

Members Provide the Heart in All Charities' Offerings

By Sarah A. Cart

There was once a bottle of Ripple (a 1970s low-end, low-priced, wine) that raised thousands of dollars – repeatedly – at the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's (ORCF) earliest auctions, and the unopened bottle may still exist. That treasured tale from the gestation of All Charities Weekend (ACW) demonstrates the spirit that continues to prevail: Fun. Unique. Competitive giving. Good laughs. Great causes.

This season, ACW, set for **February 10-12, 2023**, will honor the past (think

"Ripple") and build for the future (think "possibilities").

From the heart:

Over the years, entertaining items offered by Members have included everything from professionally guided birdwatching close to home thanks to **Bill Legg**, to Tour de Reef cycle parties courtesy of **Debbie** and **Bill Hartmann**, and **John** and **Mary Lee's** Cult Wine Dinner, pairing Napa cabernets with the perfect menu.

Diane and **Keith Hill** have reached back to their years living in Africa to put a Kenyan safari on the block three different times. After **Stephanie** and **Ken Karl** participated, they were inspired to help underwrite one more, which proved so popular that in the excitement of the moment, the Hills agreed to honor the three highest bidders with three

separate trips.

As Diane notes, "We love showing people these beautiful animals in their natural setting and letting them see how kind the Kenyan people are, guiding them through the experience and making it as safe and seamless as possible." (Although she's also cautions, "We won't be offering another safari for a while!")

Sheer joy:

Wayne Carlisle and **Gus Hillenbrand** have offered variations on "Two Guys Who Love to Cook" multiple times. Their breakfasts for a crowd are legendary. Gus shares that "Wayne can go to a grocery store with no list and no menu in mind. His eyes get bigger and a huge smile comes on his face as he places STUFF in the cart (sometimes he needs two). By the time we check out, he knows exactly what he'll prepare, and it is ALWAYS TERRIFIC. We both love to cook on Wayne's Japanese Teppanyaki, but when we cook on the same surface together, he tends to hog most of the space ..."

Tons of diplomacy, seeds of friendship:

Betty and **Tom Schievelbein** once offered the opportunity to attend the christening of the John F. Kennedy Aircraft Carrier. As Tom looks back, it was "something unique that normally folks would not have an opportunity to

witness. The best part for us was seeing the christening through the eyes of the winning bidders and making new friends as a result."

Through the years, unique Member-curated experiences large and small have helped the Ocean Reef Community Foundation foster miracles. Creative ideas and offerings are always welcome. Perhaps the 12 Days of All Charities emails that will begin arriving this coming week will inspire you! Have an idea? Call the All Charities office at 305-367-5996.

A great cause:

All Charities has raised over \$50 million since 2008, enabling ORCF to provide financial grants with an emphasis on youth, education, community, and health and family services to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City, as well as support and strengthen the non-profit entities vital to our "unique way of life" here on The Reef: the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association.

To learn more, visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org.