) **February 11-13, 2022.**

While we are lucky that most of us are blessed to know the lovely sense of satisfaction that comes from presenting someone with just the right gift (oftentimes, it is rooted in giving more than we receive), for some families in our

neighboring communities the tradition of giving gets lost when life becomes complicated, which makes the marvels that the Ocean Reef Community Foundation accomplishes each time it awards a grant from the monies raised by All Charities even more critical.

An evolution: Diane Hill, who is co-chairing this year's ACW with **Adele Acheson**, shares that her family's traditions are rooted in her father's German culture. "We always celebrated 'German' Christmas on Christmas Eve. A traditional German meal, German Christmas carols and midnight mass.

"Once our kids got older, **Keith** and I decided to give 'experience' gifts to each child rather than physical gifts.

"That means there are no pajamas under the tree. Rather, we have given tickets to sporting events, special concerts or lectures – even a polo clinic in Argentina, and a family rafting trip in Utah. It's fun

thinking up special experiences tailored to the interests of the recipient, and sometimes it takes a bit of creativity to find the right one, but it seems to be a hit with our kids and gets away from the 'material' gift giving that seems to consume America today."

So let ACW help you get a jump on your gifts for 2022!

Mark your calendars: The ACW February 11-13 festivities begin with Friday night's access to the silent auction items while tasting wine and/or sipping bourbon, and proceed through Saturday's Burgers, Beers & Bidding compliments of the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce and the NetJets display at the Airport. For those in the room, there will be cocktails, dinner, the Live Auction and dancing Saturday night, and on Sunday, it will be time to claim your winning bids.

Most importantly, after the final gavel has dropped, the monies raised will not only

help ensure the viability of the not-for-profit institutions important to Ocean Reef – the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association – but critically, through grants from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, provide much-needed funds to worthy charities focused on youth, education, community, and health and family services in the form of financial grants to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City.

Curious to know more, or anxious to discuss "Buy It Now" possibilities for one of the auction items you simply must have? Contact All Charities at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@OceanReef.com. For additional information, visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org.

Over \$50 million has been donated since All Charities began in 2008 – that is a giving tradition worth celebrating, sustaining, and building upon.