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A Unique Way of Life

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All Charities says "Cheers and Thank You, Ocean Reef!"

By Sarah A. Cart

When **Michael Berman**, vice chairman of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, recently shared the totals raised through this season's All Charities efforts, he declared, "Ocean Reef's Tradition of Giving is back – with a vengeance!"

As he congratulated All Charities Weekend (ACW) co-chairs **Adele Acheson** and **Diane Hill**, he explained that the 2022 event "broke the record for most records broken." First is the \$2,295,000 raised

at the Feb. 12 Live Auction (the previous record had been \$1,835,000). Next was the money brought in that night by a single offering: \$480,000 for the African Safari with Diane and Keith Hill thanks to their

generously agreeing to sell it three times, for \$160,000 a pop.

Meanwhile the Silent Auction, co-chaired by **Anne Marie Peretz**, **Barbara Olcott** and **Kelly Hertzman**, generated \$1,717,571, a 28 percent increase over the previous record. And the largest amount ever raised by a single Silent Auction item was \$110,000 for the Augusta Signature Jacket, featuring the autograph of 25 champions who have won a total of 48 times at Augusta, including every winner from 1971 through 2007. That prize was donated by **Dan** and **Julie Cronin**, and as Dan points out, "Only at Ocean Reef can you donate a unique sports item and then experience the joy

of witnessing the last-minute bidding frenzy of charitable Members!"

Finally, the total in cash donations was \$1,529,302, 20 percent more than the previous high. (And the catalog was 25 percent bigger, too!)

Richard Weinstein, president and COO of the Foundation, calls all this "the blessing of 'enough,'" as he credits the commitment of ORC's Members.

"We do nothing without them. The way they raised their paddles was an astonishing, amazing and remarkable show of their belief in the Club's Unique Way of Life. Not only will their generosity enable ORCF to fund every All Charities partner – the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League,

ORCAT and Conservation Association – to their needs so they can regain their pre-Covid momentum, it also means the ORCF Board, with its focus on youth, education, community, and health and family services, can expand its much-needed support of worthy charities to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City, empowering people and helping others to be self-sufficient."

Details of those distributions will be forthcoming in the next couple weeks.

Also deserving of applause are ACW's 16 Preferred Partners, whose steady and loyal support through their cash and auction item donations ensured that the monies raised at the Silent and Live Auctions will enable ORCF to give *100 percent of the*

donations made by Club Members to non-profits. In alphabetical order, those Partners are Baer's Furniture; Barton & Gray Mariners Club; Baptist Health South Florida; Grand Craft Boats; Haute Explore; John & Mary Lee's Fine Wine Society; Lester Lampert Jewellers; Lexus of Kendall/Lexus of West Kendall; Magnolia Blossom Wines; Marsh McLennan Agency, Private Client Services; NetJets; Northern Trust; Ocean Reef Club Sotheby's International Realty; Seabourn Cruise Line; Somerset Charters; and Wheels Up.

As Adele Acheson and Diane Hill pointed out four months ago, "This community has a tradition of making miracles happen."

Thank you, everyone, for doing it again.