

The All Charities Countdown



by Sarah A. Cart

Behind-the-scenes arrangements are progressing fast and furiously for the **Feb. 10 and 11** All Charities Weekend (ACW) and its Live and Silent auctions. With **online bidding and "First Dibs" opening a week from today**, now's the time to think about your team and prepare strategies so when your catalog (as large as ever) arrives, you can initiate your action plan.

Once again, the collection of items offered will include myriad amazing opportunities – that means it's time to prepare to honor the past by doing once again what Ocean Reef has repeatedly proven it does so well:

Bid early, often and outrageously, all for a great cause.

From gourmet gatherings, phenomenal golf rounds, fabulous fishing, spectacular cruises and cultural opportunities here and abroad, shopping sprees from the practical to the extravagant, artworks, wines and jewelry, every Ocean Reef Member can find a way to take part.

To post the winning bid for some of these items you will just have to be lucky, but for others, it will help to plan ahead and gather a crew together. Many of each year's offerings, from First Dibs dinners to opportunities to indulge in lobster or duck to once-in-a-lifetime trips domestic and abroad, are more than meals or adventures to be had, wines consumed or miles to be traveled – they're opportunities to deepen friendships and strengthen our Ocean Reef community.

Imagine: Multiple options for visiting Europe, for wine, for food, for golf. Eight nights in

Africa or 12 nights in East Asia for four. The Indy 500 for four. N'Orleans twice, once for jazz, another for Mardi Gras. New York City for dinner, theatre and tennis. Fishing in the Seychelles. Two different Kentucky experiences, each for three couples and three nights: Bid on horses or bourbon (or both)!

If you'd rather bid singly or as a pair without leaving The Reef, you can sign up for a sommelier class, night golf on the Dolphin Course, the Napa Cult Wine Dinner, or the Sunset (Strip) Cay party when dozens of the Reefers who live in that neighborhood will take over Carysfort in November to kick off the All Charities season. Or plan to play golf or tennis or pickleball, invest in a bike, a smoker, or an inflatable paddleboard. Go birdwatching. See Roger Daltrey or Steve Miller Band here at the Cultural Center, or *Wicked* at the Adrienne Arsht Center.

Why do we do this?

To enable the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's distribution of financial grants to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City plus local entities vital to Ocean Reef: The Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association. Thanks to everyone's generosity, over \$50 million has been distributed since 2008.

For your calendar: Next Friday morning, 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? Visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org, or contact All Charities at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@OceanReef.com.

The All Charities tradition at T minus two weeks? Strategize. (Good luck befalls those who build for the future).