

## COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS UPPER KEYS CENTER OPEN FOR LEARNING!

After half a dozen years of championing the cause, we are thrilled to announce that the College of the Florida Keys (CFK) new Upper Keys Center is finally a reality. Prominently positioned at MM106 on the Overseas Highway, the new 38,000 square-foot Upper Keys Center offers bachelor's and associates degrees as well as workforce training opportunities for the people and businesses of north Monroe County.



The Foundation donated \$1 million in 2020 for the center. Our CFK UKC Committee – chaired by **Bill Nutt** and comprised of **Jim Anderton, Michael Berman, Tom Davidson Sr., Alan Goldstein, Ed Hajim, and Steve Markel** – secured an additional \$1.25 million in pledges from generous community members to help make it happen

The new campus, which replaces designated classroom space at Coral Shores High School, provides the necessary space for twice as many students. The UKC features nursing labs, a bio-chemical lab, apprenticeship labs, an auditorium and a Learning Resource Center. It also houses a testing center, which provides access to thousands of professional testing and certification exams.

CFK gave a heartfelt thank you to Friends at Ocean Reef Club, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, and many more who helped make this big idea become a reality at the Center's on-time grand opening in August.

Sharing his gratitude, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra said, "This is only the beginning, but it is a beginning that represents hope and opportunity that results in social and economic mobility for our entire upper Keys community. Thanks to our friends from the Ocean Reef Community and the EDA, CFK opened the doors to expanded higher education opportunities in the Upper Keys. CFK is fortunate to have great support from the Ocean Reef Community."

Programs offered in the inaugural semester include nursing, paramedics, business administration, supervision and management, construction technologies, hospitality management, public safety and general studies. Not only will the new campus train local people with skills needed at Ocean Reef and allow existing employees to gain skills, a community that offers affordable higher education attracts and retains motivated, skilled workers and their families. Case in point, ORC Chef Philippe Reynaud attended the opening with his 18-year-old daughter Monique (pictured) who plans to earn her AA at the new campus as part of her path to becoming an elementary school teacher.



Visit the College's website at [www.cfk.edu/UKC](http://www.cfk.edu/UKC) to explore the exciting opportunities available at the Upper Keys Center.



*The CFK Upper Keys Center Grand Opening on August 5th was a great day for the Upper Keys! Seen there celebrating are (from left to right): Medical Center at OR CEO Keith Young, Ocean Reef Club Chef Philippe Reynaud, CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, ORCF Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay, Medical Center at OR COO Chris Grant and CFK's Dr. Carla Fry, who coordinated student nurses for OR's vaccination program.*

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

By William J. Nutt, Chairman

It was just over ten years ago when we were all first introduced to the idea that the Club operated on a financial model of a "Three-Legged Stool." This idea was easy to grasp, that the Club's success stemmed from the benefit of having Equity Members, Social Members and Conference Group Business. Mike Sullivan, a past Club Chairman and current ORCA Board Member, took that a step further noting that there was a "Sweet Spot" where the appropriate balance between these three would deliver the best overall Membership experience. With those limits defined, a cap was placed on the amount of group business during the winter season and a Social Member Waitlist began.

Today, this model still delivers the best experience for the Club amenities but it also supports and delivers benefits for a different kind of "Three-Legged Stool," one that is focused on the Community as a whole. Here the three entities the Ocean Reef Club, the Ocean Reef Community Association and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, work in concert to create a private community like no other.

We see the Club delivering outstanding member experiences in the areas of dining, fishing, yachting, shopping, golf and tennis. Really the family fun events and sporting activities that have earned the Club a recognized distinction as a Platinum Club of America for many years.

At the same time, the Ocean Reef Community Association is focused on the safety and security for the Community, the Members and their families. They manage the ability for our children and grandchildren to drive a golf cart. They ensure safety on the roads for all, respond to a medical or fire emergency in minutes all while keeping a consistent look and feel to the community through the Architectural Committee.

This now brings us to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Through the efforts of our All Charities "One Ask, One Give" initiative, we not only support a full slate of dozens of charities in the surrounding communities, we also provide the primary fundraising for a number of non-profits within the community. These deliver the intellectual and cultural experiences to our Membership. Theater, live shows, a museum and library from the Cultural Center, education for our children and grandchildren from the Academy, art and creative learning from the Art League, our health and physical therapy from the Medical Center, protection for our precious surrounding environment through the Conservation Association and even feral

cat management and adoption from ORCAT.

If we were watching a Marvel® Action movie we would see these three organizations as superheroes that come together to deliver something even more powerful, for us it is what the Club appropriately promotes as our Unique Way of Life. And this idea was also formed over ten years ago when Bob Schmetterer, also a past Chairman of the Club and longtime Chairman of the Club's Marketing Committee, wrote the support for our Club's Brand Vision that first talked about this Unique Way of Life including these three organizations.

So much has changed in the last ten years, yet the many traditions and Member passions in our Club and Community remain the same. Chief among them is the desire to do more for the community of Ocean Reef and to make a meaningful difference for the nearby communities where, along with their families, so many of the workers, associates and employees of these three organizations live.

Lately we have seen many wonderful examples of what doing more means. The recent opening of the Upper Keys Center for the College of the Florida Keys that we see featured on our front cover was a meaningful collaboration with the Foundation for financial support and the Club for helping to select the type of classes that could most benefit our current associates, as well as those in the community that could benefit and perhaps become associates of the Club or ORCA in the future.

Another interesting collaboration between the Club, ORCA and the Foundation was also seen in the creation of Greenberg Park. With ORCA's Management and the Club's commitment of funds to build the gazebo on this special bay-front property provided by a generous donation through the Foundation. We also see these collaborations in times of emergencies, such as our comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well. Most recently the earthquake in Haiti had another impact on the lives of many Club Associates and their families that are still living in Haiti. Members already recognize the value these associates bring to their experience here and reached out to the Club and the Foundation to donate in this time of need. The Foundation's Executive Director Yuri Mikolay put together a plan that was focused on healthcare in the hardest hit and remote areas of the Island with high concentrations of employee families. This included vetting select organizations to ensure they had long term stability in Haiti and could begin immediate action if they were funded by the Member's donations through the Foundation.

Your community foundation provides that same level

of research and expertise for our Donor Advised Funds (DAF). We have the long-standing involvement in our local communities and can provide the best advice and counsel on where distributions from your Ocean Reef Community Foundation managed DAF will make the most significant impact toward the causes that matter the most to you. We are likely one of the only community foundations that provides fee free DAFs. It is a wonderful way to benefit from the tax advantages available when opening a DAF, while at the same time ensuring you have the most effective way to connect to the surrounding communities adjacent to Ocean Reef. With no fees even more of your donation can be used to help fund your philanthropic goals.

To do all this does take an ongoing commitment from the Membership. Some Members provide their time in addition to their financial commitment like our Trustees, Board of Directors and Committee Members. This strong volunteer base provides the strength we need to make the right



Haiti Disaster Relief Fund  
2021 Earthquake Grants to Date

ESPWA  
\$25,000

Haiti Development Institute of  
The Boston Foundation  
\$25,000

Haitian Health Foundation  
\$10,000

Health Equity International  
(for St. Boniface Hospital)  
\$10,000

Hope for Haiti  
\$25,000

Pointe Sable En Action  
\$25,000

**Total \$120,000**

Please watch the *Ocean Reef Press* and our e-Link for a complete report of Haiti Disaster Relief Fund Grants.



decisions for our grants. They also provide valuable feedback and input on the best way to invest our funds for larger projects that have a greater impact on the communities we serve, like the Baptist Hospital Helipad or again, the College of the Florida Keys campus in Key Largo.

Looking toward the future we recently added Richard Weinstein as our foundation president. Most of you already know Richard from his long tenure with the Club and we now look to him to take the Foundation and its All Charities Fundraising event to new heights. All Charities began just before there was a three-legged stool. This is where, in one single weekend event, the Foundation raises all the funds to provide support to these wonderful amenities and charities. We hope that you too, will get involved today and start to play an important role in all that we do. That way, ten years from now, we can look back on the wonderful things we all accomplished together.

We have two years of board changes to report. In 2020 we thanked and recognized retiring directors **Jill Sullivan** and **Carla Wood**. Each served six years on the board, as well as on the Grants and Development Committees, respectively. We were also excited to welcome four new board members in that time: **Jim Anderton**, of our CFK Upper Keys Center Committee, and former All Charities Co-Chair **Teresa Holmes** in 2020; and former All Charities Co-Chair **Cindy Brammer** and All Charities supporter and philanthropist **Jeff Levitez** in 2021.

We also lost two board members, one after a long history with us and another we hoped was just at the beginning of one.

IN MEMORIAM



Just as **Richard T. Farmer** was a "founding father" of Ocean Reef Club, he was also with our Foundation from the earliest days and a stalwart supporter who gave generously of his time and talent over the decades. He served on our Board of Directors and executive leadership committee for more than 22 years while playing an outsize role in our growth and success during that time. Dick Farmer had many successes in life and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation had the great fortune of benefitting from his resulting knowledge, experience, relationships and wisdom. We expect one of the many ways he will live on for generations is through the thousands who will continue to reap the benefits of his work through our Foundation, which is stronger and better thanks to his leadership.



**Linda Johnston** came into her role as a Co-Chair of the 2021 All Charities Weekend during a pandemic that called for almost completely re-inventing the event and she did so with great aplomb. Utilizing her knowledge, connections and passion for Ocean Reef she met the uncertain and unprecedented challenge with creativity and strong determination to make it a success for the nonprofits who needed it now more than ever. Moving from behind the scenes, she stepped in with a vibrant and polished performance, co-hosting the film that served as our first ever virtual event. We celebrate her in the coverage of the resulting successful All Charities event that you see in this issue. Linda was a caring inspiration to our event committee and staff and a hero to the charities we serve which have benefitted so much from her efforts. She will be greatly missed.

## ORCF PANDEMIC RESPONSE REVIEW



By **Michael Berman**,  
COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee Chairman

As with the Hurricane Irma relief effort, it started with a phone call from **Rob Daugherty**. The COVID-19 pandemic took hold and took lives, and Members immediately began to come forward with a desire to help and looked to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to manage the

giving and the grants to assist in the surrounding communities of Monroe County, Florida City and Homestead. It was with great speed and commitment that the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation pledged \$500,000 in matching donations and the COVID-19 Relief Fund was born.

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. With that I agreed to chair the COVID-19 Relief Committee comprised of Foundation Board Directors and staff. We wanted to keep it very lean and adept so we could ensure swift disbursement of funds and ensure those donations were applied where they could have the greatest and most needed, immediate impact.

In addition to myself, the Committee members consisted of the Foundation Chairman **Bill Nutt**, Chairman Emeritus **Alan Goldstein**, Grants Committee Chair **Janie Sims**, **Rob Daugherty**, **Teresa Holmes** and the Executive Director **Yuri Mikolay**. And as we had planned, all of the more than 50 grants were unanimously approved within hours.

With the start of the fund and the amazing match opportunity, we quickly saw exponential growth in the donations. It was a scant few weeks from the first donations arriving to the first disbursements taking place. These initial distributions were quickly put to work as stop gap funding for food distribution and basic needs. This assistance took many forms. Florida Keys Outreach Coalition vetted thousands of individual applications for basic needs.

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More than a dozen hunger relief agencies were funded to feed families with everything from drive-through food distributions, to grocery gift cards to refrigerated trucks for farm distribution.

Meanwhile the fund continued to grow from seeing close to \$800,000 granted in the first eight months and collecting almost \$1.4 million since its inception to date. With that additional funding and the most basic support to innovative projects like St. Peter's Fleet, which kept fisherman employed and used their catch to feed those in need, while the Keys were closed to all visitors; the Committee began to shift their focus in preparation for the coming vaccine.

With the funding available and the existing relationship with the College of the Florida Keys and their nursing program, plans were offered to these same surrounding communities to support implementation of mass vaccination centers and special vaccine outreach. Vaccination numbers reaching a plateau prompted the Committee to refocus their efforts on combatting vaccine hesitancy and misinformation and championing education. To do so a new partnership was formed with both the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami and the United Way. Between these organizations the remaining funds could be better applied to continue the fight against COVID-19 and the growing concerns with the new Delta variant.

The fight is not over, but with the amazing generosity of the Membership along with the operational guidance from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, we know the number of lives we have touched in the surrounding communities is unsurpassed for such a short timeframe. We also know that these communities are what enrich our lives at Ocean Reef. Whether it is a family member of a Club or ORCA associate, or one of our many other support services such as contractors and caregivers for our families, we are all grateful for the generosity of this Membership, that continues to share the many good fortunes we all enjoy.

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## COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants Report

"There's no question that the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund played a critical role in meeting basic needs in the wake of the pandemic and speeding and expanding access to vaccinations and related education in our surrounding communities," according to Executive Director Yuri Mikolay. She credits the close cooperation of dozens of local organizations and county/state officials on weekly calls for both social services and hunger relief agencies for more than a year and half, which continue monthly to this day, to identify constantly changing needs. Relationships and coordination with donors and funders were also key to adequately covering needs countywide. Grants totaling more than \$1.38 million were made over 20+ months, as follows chronologically:

\$729,980	Hunger Relief
	Family Services & Direct Assistance
	Medical Support, Vaccinations
	Education & Incentives
+ \$656,525	
<b>\$1,386,505</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

*During the shutdown, you provided a safety net with food and emergency financial aid.*

**Florida Keys Outreach Coalition COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund**  
\$276,000 Total in seven grants over 12+ months  
The cornerstone of our relief effort, which allowed us to refer individuals for assistance. Vetted applications to provide small grants of up to \$250 a month to cover basic necessities like medication, utilities, transportation and childcare directly to thousands of individuals, including numerous furloughed Ocean Reef employees from both areas.

**Feeding South Florida**  
\$100,000 Dozens of mass drive-thru food distributions in both Homestead and throughout Monroe County and biweekly deliveries to accommodate Keys pantries with limited storage capacity.

**Star of the Sea**  
\$20,000\* Initial grant for hunger-relief efforts throughout Monroe County  
\$48,000\* Publix gift cards to supplement pantry offerings when adequate food was not available to buy.

**Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition**  
\$5,000\* Baby formula  
\$20,000\* Van to deliver needs and transport high-risk expectant mothers, infants and children for medical care

**FarmShare**  
\$23,380 Two used refrigerated containers to preserve unpicked crops for distribution to food pantries.

\$3,600 Payments to Fishbusterz Retail, LLC to cover costs to deliver rescued produce in their donated refrigerated trucks to food pantries throughout the Keys

**United Way of Collier and the Keys**  
\$2,500 Computer platform to assist Monroe County agencies including FKOC in vetting and managing virtual applications

**Additional Smaller Keys Food Pantries & Meal Programs (\$37,500)**

- \$1,000 **Big Coppitt First Baptist Church**
- \$10,000 **Burton Memorial UMC**
- \$10,000 **FKOC Fishes & Loaves Pantry**
- \$1,000 **First Baptist Church of Key Largo**
- \$1,000 **First Baptist Church of Islamorada**
- \$10,000 **Keys Area Interdenominational Resources (KAIR)**
- \$1,000 **Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church**
- \$2,500 **Metropolitan Community Church Cooking with Love**
- \$1,000 **St. Peter Catholic Church**

**Additional Meal and Assistance Programs in Homestead/Florida City (\$30,000)**

- \$5,000 **Branches Florida City**
- \$15,000 **Homestead Food Pantry**
- \$5,000 **Greater Miami Youth for Christ**
- \$5,000 **Touching Miami With Love**

**Star of the Sea St. Peter's Fleet Project**  
\$100,000 Including \$50,000 from the ORCF Lovett-Woodsum Fund.  
Named for the patron saint of fishermen, this project put dozens of unemployed fishermen back to work full-time providing high quality protein to hunger relief efforts Keys-wide when protein was very difficult to purchase.

**Baptist Health South Florida Foundation**  
\$22,250 Healthcare Heroes program and tablets for patients to communicate with family  
\$50,000\* Oximeters to avoid hospitalizations at Homestead & Mariners Hospital

**Monroe County School District**  
\$25,500 Wifi hotspots where needed to facilitate virtual learning.

**Florida Keys Area Health Education Center**  
\$10,000 Rapid test kits for Monroe County School clinics

**Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.**  
\$6,000 Virtual workshop and support for Monroe County social services providers to help clients avoid eviction

**Wesley House Family Services**  
\$10,000 Holiday Helper gift program for disadvantaged children

*When a vaccine became available you supported initiatives to get doses in people's arms as quickly as possible.*

**College of the Florida Keys Foundation**  
\$45,410\* To support mass vaccination events Keys-wide

**Community Health of South Florida**  
\$42,848\* To support smaller vaccination outreach events in both areas

*Then you enabled us to pivot to educate people and dispel fears to improve the uptake in underserved areas.*

**University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**  
\$250,000 Creation of the ORCF COVID-19 Health Access Fund to concentrate community health workers and efforts to combat vaccine hesitancy in Homestead over 18 months  
\$200,000 from an anonymous Foundation donor

**United Way of Miami-Dade, Inc.**  
\$200,000 To engage non-profit partners for events, programs and transportation to increase vaccine access and education in cooperation with the UM program over 10 months

**Florida Keys Area Health Education Center**  
\$28,700 Numerous live and virtual COVID-19 and vaccine education events for medical professionals, social service providers and the greater community in cooperation with UM

**Monroe County Health Department/School District**  
\$317.85 COVID-19 Youth Vaccination Campaign Art Contest prizes

**Star of the Sea**  
\$20,000\* Continuation of Key West afterschool and backpack child nutrition programs defunded due to COVID-19 demands

**United Way of Collier and the Keys**  
\$7,000 Appreciation program for workers at three Keys hospitals set for International Thank You Day on January 11, 2022

\*Indicates the grant was fully MATCHED by funding partners.



*Thank you*

Cindy Brammer, Tim Brammer and Mary Ann Larkin, Co-Chairs and the 2020 All Charities Weekend Committee



*Thank you*



Dominic DiNapoli & Linda Johnston  
Co-Chairs  
and the 2021  
All Charities Weekend Committee

*All Charities Weekend*  
More now. More than ever.

We hope you recognize the "screenshots" below from the 2021 All Charities Virtual Gala, our well-received solution to the challenge of not being able to gather together for an in-person Gala & Live Auction due to the pandemic. A huge thank you to Ocean Reef Club-member and our favorite son of a son of a sailor, Jimmy Buffet, who generously agreed to welcome viewers in the video and perform two songs. Silver linings!

**2022 PREVIEW**



2022 Co-Chairs  
**Adele Acheson and Diane Hill**

*All Charities Weekend*

Online bidding starts  
Friday, February 4 at [bidORC.org](http://bidORC.org)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
Opening Night Wine Tasting  
and NEW Bourbon Tasting  
Silent Auction Showcase  
*OpuLLence* by Lester Lampert Jewellers  
4 – 7 p.m. | Carysfort Hall

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
Silent Auction Showcase  
*OpuLLence* by Lester Lampert Jewellers  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Carysfort Hall  
NetJets Aircraft Display  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Ocean Reef Airport  
Burgers, Beers & Bidding  
Compliments of Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce  
Noon – 2 p.m. | Carysfort Hall

*All Charities Gala*  
TICKETS ARE LIMITED

Cocktails and Silent Auction  
*OpuLLence* by Lester Lampert Jewellers  
5:30 p.m. | Carysfort Hall  
Dinner, Live Auction and Dancing  
7 p.m. | Town Hall

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
Silent Auction Item Pick Up  
*OpuLLence* by Lester Lampert Jewellers  
9 a.m.–2 p.m. | Carysfort Hall

[oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org](http://oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org)  
[allcharities@oceanreef.com](mailto:allcharities@oceanreef.com)

2021 ALL CHARITIES EFFORT REPORT

While the circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic were daunting for the All Charities team, they were perilous for our neighboring communities and precarious for the institutions that define and sustain Ocean Reef's Unique Way of Life. The Foundation's Grants Committee had more requests than ever before. Enrollment at the Academy and its associates' scholarships almost doubled. The Medical Center expanded its services adding Urgent Care and a vaccination program. The Cultural Center theater sat empty. Non-profits couldn't gather groups together or fundraise. Thanks to the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community, and despite the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, our All Charities recipient partners received at least what they did in 2019 and 2020, and in some cases – most notably the Medical Center and Foundation Community Grants Program – more.

All Charities Partners	All Charities Weekend 2021	All Charities Fund Gifts via Club Dues	All Charities 2021 Total	2008-2021 14-Year Total
The Academy at Ocean Reef	\$ 507,236	\$ 112,548	\$ 619,784	\$ 6,298,999
Cultural Center at Ocean Reef	\$ 780,363	\$ 173,150	\$ 953,513	\$ 9,703,201
Ocean Reef Art League	\$ 253,619	\$ 56,274	\$ 309,892	\$ 3,430,323
Ocean Reef Community Foundation	\$ 1,389,609	\$ 225,095	\$ 1,614,704	\$ 12,554,964
Ocean Reef Conservation Association	\$ 253,619	\$ 56,274	\$ 309,892	\$ 3,424,902
Ocean Reef Medical Center Foundation	\$ 1,310,892	\$ 229,424	\$ 1,540,316	\$ 12,604,407
ORCAT	\$ 187,014	\$ 12,986	\$ 200,000	\$ 807,103
Special Projects: Baptist Hospital Helipad	\$ 100,000	-	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000
Future Special Projects/Impact Fund	-	-	-	\$ 851,667*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 4,782,351</b>	<b>\$ 865,750</b>	<b>\$ 5,648,101</b>	<b>\$ 50,175,566</b>

\* Subject to change due to potential pandemic-related refunds on unfulfilled auction items.

ORCF Community Grants to Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys Charities

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City as a result of the Ocean Reef community's generous participation in the 2021 All Charities effort. The Foundation Community Grants Program funds dozens of worthy charities in the interest areas of Education, Youth, and Health & Family Services each spring. After months of careful vetting, a Grants Committee of your peers recommended the Foundation's share of All Charities proceeds (combined with additional donations to the Community Grants Fund) be distributed as follows:

<b>ACT4Me</b>	<b>Camillus House</b>	<b>City Year Miami</b>
Therapy programs for Homestead/Florida City children with neurological and genetic disorders \$35,000	CHEER educational initiative to assist formerly homeless children in attending school and catching up with peers \$15,000	Holistic Student Assessment Pilot Program at Redlands Middle School \$20,000
<b>Adrienne Arshat Center for the Performing Arts</b>	<b>Caring for Miami</b>	<b>The College of the Florida Keys</b>
Learning through the Arts curriculum and live performance field trip for 5th graders in Homestead/Florida City Title I schools \$15,000	Project Smile Mobile Dental Unit visits for the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City \$40,000	COVID-related Financial & Academic Student Support \$60,000
<b>The ARC of South Florida</b>	<b>Centro Campesino</b>	<b>Community Health of South Florida</b>
Roof repairs, ramps and turf projects at three Homestead/Florida City school facilities \$17,881	COVID-19 Pandemic Direct Emergency Financial Assistance \$25,000	Children's Crisis Center inpatient facility for children with severe Mental Health issues, at risk of harming themselves or others \$25,000
<b>Autism Society of the Keys</b>	<b>Chapman Partnership</b>	<b>DMF Employment Opportunities</b>
Technology and therapy for autistic youth \$10,000	Mentoring Program at the Parent Institute at the Family Resource Center for families transitioning from homelessness \$10,000	Employment initiative for Homestead/Florida City individuals with intellectual and development disabilities \$15,000
<b>Branches Florida City</b>	<b>Chapters Health Foundation</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Shelter</b>
Grow & Climb teen leadership development and employment mentoring program \$25,000	Towards re-establishing a nonprofit Hospice and Palliative Care program in Monroe County (absent since Hospice VNA of the Florida Keys closed after Hurricane Irma) \$50,000	Prevention programs for Upper Keys youth and training for key providers of youth services \$10,000
Tax Preparation/VITA and Savings Champion program for families \$25,000	<b>The Children's Alliance</b>	<b>Faith Church of the Redlands School</b>
<b>Burton Memorial United Methodist Church</b>	Clothing & Resource Hub for Families in Need \$20,000	New desks for middle and high school classrooms for special needs students \$5,640
Food Pantry: Refrigerated truck usage to enable pick up of perishable donations from local grocery stores \$7,200	<b>Family Central</b>	<b>Feeding South Florida</b>
Pre-School: Summer Enrichment Program \$7,000	Expansion of the Benefits Enrollment Program to support vulnerable families in Homestead and Florida City \$25,000	Food delivery and distribution to six partner pantries in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys \$120,803
		Year-round "Backpack" weekend meals for disadvantaged children in the Upper Keys pre-schools \$10,816
		<b>Florida Impact to End Hunger</b>
		Creation of the Homestead Food Access Coalition in alliance with Baptist Homestead Hospital and the City of Homestead to address root causes of food insecurity, poor nutrition and untapped federal food programs \$22,676
		<b>Florida Keys Area Health Education</b>
		In-school primary medical services program at Key Largo School and Coral Shores High School \$25,000
		<b>Florida Keys Children's Shelter</b>
		Recreation, Life Skills and Education Coaching Programs \$50,000
		<b>Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association</b>
		Unfunded needs for children in Foster Care in the Upper Keys \$15,000
		<b>Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition</b>
		Upper Keys Child Safety Equipment, Early Childhood Education and Prenatal/Postpartum Support programs \$32,000
		<b>Florida Keys Outreach Coalition</b>
		Quick Assist program to prevent homelessness \$7,500
		<b>Genesis Hopeful Haven</b>
		Housing solutions for Homestead/Florida City youth aging out of foster care \$42,000
		<b>Good Health Clinic</b>
		Program to get donated medications through pharmaceutical assistance program, national aggregate supplies and discounted distributor rates \$8,128
		<b>Greater Miami Youth for Christ</b>
		Teen Indigenous Leaders development and employment mentoring program at West Homestead KIX \$41,000
		<b>Greater Miami Youth Symphony</b>
		Music lessons program at schools in Homestead/Florida City \$7,500
		<b>Guidance/Care Center</b>
		Computerized assessment tool for diagnosing ADHD in children and adults in the Upper Keys \$14,790
		<b>Guitars Over Guns Organization</b>
		Music instruction programs and mentors for at-risk Homestead/Florida City youth \$25,000
		<b>Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys</b>
		Towards building two of four affordable housing units at Key Heights in Islamorada \$50,000
		<b>Health Information Project</b>
		Peer-to-peer, comprehensive Health Education Program at four Homestead High Schools \$25,000
		<b>ICU Baby</b>
		Transportation Assistance Support to enable Upper Keys and Homestead/Florida City families to visit their babies in NICU in Miami hospitals \$15,180
		<b>Jacobs Aquatic Center</b>
		Bathroom updates and ADA Chair Lift at Key Largo Community Pool \$15,000
		<b>Key Largo School</b>
		AVID college readiness program, college trips and teacher training \$9,700
		Transportation for the 5th grade class to participate in the Arshat Center Learning Through the Arts performance \$1,000
		<b>Kids 4 Kids USA</b>
		Red Cross Certified Water Safety/Swim Program for youth with special needs \$5,950
		<b>Kids Come First in the Florida Keys</b>
		School supplies, basic and seasonal needs for disadvantaged Upper Keys youth \$7,500
		<b>Kristi House</b>
		Emergency Client Needs and establishment of Homestead Drop-In Center for Trafficked Kids \$19,500
		<b>MARC House</b>
		Materials and furniture to outfit an outdoor space for the Monroe Association of RemARCable Citizens – Upper Keys Group Home \$5,000
		<b>MCEF Take Stock in Children</b>
		College scholarships (matched by the Florida Pre-Paid College Foundation) for Upper Keys youth mentoring program \$75,000
		<b>Mexican American Council</b>
		College & Career Readiness program for seniors from families of farm workers at Homestead high schools \$26,750
		<b>Miami Dade College</b>
		"New Normal" Hospitality Training Program at the Homestead Campus \$42,500 MR
		<b>Miami Lighthouse for the Blind</b>
		Children's Vision Program for 800 in both service areas \$10,000
		<b>The Motivational Edge</b>
		The Transition to Adulthood Program for Homestead youth aging out of foster care \$10,000
		<b>MUJER</b>
		Breaking the Secret Workshops with University of Miami and follow up therapy for 40+ abused children \$48,316
		<b>Ocean Studies (Public) Charter School</b>
		Flying Start to Literacy program to help close the "learning loss gap" for students behind due to the pandemic \$14,625
		<b>PATCHES PPEC</b>
		Taking Medical Records of Pediatric Day-care from paper to digital for efficiency and cost savings \$32,591 MR
		<b>ProjectArt</b>
		Youth art education program at the Homestead Public Library \$5,000
		<b>Redlands Christian Migrants Association</b>
		Replacement of unsafe, failing playground equipment \$12,500 MR
		<b>South Florida Council of Boy Scouts</b>
		Scouting expenses for disadvantaged youth in the Homestead area \$20,000
		<b>South Florida Science Center &amp; Aquarium</b>
		Bringing the Science Passport educational program to Title I elementary schools in Homestead/Florida City and the Upper Keys \$25,000
		<b>Special Olympics Florida Monroe County</b>
		Programs to serve 284 Upper Keys individuals with intellectual disabilities \$18,000
		<b>St. John's Episcopal School</b>
		25 laptops for Coding & Computer Engineering Program \$6,225
		<b>St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church</b>
		Replacement of school's failing decking, stairs and fencing for safety \$11,350
		<b>Star of the Sea Outreach Mission</b>
		Upper Keys Hunger Relief Program \$36,000
		<b>Start Off Smart</b>
		Homestead Police Department "See Something, Say Something" Youth Community Service Campaign \$19,902
		Two Police Academy Scholarships for locals committed to serving in the Homestead Police Department \$15,000
		<b>Three Virtues Organization</b>
		Freezer and used box truck to increase capacity of Homestead food pantry \$13,292
		<b>TIPS</b>
		Florida Keys Youth Basketball League \$6,000
		<b>Touching Miami with Love (West Homestead Site)</b>
		Youth Development Job Training Program \$25,000
		<b>United Way of Collier and the Keys</b>
		Expansion of the Early Literacy Program to the Upper Keys to an additional 60 pre-school children \$9,000
		<b>VOICES for Florida Keys Children</b>
		Children's Welfare Program to assist families through the 16th Judicial Court Guardian Ad Litem \$7,500
		<b>Wellspring Counseling</b>
		Homestead & Upper Keys Counseling Financial Aid Program \$20,000
		<b>YMCA of South Florida</b>
		Homestead Afterschool Program scholarships \$2,500*
		Key Largo Summer Camp and Afterschool Program scholarships \$55,000

MR = Match Required

\*To be combined with \$17,500 awarded last year and held for this year's program for a total of \$20,000

**Total 2021 Community Grants: \$1,605,815**

**Grants Committee  
2021-2022**

Janie Sims, Chair

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Patty Davidson | Kathie Markel |
| Rob Daugherty  | Linda Owens   |
| Alan Goldstein | Amy Upjohn    |
| Marie Jacobs   | Kathy Weiland |
| Ken Karl       | Steve Woodsum |
| Cynthia Lee    |               |

Our hats go off to the nonprofit organizations in our surrounding communities which have stepped up to meet unprecedented need, often while completely reinventing the ways they deliver services and fundraise for safety. The 2021 annual grants cycle was like no other before it. To accommodate the uncertainty and hazards of the pandemic, exceptions to our application deadline were made, our Grants Committee's meetings and usual site visits went virtual, and our grant distributions were expedited. Our committee is very grateful that virtual fundraising went well and to have gone completely online with our grant application and management system the prior year, setting us up as remarkably well equipped to go virtual. It is always important to note that in addition to vetting prior to funding, the Foundation continues to monitor all projects to completion and beyond and each recipient will submit detailed reporting before being able to apply for further funding. Our virtual follow-up methods have served us well as the timelines and methods for many projects changed dramatically with virus surges and labor and product shortages. As you can see, projects on these pages benefitting Youth, Education, Health & Family Services and Community in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City are well underway and succeeding.

**Act4Me**



A recent testimonial from one of our grantee's mom, "Our son Camilo is a 9-year-old boy with autism since he was 2. He is a very happy boy who now enjoys having sleepovers and recently started playing board games ... I love that because before therapy started thanks to Act4Me, he only wanted to

be alone. I thank you for Camilo's grant, he has improved his communication so much since he started with your program. Thank you for all the support and help to so many families who need it, your contribution makes a big difference in our lives! God bless you!" Rosa Zipa, Camilo's mom — *Maida Berberian-Bignon, Director*

**Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc.**



The Adrienne Arsht Center is so grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation's steadfast support of our arts education programs. Since launching Rock Odyssey over a decade ago, and Kitty Hawk four years ago, the Center has brought over 260,000 5th and 7th graders to Knight Concert Hall to experience the performing arts with these specially commissioned educational works aligned to state standards and district goals. Thank you for enabling us to eliminate financial and geographical barriers, ensuring that all children in Miami-Dade County have access to high-quality performing arts experiences. — *Beth Markowitz, Interim Director of Foundation Relations*

ASK thanks ORCF for its generous \$10,000 grant to provide the care, and special needs, of boys and girls with autism and their families in the Upper Keys. Children of autism are adversely sensitive to changes, adjustments, disasters, and emergency situations. Add COVID, and they are living in a very dangerous environment. This year, ASK provided Sensory Boxes to all Monroe County Police, Firefighters, and first responders. Per public demand, ASK is now placing Sensory Boxes in all Monroe County public and private schools, and daycares, to better assist children with autism when in crisis. — *Jill Campbell, Executive Director*

**Autism Society of the Keys**



**The Arc of South Florida**

Arc's Florida City programs are extremely appreciative of funding received from Ocean Reef Community Foundation. This has been an unusually difficult year in many ways. A staffing shortage combined with many of the remaining staff and children recovering from COVID, and we have not yet spent the funds. However, the funded projects that will improve conditions for the children, in the facilities and on the grounds, will soon be underway. Arc is excited about project completion in the near future and will provide an update soon. Thank you ORCF for your generosity, especially in these hard times. — *Laura Secord, Director of Children & Youth*



**Branches, Inc.**

**Tax Preparation/VITA and Savings Champion program**



Thanks to your generosity, Branches was able to invest in the necessary technology and staffing to provide critical tax preparation services while keeping everyone safe. The need for up-to-date tax filing was highlighted during the pandemic when government relief funding relied on tax returns to determine financial assistance. Using a semi-virtual tax preparation model, Branches was able to offer life-changing opportunities to over 500 taxpayers to receive over \$1.2M in tax refunds, increase savings, and decrease barriers to accessing vital funds through the difficulties of the pandemic. — *Karla Bachmann, Vice President of Financial Wellness*

**Grow & Climb**

There is no space in my house for me to do my virtual college classes. When Kim realized I was doing Zooms in my car she made Branches available to all of the college students to have a quiet place to do classes. I was able to have reliable internet, supplies I needed for classes, snacks to keep me motivated, and people around me to keep me motivated. I made the Dean's List both semesters I did my classes at Branches. I was so frustrated, but with the help of Branches I was actually able to have my best semesters yet! — *Melvin Amaya, 2nd year college student at MDC (Branches Alum)*



**Camillus House, Inc.**

Ocean Reef Community Foundation's investment in the children Camillus House serves in Homestead ensures our community's greatest treasure- our kids, our very future- are taken care of with no need unmet. From enriching extracurriculars to spiffy school uniforms, a diverse cross-section of kids gets to focus on learning and playing and growing strong at a critical time in the pandemic. And it's all thanks to your donors who stepped up to the challenge when it counted most and made ORCF's generous grant award possible. Camillus thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for empowering kids. — *Hilda M. Fernandez, CEO*



**Burton Memorial United Methodist Church**

**Food Pantry**

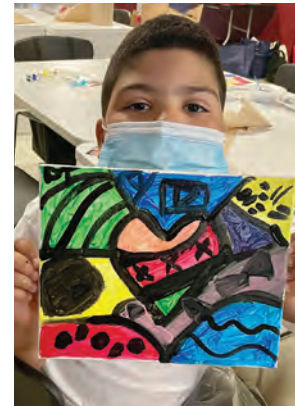
I would like to say thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continuing donation towards our food pantry. Through our perishable donation program, we have been able to secure 14.12 tons of food from Winn Dixie and Publix YTD, an innovative way to recycle food. This picture shows the refrigerated truck paid for by your generosity. On an average week, it makes one to two trips to the stores to collect the week's food donations. Through this program, we provide families with meats, produce, bakery and deli foods that would have otherwise gone to waste. — *Kerry Foote, Pastor*



**Child Development Center**

We are very grateful for your generous donation. We had 18-25 school age children enrolled, the majority of which are from less fortunate families. Their ages range from five to twelve. Most of the parents work in hospitality or landscaping but are unable to give their kids the experiences we can give them with the help of your generous support. Hands on arts and crafts, gardening, and cooking classes are essential learning experiences that the students treasured. Seeing the excitement on these children's faces when we traveled to a cool destination for fieldtrips was also priceless. — *Nilda C. Bernaldez, MM.ED, Director*

**Chapman Partnership, Inc.**



"My heart is happy," that's what children of Chapman's Mentoring Program expressed during a summer painting session with their Mentor. While parents of homeless children are consumed and focused on their family's immediate needs, what these children most lack is a nurturing role model. Through Chapman's Mentoring Program, each child entering one of our Homeless Assistance Centers is supported throughout their Chapman experience and encouraged to put their proud stamp on our world. This session focused on keeping their heart right-side up even if their world around them seems upside down. — *Victoria L. Hopta, Resource Development Officer*

**Chapters Health Hospice of South Florida**

ORCF funding has increased the ability of Chapters Health Hospice of South Florida (CHH) to provide end-of-life care and services to people facing life-limiting illnesses. CHH has already touched several lives through hospice care, the Valor Program, special needs provisions, Memory Bears, and other ways. We are honored to be able to provide a greater quality of life at a unique time in a person's life and support their families, as well. CHH has served 28 patients – 18 of which were Upper Keys residents – conducted two Valor Program veteran pinning events, gifted a Memory Bear, and much more. — *Vivian Dodge, Executive Director*



**City Year**



This pandemic may be unprecedented in its nature and scale, but the problems it has exposed are not. It turns out, we've been doing what really matters. City Year Miami's focus on integrated academic and social-emotional skill development is a critical component of students' successful recovery from interrupted schooling and disruption caused by the pandemic. The incredible support from Ocean Reef has allowed City Year teams to support students utilizing Holistic Student Assessment in their virtual and in-person learning alongside our school partners at Redland Middle School. Thank-you! — *Karen Velazquez-Vargas, Executive Director City Year Miami*

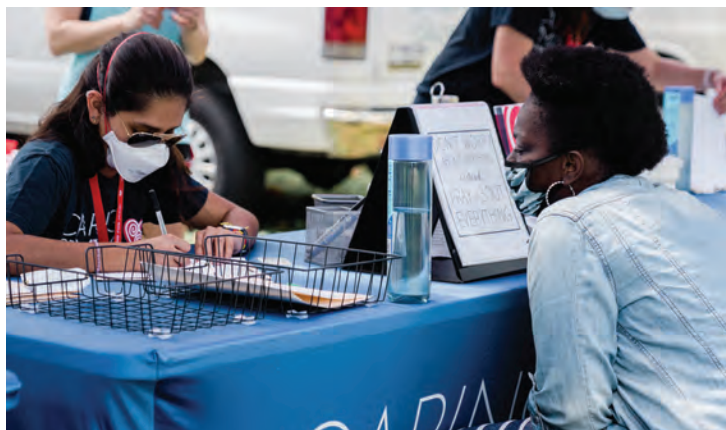
**The Children's Alliance of Florida**

The Children's Alliance of Florida is grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation's generous donation to support the renovation and expansion of our Beyond the Closet program. Funds will allow us to expand our current space as well as create a small food pantry. We expect to serve over 200 foster and high-risk children and families throughout the year, providing them with clothing, hygiene items, food, school supplies, and birthday boxes. The renovations will start within a month and we are so excited to restock our resource closet with clothing and supplies purchased with the ORCF funds. — *Nicole Vasconcellos, President*



**Caring For Miami**

I would like to thank the ORCF for their generosity that provides free dental care to the uninsured community. Aside from the 384 patients that have received free care in the areas of Florida City and Homestead we recently provided care to 25 individuals in the Upper Keys at the Good Health Center. Many of these patients found themselves needing assistance for the first time due to job loss resulting from COVID 19. For me, it is a blessing to be able to fill an individual's need for nothing in return. The gratitude and appreciation of our patients is unmatched to anything I've ever experienced. — *Mary Wick, Community Outreach Coordinator*



**Centro Campesino Farmworker Center Inc.**

With the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and their supportive funders, Centro Campesino was able to assist 25 low-to-moderate income households in the Homestead, Florida City, and Upper Keys area. Eligible households who have or continue to be financially impacted by COVID-19, were awarded \$1,000 in emergency financial assistance to help cover rental and/or utility expenses. This support invaluable to our community. On behalf of the Centro Campesino team, thank you! — *Barbara Cesar, Director of Education*

**Community Health of South Florida, Inc.**

Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) is extremely grateful for Ocean Reef Community Foundation's generous grant of \$25,000 which is helping to build a critically needed Children's Crisis Center. This center will be a 24 hour inpatient facility adding 20 additional pediatric crisis stabilization beds to South Florida and more importantly strategically located to be a resource for children suffering with mental illness and living in southern Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The center will treat 1000 children annually regardless of their ability to pay and is scheduled to open Fall 2022. — *Blake Hall, President*







**The College of the Florida Keys Foundation**

The College of the Florida Keys enthusiastically expresses its most sincere appreciation to Ocean Reef Community Foundation for its continued support. Most CFK students have financial need and COVID-19 has created additional pressures. The scholarship support from ORCF has helped CFK's Upper Keys Center students in need with support for necessities such as course materials, technology, health care, food, housing, and child care. These critical "life" issues, if left unattended, can derail a student's education. This grant has been critical to keep deserving CFK students on track. — *Dr. Frank Wood, Executive Director*

**DMF Employment Opportunities**

Getting back on your feet is not always something you are able to do alone. With your support, not only have we had the opportunity to return to the heart of what we dedicate ourselves to, but we've been able to march ahead and continue with our mission of being a beacon of hope for young adults with unique abilities. Through hard work and dedication we have overcome the obstacles of the last year and half to keep our participants employed, helping others rejoin the workforce, and creating new opportunities for participants that have sought our support. The future is bright thanks to you. — *Lileana de Moya, President and CEO*



**Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc.**

We would like to say a big thank you, to you our donors, for providing the resources and means to give adults and teenagers an educational experience that will positively impact their lives. It enables us to reach students and adults in Monroe County a way we wouldn't have otherwise. We can bring speakers to the Keys for an exciting new look at everyday issues adults and teenagers are faced with. We are excited to be able to host such informative and enlightening events and look forward to reporting back to you with photos after the events and appreciation from the populations we serve. — *Sheryl Schwab, Executive Director*

**Feeding South Florida**



We are so grateful for the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for our work in South Dade and North Monroe. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come, but the support of Ocean Reef is helping bring hunger relief to communities right now, including Marian had never heard of Feeding South Florida before COVID-19, but needed support with her kids home from school. Seeing so much good food has been helpful as she and her family continue to navigate challenges. From all of us at Feeding South Florida, we send our deepest thanks for your generosity. — *Sari Vatske, Executive Vice President*

**Family Central Inc.**



Because you care, 200 at-risk, vulnerable families who have taken the difficult step of reaching out for help will be guided as they navigate challenges due to lack of affordable housing, difficulty finding employment, or obstacles due to COVID. This community is marked by poverty, low education, and immigration issues which create barriers to navigating and accessing needed resources for individuals and children. The generous funding from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation will allow our team to strengthen families and link them to services while maintaining the dignity they deserve. — *Wendy Salomon, Chief Operating Officer*

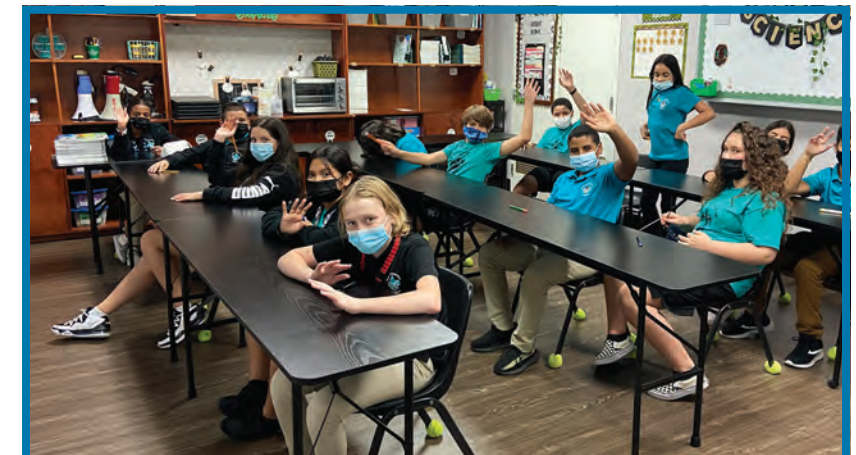
**Florida Keys Children's Shelter**

On behalf of the FKCS Team, I'd like to thank ORCF for their ongoing partnership role in helping us care for children and their families here in the Florida Keys. We invite you to take the new, virtual tour of our Jelsema Shelter on our website, and imagine what it might feel like as a child being placed with us. It is difficult to understand the trauma so many of our children have endured. We take solace in the fact that once they are in our care, healing can begin. In continuing to fund the Upper Keys Coaching Program, ORCF has directly affected the lives of over 500 children every year. — *Ben Kemmer, Chief Executive Officer*



**Florida Impact to End Hunger**

Thank you to ORCF for helping us launch the Homestead Food Access Coalition! This has enabled us to recruit 13 SNAP-recipients from the Homestead area to form the Coalition, and hire a local resident to support the project. Moving forward, we will meet regularly to understand the challenges facing the Homestead community around food and nutrition. In the end, these conversations will guide Florida Impact's future projects in the area, and form part of a series of policy recommendations presented to local stakeholders. These policies will build long-term, sustainable change in the food system. *Sam Hopwood, South Florida Regional Director*



**Faith Fellowship School**

Faith Fellowship School just wants to say thank you. These new desks came in at the perfect time. It allows for more space in our classrooms especially during this time of social distancing. Without your help this unexpected cost would have taken other resources that we so desperately need. We realize as always God meets our needs. And again we want to say thank you for being willing and able to help. — *Pastor Vinnie Kelso*

**Florida Keys Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FKFAPA)**



Our association would not have been able to help so many children during this COVID epidemic if not for your generous grant. With the school uncertainty each child in state care got a Chromebook that is compatible with school systems. We covered the expenses for three students for their senior needs. Senior photos to senior class rings to senior cap and gowns. "Thank you Ocean Reef for your grant that made a child in my home feel like every other senior in her high school. Due to your generous donation my child was so excited to know that her senior year was covered." *Ariana Nesbitt. — Holly Estes*



**Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Inc.**

The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition staff and neighbors who benefitted from the support of the Ocean Reef Community give a big shout out of "THANKS" and gratitude for your generosity. FKOC can assist 18 households in the Upper Keys from becoming homeless. This flexible program allows coverage for those unexpected expenses and basic needs that face are neighbors living paycheck to paycheck or on a fixed income. Because of the Ocean Reef Community, we were able to assist a 76 year old woman facing homelessness become housed utilizing an emergency housing voucher into a senior housing complex. — *Jeanette McLernon, MSW Executive Director*

**Greater Miami Youth for Christ**

City Life KIX is thankful for the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's belief in our young leaders. Despite difficulties faced over the past year, our young leaders showed up and turned the pandemic into an opportunity to grow in leadership. With your help, we will continue to develop our indigent leaders this year! We will do this through our Leadership Academy, service projects, team building outings, college tours and job training. Thank you for your deep-seeded belief that there is powerful leadership gold under the surface in West Homestead. — *Stacy Morales, City Life KIX Director*



**Genesis Hopeful Haven, Inc.**

Ocean Reef Foundation gave what our girls haven't been trusted with before – keys. Previously, they waited outside of home until someone let them in. Before, they were guests in their home, friends weren't allowed to even visit. Then, meals were eaten alone. Now, they have house keys! Now, they take selfies in their space. And they can eat at their dining table, with friends. Thanks to Ocean Reef, we've furnished our first ever girls home. We're so grateful and excited to watch our girls thrive. A safe home provides hope for a bright future that wouldn't be possible without you. — *Fritzie Saintoiry, Executive Director*



**Good Health Clinic**

Thank you for supporting our medication program! So far this year we have provided over \$700k in and nearly 1000 prescriptions for needed medications. These medications improve patients lives by managing diabetes and hypertension, treating infections, curing hepatitis, alleviating torturous heartburn, and providing life saving breaths via rescue inhalers. It is the everyday help needed so our medical staff can provide the treatment enabling patients to be healthy enough to work and provide for their families. — *Kate Banick, Executive Director*



**Greater Miami Youth Symphony**



The Greater Miami Youth Symphony is very grateful for the support of the Ocean Reef community. Through these difficult times, funds help us sustain quality music education programs desperately needed to support the happiness, quality of life and self-actualization of students that is needed now more than ever before. More than the benefit of being creative, these programs extend beyond the musical moments – creating leadership opportunities, problem solving skills and social/emotional coping mechanisms which support the growth of the whole child. Thank you for your continued support. — *Jessica Munch-Dittmar, Executive Director*

**Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc.**

Guitars Over Guns is proud to be part of the Ocean Reef family. Your support enables four professional teaching artists to implement the Guitars Over Guns after-school program at Homestead Middle School and Homestead Senior High School. Thanks to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, 30 students are receiving a transformative combination of music instruction and mentorship. On behalf of Guitars Over Guns and the youth we serve, thank you! — *Walker Moseley, Regional Director*



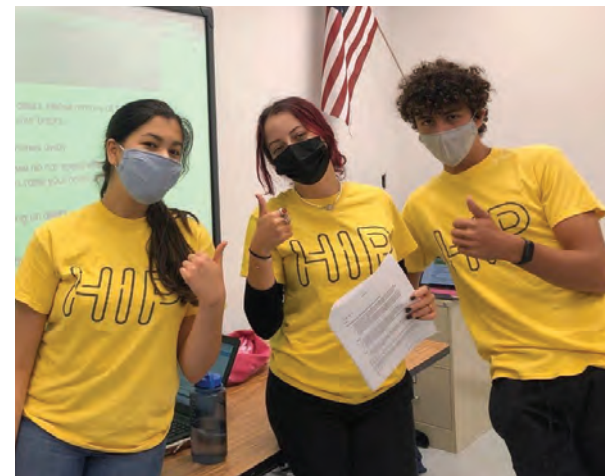
**Guidance/Care Center, Inc.**

The funding received by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has ensured that those individuals served at the Guidance/Care Center, Inc. and needing medications for ADHD truly have an ADHD diagnosis. GCC clients are easily tested via the laptop and software at no cost in our office due to the generous grant provided for these assessments. This testing followed by a psychiatric visit has improved individuals overall mental health. Thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for ensuring essential and appropriate mental health services are available to upper keys residents. Thank you! — *Maureen Dunleavy, Regional Vice President*



**Health Information Project, Inc. (HIP)**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students and their families have been experiencing profound trauma, including food, housing and job insecurity, family and friends sick or deceased from the virus and increased mental health issues. HIP is so incredibly grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and its donors for stepping up so that high school students across Homestead and South Dade could receive life-changing, life-saving, peer-to-peer health education and access to community resources. Thank you for your support of the emotional and physical health of our community's children! — *Valerie Berrin, Director of Operations, Health Information Project (HIP)*



**Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys**



On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys Board of Directors and supporters, thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for our \$50,000 grant. This funding is going directly to building local, affordable housing in Islamorada. The four units currently under construction will house 4 families, hopefully as soon as December 2021. — Lindsay Fast, Executive Director

**Jacob's Aquatic Center**



Thanks to the Ocean Reef grant we were able to update our bathrooms and our ADA liftchair, our new countertops and faucets and mirrors look fantastic, and the liftchair helps our handicap members get into the water which is the goal here at Jacobs Aquatic Center. We hope we can do more for our guests and with your continued support we can and will, thank you! — Greg Hallock, Manager

**ICU Baby**

Grant funding has united parents with their baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The economic burden families endure when their newborn is admitted to the hospital is devastating when the family is already struggling financially. This funding eliminated one prevalent burden and stressor for NICU families – the cost of transportation to-and-from the hospital. You brought parents to their baby, as many times as they were able to get there. Parents deserve to be and need to be with their baby in the hospital ... thank you for giving them that opportunity. — Elizabeth Simonton, CEO



**Kids 4 Kids USA, Inc.**



One of our swimmers' parents expressed it best: "[My son] learned swimming techniques that he is still using (big arms and learning to float on his back). Skills that 'make swimming more enjoyable and safer for him'. He was also introduced to life-time activities (e.g., he rode on a paddleboard and snorkeled for the first time). These are experiences enriched my son's life and can become pursuits he enjoys for the rest of his life. In short, the program includes intangibles, the value of which for children with special needs is impossible to measure. I recommend the program enthusiastically." — Tana Bleser Carson, VP

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**Kids Come First In The Florida Keys, Inc.**

Kids Come First provides school supplies, clothing, shoes and personal items to students by individual referral form or from their on site school closet. There are approximately 8,000 students in our Keys schools, more than half are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Providing students access to the materials needed for school, relieves the stress of students, parents and teachers. Our goal for every student is to have their needs met, providing self esteem, pride and the opportunity to succeed. KLS, PKS & CSHS students appreciate the donors on the ORCF. Thank you with LOVE KIDS/KCF/ROXS — Roxane Posada, Executive Director



**Keys AHEC Health Center**

The Keys AHEC Health Centers have been able to grow and expand its medical and oral health programming due to the support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Our partnership has provided medical care for vulnerable students, COVID-19 Testing when not available anywhere else, vaccination promotion events, and a dental sealants program for second and seventh graders. The newest project supported that will have the greatest impact is the Mobile Dental Unit where the Foundation is one partner in the procurement of the unit that will be able to provide oral health treatment and care. — Michael Cunningham, CEO



**Kristi House, Inc.**



"Kristi House's Project GOLD Drop-In Center provides a tranquil, healing environment to provide services for teen girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. We are so grateful for ORCF funds which have helped us with Center start up and client needs, enabling us to provide therapy, education, enrichment groups and jobs training so that young women can reclaim their lives and pursue productive, healthy futures." — Amanda G. Altman, Esq., CEO

**Key Largo School AVID**

KLS's AVID and AVID Excel classes in middle school are learning the importance of building successful strategies to help guide them on the college and career-going paths. With ORCF's help the students have designed class T-shirts to wear for team building and leadership activities on campus and are looking forward to their upcoming college visits at FAU and FIU. We cannot thank Ocean Reef Community Foundation enough for all of their support in helping this underserved population of students, as many of them will be the first in their families to advance on a path toward college. — Tiffany Zepeda



**Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.**

JB, a sixth grade Middle School student, was an average "C" student who began failing two of her core classes, risking advancement to the seventh grade. JB was constantly disrupting the other students. JB's English teacher began to notice she was squinting during class. When she approached JB, she was in tears – JB could not see the whiteboard; did not understand the lesson, making it impossible for her to learn. After receiving her new glasses from our Heiken Program, JB's self-confidence soared. She stopped causing disruptions in class and is on track to be an "A" student. — Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO



**Mexican American Council, Inc.**

On behalf of South Dade's farmworker families, MAC thanks ORCF for their support. Investment in our community truly changes lives, from empowering youth with the knowledge to navigate their best college and career paths to ensuring they have the technology to succeed. This year, support from ORCF assisted 19 youth achieve their college preparation goals. Students were accepted into FIU, FGCU, and MDC. Thank you ORCF for giving students access to a quality education and technology. ORCF is changing lives and ensures that through hard work and focus the American Dream is as achievable as ever. — *Edward C. Garza, Executive Director*



**MCEF Take Stock in Children**



The steadfast support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has made a significant impact and profound difference in the lives of our most deserving Take Stock scholars in the Upper Keys. The Florida Prepaid College Foundation matched this year's grant award enabling the Monroe County Education Foundation to apply \$150,000 towards scholarships. MCEF recognized Mariah Bell, Zareska Mazola Ortega, and Angel Martin as the ORCF Named Scholars. The ORCF plays a vital role in making the dream of a college education a reality for our deserving Upper Keys Take Stock scholars. Thank you! — *Chuck Licis-Masson, Executive Director*

**MUJER, Inc.**

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation grant has always been important as it allows our agency to work with children – children who have witnessed abuse in their home or have been victimized by someone that they know. The ORCF grant was even more important during COVID19, when children felt totally isolated from school, friends and family. Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation for your continued investment in our children and our community. — *Jan Rodriguez, Children Therapist*



**The Motivational Edge**

Due to the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation and the funds received, The Motivational Edge has been able to provide mentoring, life-skills, and therapeutic coping mechanisms to a group of highly vulnerable girls who live in Homestead and have experienced or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. We are very grateful for the impact this support has allowed us to have with these highly traumatized young women. — *Jessenia Francisco, Partner Relations & HR Director*



**Ocean Studies Charter School**

The teachers and students of Ocean Studies Charter School cannot thank the generous souls of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation enough. In the short time we have been in school, we have already seen so much progress in our students' reading abilities due to the new literacy curriculum, Flying Start to Literacy, that you all graciously provided us. Teachers pulling small learning groups in ALL grades, K-5 have used this award winning resource to target educational gaps due to the sad disruption of our Covid years and we see it working! Kids are loving to read and the teachers are SO grateful! — *Jessica Martinez, Program Coordinator*



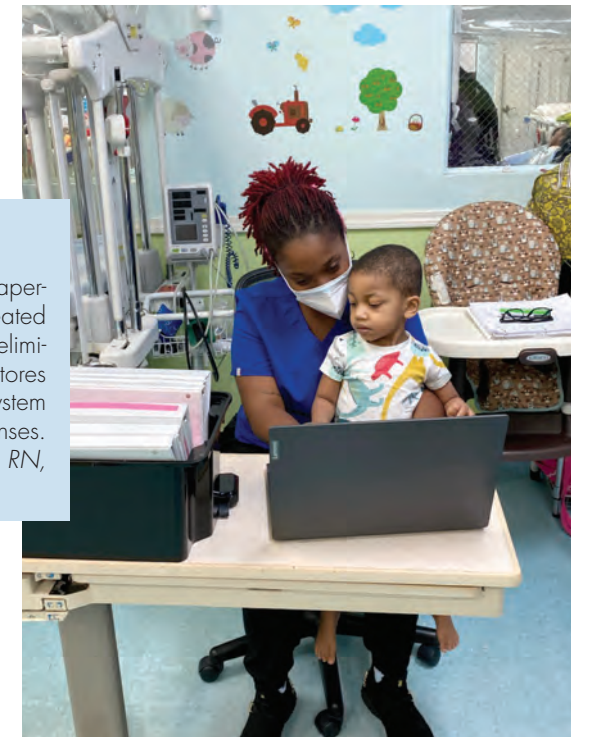
**PATCHES PPEC**

Our electronic medical records project is about to go live this week. Gathering of paperwork and scanning was a daunting task but has relieved so much space. We have created a program designed to give the nurses and therapists more hands-on patient time, will eliminate paper charting and make communication with physicians, hospitals and drug stores seamless. Our patient's conditions can change from moment to moment – this new system will be able to provide data to physicians and hospitals without waiting for paper responses. Thank you so much for making this priceless option available to us. — *A. Kyle Smith, RN, BSN Administrator*



**ProjectArt**

Support from Ocean Reef Community Foundation has allowed ProjectArt to solidify our presence in the Homestead community and strengthen our partnerships with the Miami-Dade Public Library Systems and Miami Bridge, a homeless youth shelter. As we enter our 5th year, we are excited to return to our library spaces, offering our students and families weekly, tuition-free art education and artistic residencies to local, emerging artists. We are grateful to The Ocean Reef Community Foundation who has generously supported our mission since day one, helping us serve over 300 students in Homestead. — *Sandra Portal-Andreu, Senior Director of Communications + Development*



**Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)**

Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation, for your donation of \$12,500. This donation will make possible a new and safe playground gym for our two-year olds' playground. Our child care center currently has 16 two-year old children that will benefit from the gym's stimulating activities, that will enhance their fine and gross motor skills, as well as, their social development. Because of your donation, the gym will have a direct impact to over 200 families in the upcoming years. — *Guadalupe Leal, Area Coordinator*



**South Florida Science Center and Aquarium**

We are grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for giving the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium the chance to present our STEM Passport to Education Program to over 1000 at-risk, Title 1 elementary students in Homestead, Florida City and Key Largo. This program allows us to fulfill our mission to "Open every mind to science" by providing live science demonstrations that will inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. — *Carla Duhaney, Chief Operating Officer*

**St. John's Episcopal School**



At St. John's Episcopal School we work everyday to strive to be "A Level Above the Rest" by providing the best opportunity for life-long success. We are aware that though talent may be distributed evenly, opportunity is not. Thank you from all the students and teachers of St. John's for providing a new and exciting opportunity for our students! — *Lakshmi Nair, Head of School*

**South Florida Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America**

Thank you for your generosity and directly supporting over 100 migrant youth of Redland Elementary School with a Scouting program. Scouting is a program that makes a positive impression on youth and prepares them for life. Teaching youth to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, and kind are all attributes that resonate throughout life. Scouting is unique because the program can be found throughout the United States. A young person in Homestead can continue their program in North Carolina, Texas, or wherever the family's path takes them in the USA. This continuity is priceless! — *Jeffrey Berger, Scout Executive*



**Special Olympics Florida Monroe County**

We would like to thank the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continued commitment to Special Olympics programs and athletes. This past year has held multiple challenges for our young people with intellectual disabilities. Due to health concerns, they have not been able to travel or compete in their sports. The ORCF funding has helped us to provide healthy opportunities for them locally at Key Largo School and Treasure Village Montessori School and provide resources for reach out to youth in the community who may be isolated due to COVID. — *Ruth Holland, Special Olympics Florida Coordinator; Non-Competitive Programs, Monroe County*



**St. Justin Martyr Preschool**

The staff and parents of St. Justin Martyr Preschool would like to thank the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their continued support and recognition of the importance of the St. Justin Martyr Preschool program in our community. Over the past years Ocean Reef Community Foundation has kept our facility safe by helping St. Justin repair parts of the facility that are in need of repair. With the grant received this year we were able to renovate our outside deck that leads to the outdoor playground that was in much need of replacement. — *Danay Diaz, Preschool Director*



**Star of the Sea Foundation, Inc.**

SOS is extremely grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for funding multiple methods of food acquisition— primarily recovered food from South Florida— to keep SOS's St. Justin's Food Pantry stocked each week. This support directly affects the availability of fresh, healthy foods and staple items for hundreds of working-poor Upper Keys residents who struggle to afford the basic costs of living. The nutritious foods are strengthening the health of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic and simultaneously freeing up clients' household funds for other living and emergency expenses. — *Lisa Niederman, Director of Programs and Development*



**TIPS Florida Keys Youth Basketball League**

The FKYBL is heading into our fifth season, and couldn't be any more excited. With participation growing annually, youth basketball in the upper Keys continues to thrive, due in large part to the support provided by the OR Community Foundation. The FKYBL has been very successful in introducing hundreds of young athletes annually to the game of basketball, while developing life skills like teamwork, commitment, and social development along the way. Local Middle and High School Teams are reporting record numbers going out for basketball tryouts now, as interest in the game continues to grow. — *Melissa O'Keefe, FKYBL Commissioner*



**Three Virtues Organization, Inc**

We serve 100 families a month, and more recently, with the partnership with the No Kid Hungry initiative, we are providing a special distribution to 25 families who have children ages 0-5. On a monthly basis that is 125 families, approximately 500 individuals a month. That is not counting the other individuals that walk through our doors when they have an emergent need and come to us for assistance. Ocean Reef Community Foundation has made it possible for us to acquire food products and provide safe (at the correct temperature) products to our families.— *Alpha Fleurimond, Executive Director*

Start off Smart, Inc.

Community Policing

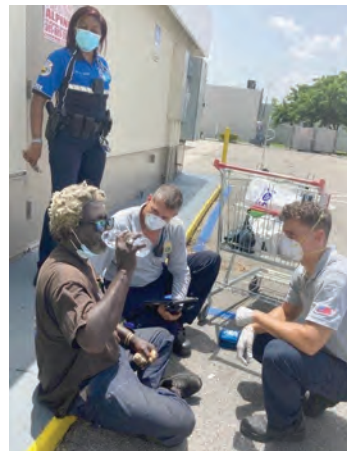
Our Community Policing Unit is eternally grateful for the strong and continuous support from ORCF. The residents in our community have been hit hard by the pandemic and being able to help them with basic needs and back-to-school support has been immeasurable. "Our community through the support of ORCF has been empowered and been able to build a deeper relationship with their police department and officers at a time when relations are strained, but desperately needed. COVID has created barriers that we together have



built bridges to overcome. Thank you again to ORCF and all of the donors. — Homestead Police Chief Alexander E. Rolle Jr.

Police Academy Scholarships

My mission is to find qualified candidates from our community, that have roots and understanding of Homestead and the South Dade area. The generous scholarships provided by ORCF and their donors have created pathways for us to do just that. Aside from removing financial barriers, the ORCF scholarship has allowed the police department to have greater involvement and ultimately more success in the recruitment and hiring process. As much as this benefits our Dept. it also enhances our continued community relations initiatives. This wouldn't be possible without ORCF. — Captain Fernando Morales, HPD Professional Compliance



United Way of Collier and the Keys

Some of my happiest memories as a parent are reading with my daughter. Reading together provided a chance for us to bond and helped her build important pre-literacy skills that she took with her into school. I am deeply grateful for ORCF's support of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, allowing United Way of Collier and the Keys to expand this opportunity to other families. With ORCF's support, we are empowering families throughout the Upper Keys to also build lasting memories and prepare their children for success. — Leah Stockton, Florida Keys Area President



Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc. (Homestead Site)

Thank you, ORCF, for saving lives. This year was especially challenging for our youth as they were lured away from online school by our neighborhood plagues of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, gang activity, and gun violence. You provided our youth the opportunities to escape these neighborhood influences and empowered them to develop character, enjoy learning, improve their academics, engage in school and career/college planning, maintain physical health, serve their community through volunteering, and gain needed on-the-job skills as summer interns. — Jason Pittman, CEO



YMCA OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Key Largo After-School and Summer Camp

I'd personally like to thank Ocean Reef for their generosity. The amount of low income families that depend on the scholarships we give them with your help is astounding! It's truly a blessing to see the smiles on the kids faces after an incredible field trip, swimming day, or all around enriching traditional day at camp! We simply could not reach this much of the Upper Keys Community without you! — Jessica Beiermeister, Upper Keys Park Director



Homestead Area After-School and Summer Camp

As the Camp Director of the YMCA Traditional Summer Camp, I want to thank Ocean Reef for providing campers this summer with the opportunity to participate in our program. The children were able to enjoy fun and interactive activities which included outdoor physical fitness, literacy, project-based learning, social emotional learning, and fieldtrips. Again, I want to thank Ocean Reef for the opportunity and for the impact that your assistance had on our campers, that without your generosity would have not been able to experience the "best" summer ever. — Vicky Reyes, Site Director, Youth Development Miami



Wellspring Counseling, Inc.

Because of this grant, I was able to provide social skills training course to a group of 10 youth through the KIX program. The KIX staff have shared that the kids have begun to use these tools in their everyday lives, handling stress better, controlling their emotions in healthy ways, having better communication with their care-givers and becoming more confident. At-risk kids who learn these skills can have better success in school, relationships and in jobs. In addition to my work, 23 individuals in Homestead have also benefitted from life-changing therapy through Wellspring, thanks to ORCF! — Alicia Foss, Wellspring Therapist in Homestead

Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc.



Due to the generosity of those who support the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc. was able to ensure that its scholarship recipients could stay in school during the pandemic. When colleges and vocational schools went on-line, approximately half of the scholarship students required computers or software updates

to continue their education. ORCF's grant made that happen. And when the holidays came, no person in a household with a child in the guardian ad litem program was left off our giving list as a result of the additional funds received from ORCF. — Susan Raffanella, President



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### Our Mission

To foster a culture of giving that amplifies our collective strength, inspiring generations of members to make Ocean Reef and our surrounding communities a better place.

305-367-4707  
foundation@oceanreef.com

## CAN'T STOP

By Richard Weinstein, ORCF President



I was looking for a song online the other day and came across an incredible number of songs with the word "Can't" in their title. "Can't Buy Me Love" by the Beatles is where it started and then went on to "Can't You See", "Can't Stop Loving You", "Can't You Hear Me Knocking", "Can't Get Enough of Your Love", and Mr. Hammer still says "Can't Touch This".

In each case you can sense a desire to access something that seems to be just out of reach. The *Link* and its counterpart, *Link Online*, are a way to connect you with the Foundation as well as our surrounding communities. It is our way of taking the important ideas of philanthropy and putting them within easy reach; here you can see the meaningful impact that results from your generosity. You can explore the broad initiatives and many ongoing programs that are undertaken by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation that are a direct result of your support.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers said they "Can't Stop" and neither can we. Each year we work with Club Member Volunteers to deliver the All Charities fundraising event - the One Ask, One Give initiative. It has served the Ocean Reef Community well for the past 14 years, keeping the nonprofit institutions at Ocean Reef strong, while giving back more and more to the families in the nearby Keys and South Florida - just outside our Community.

As you consider the stories in this issue of *The Link*, see if you find

something you and your family are passionate about. There are many ways to get involved, from working with our All Charities event as a volunteer, donating an item or bidding on a one of a kind experience in the live or silent auction, to a more personal involvement, by setting up a Donor Advised Fund or creating a Lasting Legacy at Ocean Reef. We are here to help you in creating, implementing and achieving you and your family's philanthropic goals. Together, with sincere apologies to Mick Jagger, we can get, significant Satisfaction.

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