

The All Charities Ripple Effect



by Sarah A. Cart

As the new year and All Charities Weekend (ACW, this season **February 10-12, 2023**) approach, let's glance back and ponder the power of the "Ripple effect." And "Competitive bidding." And "Having fun while doing good."

Last spring, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) awarded 75 grants totaling \$1,742,984, and since ACW's beginnings in 2008, the number of grant requests from nonprofit organizations that assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo,



Homestead and Florida City has grown to over 100. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

ACW's continuing evolution, from the activities of the weekend through what's offered at the Silent and Live

auctions, is what makes this possible. The items that go on the block are generously donated by Members, All Charities Preferred Partners, and 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, each of which benefits as well). (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

That means that everyone interested in bidding will find something that sparks joy. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

New in 2023: Curious to learn more about wine? Then be one of the first when early bidding opens on Feb. 3 to add your name to the First Dibs list for "A Day with the Wine Academy" – earn your WSET Level 1 and depart class with some of Bordeaux's finest Grand Cru to taste and test at home. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

Or marvel at this three-couple food and wine adventure and raise your paddle high at the Gala on Feb. 11: First, invite three other couples to join you as you gather this spring in CH Prime's new Cellar Room for a specially curated dinner and a tasting of the top nine wines

of Bordeaux from the 2017 Duclot Bordeaux Collection (including Petrus, one of the finest reds in the world). Then come summer, the six of you will travel with Ethan Dupree, your personal concierge and sommelier, for a week in southwestern France at the hub of that famed wine region. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

Speaking of travel, you can also bid on new experiences in East Asia (one package, three amazing locations: Istanbul, the Maldives and Sri Lanka), Antarctica (penguins, whales and icebergs – oh, my!), London (three nights and seeing Elton John perform live in his *Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour*, with a backstage meet & greet), New York City (dinner, the theatre, a luxury spa outing, and U.S. Open "Tennis, anyone?") and Tuscany (think "touring" and "wine tastings"), plus for White Lotus fans, an amazing week in Sicily. And so much more. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

New items closer to home include custom shirts and blouses from the Tom James Company, limited edition ORC Rummikub, delicious meals with awesome chefs to be enjoyed with friends old and new, and nautical adventures on Ocean Reef's waters. (*Ripple ... ripple ...*).

For your calendar: Friday, Feb. 3, online bidding. Friday evening a week later, Feb. 10, Wine & Bourbon Tasting & Silent Auction Showcase. Saturday daytime, the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce's Burgers, Beers & Bidding and a NetJets display. And Saturday night: Dinner, dancing and the Live Auction. And at 10:30 p.m., the close of online bidding.

Questions? Call the All Charities office at 305-367-5996, and/or visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org.

This new year, resolve to be a part of the Ripple effect – when the time comes to bid, don't hold back!