

Foundation Offers COVID-19 Relief Fund, Half Million Dollar Match



by Yurianna Mikolay,
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Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has established a COVID-19 Relief Fund to aid our neighbors impacted by the pandemic in Monroe County, Homestead and Florida City. For each \$100,000 the community raises, the donor will make a matching

\$100,000 available, up to \$500,000.

"This extraordinary match offer presents a significant opportunity for the Ocean Reef community to step up and play a meaningful role in relief efforts for the Keys and surrounding communities," according to Foundation Chairman **Bill Nutt**.

"Even before we all realized the enormity of this crisis, many Members had already reached out to see how they could help," Foundation VP and All Charities Chairman **Michael Berman**, who is now also chairing the COVID-19 Relief Fund, recounts. "Over the past 12 years I have been blessed to witness the generosity of this community, it is part of the DNA of the Members of Ocean Reef."

Berman describes the COVID-19 Relief Committee who will disburse the funds, comprised of Foundation Board

Directors and staff, as "very lean and adept." The members are Chairman **Bill Nutt**, Chairman Emeritus **Alan Goldstein**, Grants Committee Chair **Janie Sims**, **Rob Daugherty**, **Teresa Holmes** and Executive Director Yuri Mikolay.

The committee's initial efforts are focused on stopgap measures to meet basic needs while they assess the impact of government relief packages. These include hunger relief efforts and programs that vet individual applications for assistance, which are ideal for members to share with those in need. Staff is carefully monitoring changing needs through weekly meetings with Monroe County Health & Human Services Providers, ongoing collaboration with other funders and daily outreach to our many nonprofit partners in both areas.

Berman calls the generosity of the match offer "a real

inspiration" and an opportunity to be a part of something that will have a significant impact for the committee and community as a whole. He encourages Members to join the donor family and seize on that opportunity, noting that ... "Now that we have this matching donation in place, every dollar that is donated will have double the impact!"

To make a tax-deductible donation 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.