

Healthcare, Heroes & Hunger Relief



by Yurianna Mikolay, Executive Director Ocean Reef Community Foundation

"The Foundation's Covid-19 Relief Fund has been able to provide effective relief efforts with immediate impact to the hardest hit, and most dire situations," reports the committee's Chairman **Michael Berman**. He credits the match funding offered by an Ocean Reef family and "an exceptional committee" (including **Rob Daugherty, Alan Goldstein, Teresa Holmes, Bill Nutt and Janie Sims**) that responds to requests in minutes rather than days. He says that fact "let us provide an immediate

safety net for our surrounding communities". Last week's "good news" article detailed many of those first projects.

News on the Hunger Relief Effort

We have since donated two refrigerated containers to FarmShare which are already cooling produce from Homestead for food pantries. We also have now made a significant grant to Feeding South Florida, the region's food bank. Through our partnership with FSF, they will provide a minimum total of about 900,000 pounds of food in major weekly drive-through food distributions in both Homestead and throughout Monroe County over 10 weeks. This grant for a total of 20 distributions has helped Feeding South Florida commit to consistent food events coordinated with Homestead and Monroe County that will enable them and local pantries to plan how to best use their resources.

Help at Homestead Hospital

While Mariners Hospital in the

Keys is currently reporting that they have what they need to deal with their caseload, that is not the case at Homestead Hospital. Here's what we've funded there so far:

For Patients & Families

- Ten iPads to facilitate communication between patients and their families who are not permitted to visit them in person -- not only for COVID-19 patients, but for all patients in the hospital. Heartbreakingly, these are sometimes being used to facilitate patients' final conversations with loved ones.

For Healthcare Heroes supporting the nurses and physicians, including the environment cleaning team, cafeteria workers, transporters etc., all of whom are hourly paid employees:

- Four weeks of childcare for 40 children of essential staff managed by the Early Learning Center
- Four weeks of hotel stays (at very low rates) for staff who are in danger of taking COVID home



Interested in volunteering? Tom and Nanette Watjen spent last Saturday helping out at Homestead Food Pantry. The Watjens asked us to "let everyone know that this is easy work. The cars pull up and you just put the food donations in the trunk."

and infecting their families and are working challenging schedules which may prevent travel back and forth

Join us in supporting relief efforts like these for Monroe County and Homestead and have your gift matched dollar for dollar. Donate at www.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. Questions? Please email foundation@oceanreef.com.



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