



# OCEAN REEF PRESS

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## All Charities Does It Again (“Thank You, Ocean Reef!”)

By Sarah A. Cart

Richard Weinstein, president and COO of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, recently emailed some wonderful news, including an amazing parenthetical statement:

“Sooo, it looks like we did it again (**another record year for All Charities**) resulting in the largest distribution to date to each of the not-for-profit

recipient partners at Ocean Reef [Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association]. And, with the addition of some singular donations to the Community Grants Fund to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, the Foundation will make its largest Community Grants distribution – over \$2,000,000 – to more organizations in Florida City, Homestead and in the Upper Keys than ever!”

The monies will also further enhance the Foundation’s Impact Fund, instrumental in assisting such projects as Baptist Health’s helipad, programs at the College of the Florida Keys and others.

While honors are due to the 2023 All Charities Weekend co-chairs **Anne Marie Peretz, Barbara Olcott** and **Kelly Hertzman**, their committees, the Preferred Partners and the staff, Weinstein looks to the Members, noting, “Everyone’s generosity shows the passion that the Membership shares, including Social and Legacy contributing through the dues check-off, to ensure that this special place and our neighboring communities remain vibrant. Ultimately, when All Charities is successful, it’s because of the Members.”

“And the generosity coin has two sides: Members bidding, AND donating – everything from wine, golf experiences,

chef-prepared dinners at home and aboard boats, trips across the U.S. and the world, and great stuff. There were more First Dibs than ever before, and more ways to share adventures.”

Many longtime Community Trustees (those who commit their monies and participation long before the weekend) stepped up to higher

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levels, and in their wake, many new Members added their energy, enthusiasm, and bids to the weekend's success. Also new this season, the neighbors of Sunset Cay banded together to put a special Fall 2023 party on the auction block (rumor has it that another neighborhood is already hoping to do the same again for the following fall). The excitement that is All Charities continues to grow.

Pointing out that this year's end-of-the-evening "Raise the Paddle," when everyone gives in recognition of the need, was the third highest ever, Weinstein applauded "the way people raised their paddles – an astonishing show of support." That generosity means that, "The ORCF Board, with its focus on youth, education, community, and health and family services, can expand its

much-needed support of worthy charities to assist thousands of our neighbors, empowering people and helping others to be self-sufficient."

Details of those distributions will be forthcoming soon.

In the meantime, also deserving of applause are the many representatives of the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce who come through the gate every day and offered up dozens of exciting packages for bid, as well as ACW's **14 Preferred Partners**, whose steadfast support, through their cash and auction item donations (valued this season at nearly \$2 million), ensure that the monies raised at the Silent and Live Auctions enable ORCF to give *100 percent of the donations made by Club Members* to non-profits.

As Weinstein points out, "While our Preferred Partners help us to accomplish so much, we can also help them by returning that support whenever we have a need, whether while we're here on The Reef or elsewhere." So cheers to Baer's

Ocean Reef Community Foundation	\$1,689,290
Ocean Reef Medical Center Foundation	\$1,719,349
Ocean Reef Cultural Center Academy at Ocean Reef	\$950,000
Ocean Reef Art League	\$781,549
Ocean Reef Conservation Association	\$390,774
ORCAT	\$390,774
	\$115,179

In addition to these distributions, the Community Foundation will provide the second installment of \$350,000 to the Chapel as part of a three-year commitment to their new Fellowship Center. An additional \$550,000 has been reserved from the All Charities proceeds for impact projects in our surrounding communities. Previous Impact Fund projects have included the Baptist Helipad and the Upper Keys Campus for the College of the Florida Keys.

Please see next week's edition of the *Ocean Reef Press* for the complete list of the ORCF Community Grant recipients.

Furniture; Baptist Health South Florida; Barton & Gray Mariners Club; Haute Explore; John & Mary Lee's Fine Wine Society; Lester Lampert Jewellers; Lexus of Kendall/Lexus of West Kendall; Marsh McLennan Agency; Private Client Services; NetJets; Northern Trust; Ocean Reef Club Sotheby's

International Realty; Seabourn; Somerset Charters; and Wheels Up.

As has been pointed out multiple times over the years since All Charities began, "This community has a tradition of making miracles happen." Thank you, everyone, for doing it again.