

## New “Backpack” Effort Takes a Bite out of Hunger for Key Largo Kids

In the wake of the Great Recession, addressing food insecurity in Ocean Reef’s surrounding communities has become an integral part of the Foundation’s Community Grants program. Initially, this effort was seen as a response to a temporary crisis, but as the need continued and has even grown despite the economic recovery, thus the nature of the response has also changed.

“Much of our funding in this area has gone to help food banks and pantries operate more efficiently,” explains Grants Committee Co-Chair Janie Sims. “Pantries are critical to helping families facing crisis situations, but they are not set up to address long-term food insecurity or its underlying causes. Few programs are. We’ve had to seek out innovative approaches to meet the reality of today’s needs.”

In 2013 the Foundation started supporting the Branches Center for Financial Stability’s fledgling “Get out of the Line” program with a grant for financial counseling and workshops for people using food pantries in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys.

The Center’s grant report shows they conducted dozens of workshops, providing information to more than 800 individuals



(representing 3,600 family members), basic credit training to more than 600 people and more in-depth financial coaching, credit counseling, free tax prep, resume building, transportation assistance, help with student financial aid paperwork, job training and other services to hundreds. They also provided training on resource referral for pantry employees. The Committee is encouraged that the Center will open a new office based in Florida City in the new Branches building this year.

“In the Upper Keys, we face unique challenges,” according to Grants Committee

Co-Chair Stevie Wishnack. “We have been supporting the only proper Upper Keys pantry program at Burton Memorial Methodist Church, which is actually in Tavernier. It has become increasingly clear that many families who need food assistance in Key Largo simply do not have transportation to access those pantry services. Our priority was to find a way to get nutrition to the most vulnerable populations in Key Largo, and the first turned out to be pre-school children.”

It is generally expected that federal food programs are universally available in pre-schools, but that is not the case in upper Monroe County. Mary Williams, the Early Learning Coalition’s managing director for Monroe County, explains “Currently, pre-school programs in the Upper Keys do not participate in the federal food program due to the lack of a kitchen facility, start-up expenses and/or available food vendors to meet federal requirements. As such, the burden on working poor families to supply lunch and snacks daily for their children in care presents a financial hardship. The ‘backpack’ program assists in stretching the family food budget in providing weekend supplemental food for their children.”

*Continued on page 22*

ORCF  
20  
YEARS

## OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: THE FIRST 20 YEARS

2014 marks both the centennial anniversary of community foundations in the United States and the 20th anniversary of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. As we pass the 20 year mark, it is a fitting time to reflect on our beginnings and progress...

### ■ 1992

■ In post-Hurricane Andrew devastation (prior to the Foundation’s founding), the Volunteer Fire Department is used to collect and distribute charitable contributions.

### ■ 1993

■ Members purchase Ocean Reef Club and immediately see a need for and begin organizing a community foundation to support local philanthropy and be better prepared to respond to crisis and emerging needs.

### ■ 1994

■ The “initial organizing board” includes Tom Davidson, Jim Dicke II, Dick Farmer, Bob Gintel, Alan Goldstein, John Hartman, George Manos and Adelaide Skoglund.

■ The Foundation is officially founded and incorporated in August 1994.



**OCEAN REEF**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**2014-2015 OFFICERS &  
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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Bill Nutt

Just as the Ocean Reef Club celebrated its 20th anniversary as a member-owned and governed Club in 2013, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding in 1994. This is no coincidence. Immediately after the member buy-out of the Club in 1993, the concept of a community foundation to help facilitate members' philanthropic giving was born. Community Foundations, which celebrate their 100th anniversary of the first foundation's organization this year, are a mainstay of many cities and towns from which members come. Thus, this model was adopted and since 1994 has served our local community and those of Upper Monroe and South Miami-Dade Counties well. The first 20 years have been very successful for our Foundation, and we look forward to what we can accomplish through it in the future.

We had the good fortune in 2014 to distribute a record setting \$740,000 in Community Grants thanks to the generosity of Ocean Reef members. Add to that amount the more than \$140,000 raised in the Key Largo School "Backpack" effort and more than \$125,000 raised by our Donor Advised Funds in their co-investment initiative to add to Foundation grants for off Reef charities the Community Grants program was only able to partially fund, and it was a banner year. Indeed, more than \$1 million was co-invested in local charities (beyond the All Charities Partners) between the three efforts.

It is with gratitude that we recognize four long-term Board Directors who retired in 2014: **John Taylor** after 11 years of service, **Mike Sullivan** after eight years of service, **Kerry Whitaker-Townsend** after seven years of service and **John Turner** after six years of service. All made significant contributions and a very special debt is owed John Taylor who also served tirelessly as President from 2003 to 2011 and was active on the Grants and other committees. John was instrumental in the Community Grants program's growth and forged the path to today's successful program, among many achievements by the Foundation during his tenure.

In their stead, we were pleased to welcome stalwart supporter **John Lee's** return to our Board, along with new Directors **Cindy Manzo**, by way of the All Charities Committee, **Jill Sullivan**, a past Wine Auction Dinner Co-Chair, and **Carla Wood**, a Co-Chair of the first All Charities Weekend. Each has considerable talents to add to our Board of Directors.

Earlier this year we were pleased to announce that **Mike Berman**, a past All Charities Weekend Chair and current Board Director, has joined **Tom Davidson** and **Alan Goldstein** as a Co-Chair of the All Charities Effort. More recently we welcomed Jennifer McComb as Executive Director of All Charities (joining Auction Administrator Lesa Crayne and Preferred Partners Coordinator Chris Lane). We are also grateful for **Cynthia Lee's** contributions while on our Board as 2014 All Charities Chair, and to have 2015 All Charities Weekend Chairs **Gayle Tallardy** and **Nick Lanni** on our Board for their current term.

All indications bode well for 2015 as another successful year of thoughtful giving! We invite you to join us and hope you will be a part of it.

William J. Nutt

**SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 11**  
Complimentary talk by author Robert Lupton  
More information on page 24

### ■ 1994 continued

■ A December article in the *Ocean Reef Free Press* asks in its headline "Why an ORC Community Foundation?" One of its founders Jim Dicke II answers, "... we believe that it will serve as a vehicle to help Ocean Reef with the development of new facilities like a Cultural Center auditorium or expanded library ... while making it possible for our members to have the benefits that come with a private foundation without the expense or paperwork required to maintain one [Donor Advised Funds]. We can have a proper vehicle to endow worthwhile activities, support new ventures and provide centralized fundraising support for important initiatives that will make Ocean Reef even better."

## ORCF Wounded Warriors Fund Helping to Build Specialty Homes for Veterans

The Foundation's Wounded Warrior Fund co-founders Al Mast and Leonard Wood represented the Ocean Reef Community at Building for America's Bravest celebrations of specialty home projects for veterans your donations have helped to build over the summer.

Leonard Wood was on hand for the dedication of the home built for Cpl. Todd Love who lost both legs and an arm in an IED blast in Afghanistan. The home features exterior power doors, a wheel-in shower and bath, and appliances, cabinets and counters that can be raised and lowered to accommodate him.

"Our Fund's mission is to help those veterans most severely injured and make a tangible difference in their lives," said Wood. "I am happy we were able to make a difference in this young man's life."

Al Mast also took part in a groundbreaking for the Fund's next project, which is a home for Marine Cpl. Tony Porta's family. Porta suffered burns over 80 percent of his body in an IED Explosion in Iraq. "It was a great experience to see someone who has been through so much but has an unbelievably positive attitude towards life," said Mast. "To be a part of this network of support is incredible. I was honored to represent our donors."



Leonard Wood (right) presents the check to Cpl. Love and Frank Siller (CEO of Building for America's Bravest) on behalf of the ORCF Wounded Warriors Fund.



Above and below: Dedication of Cpl. Love's new home.



Al Mast attended the groundbreaking in Virginia for Marine Cpl. Tony Porta's (at center with wife and son) new home which will be supported by donations from the Fund.

## ORCF Anglers Club Community Fund Completes Third Water Quality Project



In collaboration with the Ocean Reef Conservation Association, a third and final bio-filter project was completed to improve the water quality of the lakes at Key Largo Anglers Club over the summer.

The three year project has transformed stagnant, polluted lakes into an attractive, healthy mini-ecosystem and a thriving sea life habitat thanks to generous and enthusiastic donor support.

The fund will continue to support water testing and maintenance of environmental standards.

### 1995

The first official Board of Directors is elected and regular board meetings begin. Then Board Director Bob Gintel recalls in a *The Link* article he wrote at the 10th anniversary, "It was a struggle for the first few years trying to raise money, define the Foundation's mission, explain it to the Ocean Reef membership, and upgrade operational efficiency while keeping operating costs down."

### 1996

In the Foundation's first audit, assets are \$266,383 with \$363,229 distributed in total grants for the year.

### 1997

The Community Grants program's first recorded grants, going to ORCAT, the "Firehouse," the Academy and the Ocean Reef Medical Center Endowment, are issued.



## ■ 1997 continued

- Donor Advised Charitable Funds are first offered to the community.
- Grants distributed for the year total \$244,316.

## ■ 1998

- The Foundation embarks on \$10 million+ fundraising campaign to build an Ocean Reef Cultural Center and establish it as a separate non-profit entity.

## ■ 1999

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, the Community Relief Fund is established to assist Ocean Reef Club employees after natural disasters.
- The first of the Foundation's annual Wine Auction Gala Dinners, precursor to the All Charities Auction Weekend, is held in the Ocean Room.



2000 2001

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$5,382,656.

■ The Ocean Reef Cultural Center opens as a result of the Foundation's campaign and houses the first official Foundation office.

■ The Foundation pledges \$100,000 to the new Jacobs Aquatic Center in Key Largo, \$100,000 to cover the projected operating loss for the fledgling Ocean Reef Cultural Center and half the salary for two years to hire an Art League Administrator.

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$816,072.

## COMPLETE 2014 ALL CHARITIES EFFORT REPORT

A new record total of \$3,110,601 was raised through the Ocean Reef community’s participation in the 2014 All Charities Weekend and Ocean Reef Club Dues Charity Check Off, effectively doubling the amount raised in the initial year of the effort seven years ago.

The All Charities effort was established in the 2007-2008 season to enable members to consolidate their support for charities community-wide over a single weekend and has resulted in record setting giving with fewer events and solicitations. In a recent survey, 100 percent of those surveyed said they prefer the combined effort to the dozens of fundraisers that existed prior.

The 2014 proceeds were distributed to the All Charities Partners according to agreed upon formulas as follows:

### Resulting 2014 ORCF Community Grants

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s entire share of 2014 All Charities Auction Weekend proceeds – \$690,992 – (combined with additional donations for a total of \$740,000 in grants) was distributed as follows.

#### GRANTS TO OCEAN REEF BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Ocean Reef Chapel Foundation	\$10,000
ORCC Historical Society	10,000
Ocean Reef Volunteer Fire Department	10,000
U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 13-4	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

All Charities Partners	ORC Dues Check Off	Auction Weekend	2014 Total	2008-2014 7-Year Total
OCEAN REEF ART LEAGUE	\$43,814	\$195,915	\$239,730	\$1,224,855
OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	\$27,384	\$690,992	\$718,376	\$3,648,723
OCEAN REEF CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	\$27,384	\$188,636	\$216,020	\$1,320,999
OCEAN REEF CULTURAL CENTER	\$49,291	\$619,234	\$668,526	\$3,242,182
OCEAN REEF MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION	\$87,629	\$717,683	\$805,312	\$3,923,668
ORCAT*		\$54,309	\$54,309	\$102,973
THE ACADEMY AT OCEAN REEF	\$38,338	\$369,992	\$408,330	\$2,107,759
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$273,840</b>	<b>\$2,836,761</b>	<b>\$3,110,601</b>	<b>\$15,571,157</b>

\*Prior to becoming an auction partner in 2013, ORCAT received a total of \$207,664 in Community Grants from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s share of the All Charities Effort proceeds.



**ALL CHARITIES PARTNER LEADERS**, (left to right): top row, Tom Davidson, Sr., All Charities Partners Co-Chair; Keith Young, Medical Center at Ocean Reef CEO; Mike Berman, All Charities Partners Co-Chair; Alan Goldstein, All Charities Partners Co-Chair and Ocean Reef Cultural Center Chairman; front row, Frank Patterson, ORCAT Vice President; Graham Brown, The Academy at Ocean Reef Headmaster; Karen Waite, Ocean Reef Art League President; Gayle Tallardy, 2015 All Charities Weekend Co-Chair with Nick Lanni, not pictured; Cynthia Lee, 2014 All Charities Weekend Chair; Jack Curlett, Ocean Reef Conservation Association President; and Steve Markel, Ocean Reef Community Foundation President.

To learn more, please call the Foundation at 305-367-4707 or visit [www.orfound.org](http://www.orfound.org).

## GRANTS TO HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA CITY AND UPPER KEYS CHARITIES

<b>ARC Project Thrive</b>	<b>\$19,800</b>	<b>Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
Classroom equipment, furnishings and computers for new special needs children's classrooms.		Toward additional affordable homes in the Mandalay project on county-donated land. MATCH REQUIRED & MET	
<b>Arsht Center for the Performing Arts</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>Hospice VNA of the Florida Keys</b>	<b>30,000</b>
"Learning through the Arts" curriculum and live performance field trip for 5th Graders in Homestead and Florida City Title I schools. MATCH REQUIRED & MET		Critical hardware and software/technology upgrades to improve quality of service, productivity and efficiency.	
<b>Autism Society of the Keys</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>Jacobs Aquatic Center</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Early intervention and therapy for autistic children in the Upper Keys.		Maintenance and repairs to children's aging play area features and fencing.	
<b>Branches Florida City</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>Le Jardin Community Child Development Centers</b>	<b>23,287</b>
Civic development/engagement effort for Teen Leadership Program including workshops, mentoring and community service projects for 50+ teens.		iPad educational technology for pre-school children at three centers.	
<b>Burton Memorial Methodist Church Food Pantry</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>Key Largo School</b>	<b>36,870</b>
Freezer to enable acceptance of more fresh and frozen foods.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Licensing for "Gizmos" hands-on science software/curriculum for all 585 2nd-8th graders. \$3,500</li> <li>■ AVID college readiness program for middle school students, including supplies, teacher training and college visits. \$10,870</li> <li>■ Installation of a special accessible/safe surface to accommodate wheelchairs and a variety of disabilities for the Varying Exceptionalities classes' new playground. \$21,500</li> <li>■ Bus transportation for the 5th grade class to participate in the Arsht Center "Learning Through the Arts" program. \$1,000</li> </ul>	
<b>Camillus House</b>	<b>7,122</b>	<b>MUJER FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES</b>	<b>32,667</b>
CHEER educational initiative to assist homeless children in attending school and catching up with peers.		"Breaking the Secret Workshops" with University of Miami and follow up therapy for 40+ abused children.	
<b>Chapman Partnership</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>Open House Ministries</b>	<b>5,160</b>
Supporting services and educational activities for children of families transitioning from homelessness.		Weekly dinner to supplement the poor diets of disadvantaged children with nutritious foods.	
<b>City Year</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>PATCHES</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Mentoring, academic support and dropout prevention at Homestead Senior High School. MATCH REQUIRED & MET		Half the cost of providing fresh healthy meals for medically complicated children for one year.	
<b>Domestic Abuse Shelter</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>Redlands Christian Migrant Association Child Development Centers</b>	<b>14,205</b>
Youth Primary Prevention Programs in Upper Keys elementary and middle schools and workshops for Teens		Early learning computers and upgrades for three centers serving 260 disadvantaged children and the Community Resource Center computer labs used for both children's homework and GED and literacy classes for parents.	
<b>Faith Church of the Redlands Food Pantry</b>	<b>11,930</b>	<b>South Dade Child Development Center</b>	<b>23,729</b>
Walk-in freezer to enable acceptance of more fresh and frozen foods		Three "Smart Boards"/educational technology for disadvantaged pre-school children.	
<b>Feeding South Florida</b>	<b>99,910</b>	<b>South Florida National Parks Trust</b>	<b>6,400</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Food distributions and services for Burton Memorial and Homestead Food Pantries and the "Extra Helpings" program donating ORC surplus foods. \$50,000</li> <li>■ Year-round "Backpack" weekend meals for all 150 pre-school children receiving subsidized child care in the Upper Keys. \$46,800</li> <li>■ 10-week "Backpack" weekend meals for all 51 children expected to attend the Key Largo YMCA Summer camp on need-based scholarships. \$3,060</li> </ul>		<b>South Florida Science Museum &amp; Aquarium</b>	<b>15,000</b>
		Science Passport educational program for at-risk Title 1 elementary school students.	
<b>Florida International University</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>Take Stock in Children</b>	<b>55,000</b>
School of Environment, Arts & Society - Family Science Nights at Upper Keys Schools.		College scholarships (matched 100 percent by the Florida Pre-Paid College Foundation) for Upper Keys mentor program students.	
<b>Florida Keys Children's Shelter</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>YMCA of Greater Miami &amp; The Keys</b>	<b>85,000</b>
Van to transport abused, neglected and runaway youth being sheltered.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Homestead Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp. \$25,000</li> <li>■ Homestead Afterschool Programs at Title I schools. \$10,000</li> <li>■ Key Largo Marine Biology &amp; Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp. \$35,000</li> <li>■ Key Largo School Afterschool Program. \$15,000</li> </ul>	
<b>Florida Keys Community Concert Band</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>Total in Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>
Music Mentor program for 6th-8th grade students in the middle school band at Key Largo School.			
<b>Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association</b>	<b>5,570</b>	<b>Total On &amp; Off Reef Grants</b>	<b>\$740,000</b>
Unfunded needs for children in Foster Care in the Upper Keys.			
<b>Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition</b>	<b>10,000</b>		
Upper Keys Safety Program - Child safety education and equipment for homes and vehicles.			
<b>Good Hope Equestrian Training Center</b>	<b>10,000</b>		
"Endless Strides" 10 week therapy program for dozens of people with disabilities.			
<b>GMFC KIX Program</b>	<b>25,100</b>		
Refurbishment of the outdoor area at a new building as a suitable play space for youth program. \$5,000 MATCH REQUIRED FOR SHADE STRUCTURE MET.			

## SPOTLIGHT ON 2014 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Foundation's Community Grants program is a direct result of the Ocean Reef community's generous participation in the All Charities Weekend. Grants are awarded after months of careful vetting and evaluation by our Grants Committee and continually monitored. On the pages of our annual Community Grants Update, we invite you to learn more about the impact of the Foundation's 2014 Community Grants directly from the recipient organizations. For more information on these and other local charities, please call 305-367-4707.

### ORCF GRANTS COMMITTEE 2014-2015

Janie Sims and Stevie Wishnack, Co-Chairs,  
 Alan Goldstein • Nancy Harrington • Jay Holmes • Ken Karl • Cynthia Lee  
 Kathie Markel • Linda Owens • Bob Schmetterer

### ARC Project Thrive Florida City



Thanks to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, 25 young children now have two fully equipped, beautiful classrooms where they receive critical Early Intervention services at The ARC's Project Thrive Florida City program.

Children with multiple significant delays in their development, virtually all from low incomes families, now have a real opportunity to catch up with peers and be eager and able to learn. Plus families and staff use the new computers purchased by ORCF to access the internet to obtain resources, information, program registrations and advocate for children with disabilities.

**ORCF is a true community leader and friend in improving children's lives! Thank you!**

Laura Secord, Interim Director of Children & Youth Programs



### ■ 2002

■ The Foundation establishes its Legacy Society to recognize those who pledge to leave a bequest for charitable purposes.

■ The David Carkhuff Fund for Movies is established in his memory to benefit the movie program at the new Ocean Reef Cultural Center.

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$1,144,553.

### ■ 2003

■ The Foundation joins the National Council of Foundations.

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$986,486.



## Burton Memorial Methodist Church Food Pantry

We at Burton Memorial would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for the financial support that they provide to our food pantry. We are a small church that has an average attendance of 170 people operating a food pantry that serves over 200 families a month. Recently we have found that the pantry size and storage needed to be expanded in order to take advantage of specials and the availability of large food orders. Your donation for the purchase of a new commercial grade freezer and the ongoing account we have at Feeding South Florida will be put to good use.

**Needless to say, there is no way a church our size could meet the needs of our community without your help.**

We are currently renovating to accommodate for the overflow of dry and canned goods along with providing an extra freezer for meats. We should have all renovations completed and the freezer purchased by mid-November. Thank You and God Bless.

Pastor Kerry Foote



## Autism Society of the Keys

Your willingness to help children with Autism in our community is making a huge difference. Thanks to your foundation, we have provided ten children with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) - a scientifically proven method of bringing about positive outcomes through changes in behavior and the only nationally recognized method for the treatment of Autism. Sadly, many children in our community have not benefitted from this therapy because the cost is prohibitive.

**Thanks to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, autistic children in the Upper Keys are improving their ability to interact with the world around them and now have the ability to be more successful in their classrooms, communities and homes.**

This is a real gift. ASK has made it our mission to reach families affected by Autism and offer hope, love, and assistance so their children can learn to live independent fulfilling lives. Our ABA grant, funded through your generous contribution, is making this possible. Again, thank you for all you do for our kids. You are a part of their lives too.

Jill Campbell, President



## Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

### LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

With Ocean Reef's support, more than 1,300 fifth-graders from high-poverty public schools in Homestead and Florida City will discover the wonders of live theater by attending "Rock Odyssey" in May 2015. Staged in the Arsht Center's grand Knight Concert Hall, the Broadway-style musical is accompanied by lesson plans so arts-inspired learning can continue back in the classroom. Research shows that at-risk students who have access to the arts have better academic results, workforce opportunities and civic engagement.

**Thank you for bringing the power of the arts to the next generation!**

M. John Richard, CEO & President



## 2004

■ The Karen Holmes Fund is established in her memory to purchase and maintain "AEDs for Life" (emergency defibrillators) throughout the Ocean Reef Community.

■ Among pledges and grants are \$100,000 to the Cultural Center, \$50,000 for the Academy Capital Campaign and \$100,000 to the Art League Palette Society. Minutes show \$2.9 million raised for the Town Hall building.

■ The Janet & James F. Dicke Academy Building Maintenance Fund is established to maintain the community's new school.



### Branches

Branches is grateful for all the support we receive from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Thanks to your generosity, Branches Florida City was able to give summer employment mentoring opportunities to six high school students as Summer Shade Guides to lead our elementary school children during Summer Shade Camp and teach them valuable professional skills which are so vital for their long-term success. Branches is a place where many of these youth are affirmed, loved and truly appreciated, and thanks to the employment and development we have been able to provide to them, our youth have gained confidence and skills that will last a lifetime!

Kim Torres, Director of Student Services



## Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition

I wish I could share with you the look in a young mom or dad's eyes the moment they realize they've unknowingly been doing something that puts their child at risk. It is one of pure fear. To get the full story though, you would have to also see the sense of pride and empowerment in their changed demeanor once they learn to do it differently. **Thanks to your support of the Coalition's "Keys to Kids' Safety" Program, together we are literally changing the culture of Upper Keys Families by giving them the tools to make better decisions for their children.** From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Arianna Nesbitt, Chief Executive Officer



## City Year

City Year Miami is proud to partner with the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to combat the high school dropout crisis! Your generous support enables teams of City Year Miami AmeriCorps members – like our stellar young leaders at Homestead Senior High School – to serve each day as tutors, mentors, and role models to over 6,500 at-risk youth in 18 high-need schools.

**Thank you for your belief in the potential of the children we serve and for creating school environments where every child can thrive.** Together, we can ensure that youth from struggling communities receive access to a quality education and future."

Saif Ishaof, Vice President and Executive Director



### 2004 continued

■ The Foundation publishes the first *The Link* community newsletter and President John Taylor announces "Since our founding in 1994 we have concentrated on ... funding needs identified within the Ocean Reef Club. We have now expanded our sights to include as well the needs of our surrounding neighbors in Key Largo and Homestead."

### 2005

■ Now 10 years in, assets are more than \$8.5 million. Grants distributed for the year total \$1,375,886.

■ A Tsunami Fund is established to coordinate the community's outpouring of support for the disaster stricken Indian Ocean region.

## Feeding South Florida



### UPPER KEYS KIDS "BACKPACK" PROGRAMS

On behalf of the children and families in Monroe County who struggle to put food on the table, thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for helping provide six meals every weekend to children who would otherwise go to bed hungry. The Feeding South Florida Backpack program is a critical program to help bridge the gap between

Friday's school lunch and Monday's school breakfast. Because of your generous support, we are able to provide nutritious and kid-friendly meals to children at Key Largo School, YMCA summer camp and Early Learning Coalition associated preschools. Because of this program, families do not have to choose between putting food on the table or paying other critical bills such as utilities, rent, and transportation.

Sari Vatske, Vice President of Community Relations

### PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION/FOOD RESCUE

Thanks to the many years of Ocean Reef Community Foundation's generous support, Feeding South Florida has been able to significantly increase the number of meals provided to the Homestead and Key Largo communities through our store donation proxy program and weekly produce drops.

**It's wonderful to have a community partner that supports our efforts to reach remote areas of the community and provide assistance to areas that otherwise wouldn't have access to fresh and nutritious food.** We are so appreciative for the continued support of the community that enables us to provide more than 100,000 additional meals to these areas known as food deserts.

Paco Velez, President & CEO



## Domestic Abuse Shelter

Thank you Ocean Reef Community Foundation for positioning 40 teen women to experience dialogue information about healthy friendships and relationships. As teen women we fully appreciate the opportunity to talk about such topics in a safe space



and with persons that are not our moms, teachers, or someone that will judge us. We always leave the conference desirous of knowing when the next conference will be held. We are learning important things about being in a relationship and the "red flags" for unhealthy friendships and relationships.

Teen Participants, submitted by Venita Garvin, CEO

## Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association

Ocean Reef Community Foundation funding assisted with the Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association's 2014 Summer Fun Program. Foster and adoptive families were able to take their children to special summer functions, enroll in camps and some even visited Disney World for the first time! Funds assisted children of all ages, in some way, to enjoy an extra special summer this year. Thank you again to the Ocean Reef Community for its generosity.



Pictured presenting the grant award, Linda Owen (center) of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation Grants Committee with FKFA members Lisa De los Santos, Christine Cunningham (President), Norbert Birnbaum and Barbara Brooke.

## 2006

■ Among pledges are \$125,000 for Homestead Hospital and \$10,000 for the ORCAT Capital Campaign.

■ The Ocean Reef Employee Emergency Fund is established to enable the community to provide confidential financial assistance to employees of ORC and ORCA in situations of verifiable emergency.

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$1,863,182.

■ Among grants are \$150,000 to the Cultural Center, \$25,000 to the Rod & Gun Club environmental effort and a pledge of \$45,000 to Ocean Reef's Coast Guard Auxiliary



## Faith Church “Love in Action” Food Pantry

“Love in Action” thanks ORCF and its donors for your support. With the new 8’x10’ freezer, we are now able to store and receive more food to feed more families. With our new pallet jack we are able to maneuver pallets of food rapidly, enabling us to receive and distribute a greater amount of food. ORCF has helped take this feeding ministry to another level. Since Love and Action has partnered with ORCF we have been able to offer a hand up and hope to over 40,000 people this year. Thanks to your support we expect to help 100,000’s in the years to come.

Pastor Vinnie Kelso

## Florida International University SEAS Family Science Nights

Thanks to the ORCF for supporting the 2014 FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society (SEAS) Family Science Night Program! This program emphasizes scientific inquiry, hands-on applications, critical thinking, and cooperative learning in Keys’ students. **Because of your caring, families will have the opportunity to share their child’s enthusiasm for science.** Family involvement is crucial to establish love of learning and curiosity in the minds of young children. Your efforts allow our children to shine in the eyes of the most influential people in their lives, their families. For this, we thank you.

Aileen Soto, Education and Outreach Coordinator



## Florida Keys Children’s Shelter

Thank you for caring about our kids! Your generous support has allowed us to meet the needs of our children while fulfilling our mission of sheltering and counseling children in the Keys.

**It is simple; we could not do this work without the financial investments of the Ocean Reef Community. The impact of your grant improves their lives every day.** Your kind support allows our kids to dream of a better life! Thank you for joining with FKCS as we work together to rebuild shattered lives. Your partnership allows our kids to have healthy and safe futures. THANK YOU!

Janey R. Wawerna, Chief Development Officer

### ■ 2006 continued

- NetJets hosts dinner with Tim Russert in support of the Foundation
- The Foundation presents “The Ultimate Gift”
- Grants distributed for the year total \$1,295,642.

### ■ 2007

- The Foundation is awarded the National Council on Foundations’ seal confirming compliance with National Standards, the highest standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability.
- The Foundation’s annual Wine Dinner grosses over \$1million for the first time.
- The Wounded Warrior Fund is established to provide the patriotic community a vehicle to support service people wounded in action.

## Chapman Partnership

Chapman Partnership thanks Ocean Reef Community Foundation for its support of My Family Hour at Chapman Partnership South, which has provided hundreds of homeless children experiential activities designed to mitigate the effects of displacement.

While most children enjoy summers and after school hours filled with activities that enrich their lives and expand their horizons, children experiencing homelessness are often burdened by the reality of their poverty. **My Family Hour has proven to help our homeless children succeed by ensuring consistent opportunities to play and learn, and find support that is essential for healthy development and future empowerment.**

Holly Woodbury, Vice President of Development



## Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys

Thanks to the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community the Habitat at Mandalay - Key Largo project is moving forward with two new houses being constructed. In addition, Habitat for Humanity will be building an additional three more 3-bedroom houses with plans to break ground on two of them in early 2015.

The lucky family awaiting the completion of their new Habitat home is the Hernandez family. Pictured are the boys Sadier and Javier (11 year old twins), daughter Meylin (13), along with Noyde and Damary. Noyde is an employee of the Village of Islamorada Parks Department and his wife Damary is employed at First State Bank in the Tradewinds Plaza, Key Largo. Habitat for Humanity sincerely thanks all the continued support from our friends at Ocean Reef.



Jack Niedbalski, Executive Director

## Jacobs Aquatic Center

The Jacobs Aquatic Center is, as always, deeply grateful to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for their generous and ongoing support. The original gift supplied by the Barbara Jacobs family has not only been supported by ORCF but expanded as well. Equipment and maintenance made possible by ORCF grants help to assure a safe and enjoyable experience for community families. The goal of the Jacobs Aquatic Center is to educate families and children in aquatic safety while offering a pleasurable, fun experience. Through their community oriented support, ORCF helps us to continue doing so. The board, management, and staff of JAC would simply like to say THANK YOU!

Corky Wagner, Manager



■ The “Ocean Reef Angels” program recognizing families who have made substantial charitable contributions begins in cooperation with the Ocean Reef Medical Center Foundation.

■ The Courage Fund is established in memory of Lisa Taylor’s courageous battle with cancer to benefit local Hospice organizations.

■ Foundation leadership spearheads the effort, in cooperation of the Club and major local charities, to create the first Ocean Reef Club Charity Check Off on dues statements, which provides local charities with the base of support they require to give up individual auctions and lays the groundwork for the All Charities effort.



### Florida Keys Community Concert Band Music Mentor Program

What do you get when you match an experienced, passionate professional musician with a young and vibrant 12 year old beginning player? The Music Mentor Program funded by the ORCF, in conjunction with the Community Concert Band, has provided magical opportunity for hundreds of Key Largo School students. The "Unconservatory" piano duo and the "JazzGuys" (sax and string bass) performed for 1st through 8th grade. With lively question and answer sessions, sparks were flying as students learned about musical styles they have, for the most part, never heard before. In other sessions, middle school band students met with private instructors including Dr. McFarlane (trombone player with multiple Broadway touring shows), Miss Megan (flautist with the Naples Symphony) and Mr. Lou (principal clarinet with the Community Concert Band).

Susan Bazin, Key Largo Middle School Band Director



### Homestead Food Pantry

Every one of the hundreds we assist with your help each week has a unique story of gratitude. One of our clients with a family of five who has been coming for a long time is grateful that between her employment and what the food pantry provides, she is able to stay off of government aid. Another client with a family of five who has been coming for about four weeks is disabled, receives \$150 in food stamps and says the food pantry allows his family to have complete meals and fill the void. Our newest client is a mother of two who has only been able to find temp work and receives no government assistance. She stays with a family member and says that the food she receives at the pantry assists her family need.

Rusty Kelly, Director



### Open House Ministries

Open House Ministries is a holistic Homestead neighborhood center that shares fellowship and FOOD with "at-risk" children and youth, through the kindness and generosity of Ocean Reef Community Foundation. Our community is plagued by poverty, crime, substance abuse and failing schools. Our fellowship meals are an outreach tool that helps us connect youth to after-school programs, free summer camp, 12-step recovery programs, sports, art and a computer lab. Over thirty youth benefit from this funding every week. **Many would go to bed hungry without your support!** Thank you for being a bridge to HOPE and a HEALTHY LIFE!



Wanda Ashworth, Executive Director

### 2007 continued

- After a Club employee is car-jacked and killed in a resulting accident, the Missi Holderman Fund is established to provide for her children's education.

- The Foundation hosts Teckie Shackelford's lecture "The Three Joys of Money"

- Grants distributed for the year total \$1,776,837.

### 2008

- The first All Charities Auction, consolidating more than a dozen fundraisers for the major charities of Ocean Reef into one weekend of fundraising, is held with record breaking success. The Foundation administration of the event allows the All Charities Partners to focus on their missions and minimizes the need to divert time and resources to fundraising while reducing solicitations.

## Key Largo School

### AVID COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAM

The grant that the Key Largo School AVID program has received has brought about many positive changes. We are taking the AVID program school wide for faculty and students and revolutionizing our AVID elective. The AVID elective is for students that are in the academic middle and the first in their family to attend college. Field trips, such trips to area colleges, have opened my students' eyes and showed them what they can achieve. This motivates them to stay organized, take higher level classes and increase school and community involvement. **I am so thankful that this grant has allowed me to better prepare my students for a global society and ensure that they will have successful futures.**

Katie Wieland, KLS AVID teacher



### BACKPACK WEEKEND NUTRITION PROGRAM

This year we have had the good fortune to be the recipients of the Backpack Program from your grant to Feeding South Florida. The kids and parents are very grateful and anxiously await the weekly distribution of weekend meals. Student aides help deliver the food to classrooms where teachers fill backpacks confidentially. **Not only are we feeding hungry kids, older students are experiencing the chance to help others in need.** They are learning that not everyone gets to eat every night and with that comes a heightened awareness of helping others. Even though we are an indirect recipient of this grant, it is the one that warms my heart the most!

Laura Liettaert, KLS Principal



### BUS FOR ARSHT CENTER FIELD TRIP

When the lights came on and the music starting rolling, our students were hooked. Your gift of transportation to the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami to see *Rock Odyssey*, a humorous, theatrical version of Homer's *Odyssey* that turns the story into a rock musical, exposed many of our students to theatre for the first time. Many of our students have never had the opportunity to attend such a fine theatre and performance due to low income and field trips "off the rock" are increasingly rare in today's budget environment.

Tarin Ariatti, KLS 5th Grade Teacher

### GIZMOS MATH & SCIENCE SOFTWARE

Thank you for making it possible for our school to have access to the Gizmos learning program for math and science. It has allowed me to open the door to technology based and hands-on curriculums that I would otherwise not be able to offer in my small setting. My students enjoy being able to follow a specific set of instructions that guide them through the steps in interacting with the program and then receiving immediate feedback with the results.

Kim McDaniel, KLS Teacher

### VARYING EXCEPTIONALITIES PLAYGROUND

Since 2007, when I began my career here at Key Largo, I dreamed of having an inviting and inclusive space that would be both for play and for learning and meet the needs of all kids. **Today we see that dream take shape due to the generosity of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.** These special students of KLS now have their very own "imagination station." Not only is this a wonderful area for safe, creative and dramatic play, but true learning (in many forms) also takes place here daily. It is my hope that this space provides that kind of exuberance and joy to everyone here at KLS for many generations to come. This quote from Patricia Ramsey sums it all up wonderfully: Play, while it cannot change the external realities of children's lives, can be a vehicle for children to explore and enjoy their similarities and differences and to create, even for a brief time, a more just world where everyone is an equal and valued participant.

Jessica Shafer, K-8 Varying Exceptionalities Teacher



## 2009

- The Foundation's South Dade Child Care Center Expansion Project results in new classroom space which enables the Center to expand the program to 80 additional disadvantaged children.

- The Foundation establishes its Administrative Fund to cover operating costs

- The Ocean Reef Cultural Center Endowment is invested with the Foundation.

- Grants distributed for the year total \$3,374,188.

- In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the Foundation begins a Hunger Relief Initiative (ongoing today) with its first food bank grants and a donation match offer doubling dollars donated to fight hunger.

### Le Jardin Community Center

The children enrolled in Le Jardin Community Center are very grateful for receiving the grant for iPads. Children access interactive games for learning colors, alphabet letters and sounds, simple math, listen to stories and love having control over their learning as they manipulate the iPads. Since our students qualify as low income and have limited world experiences, the iPads allow the children to “open a window into the world” for seeing and listening to novel experiences such as watching animals at the zoo or watching a live science experiment. Le Jardin cannot thank you enough for providing us with this opportunity. **Thanks to you, our children will begin seamlessly when they enter kindergarten, and school readiness is a key component to Head Start.** Children with disabilities and children who are learning English will now have an additional tool for learning.

Deborah Cherubini, Early Childhood Development Coordinator



### MUJER



Thanks to the continued support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation grant, abused children have found a safe environment to express their feelings. MUJER has been able to continue to offer individual and group counseling to children, ages 5-16, who

have suffered the effects of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. This year, three of our clients are eleven year old triplets who were brought to MUJER by their mother who recently found the courage to leave her abusive husband. In therapy, memories are being healed of the verbal and physical abuse received from their violent father. THANK YOU Ocean Reef Community Foundation!

Patricia Freyre, Mental Health Counselor

### South Dade Child Development Center

South Dade was awarded a grant to purchase Smart Boards for the preschool program. The boards not only provide knowledge proficiency for the children, but have also been a wonderful learning opportunity for our special needs children as they increase visual stimulation with sound and video. The center’s population has about 84 percent dual language learners in which we expect to have an increase in the learning outcomes. One of our teachers, Evelyn Angulo, stated that her math lessons have been more effective as children have been more engaged and she expects better academic achievement for her students. The Smart Boards not only bring technology into the classroom, but also motivate our children to want to learn. We are truly thankful for this grant and we invite the Ocean Reef Community to come and see how much our children enjoy using the tool. Studies show that teachers and students are reaching new heights when integrating technology in the classroom and at South Dade, the sky is only the beginning!



Evelyn Molina, M.S.L., Regional Director for Catholic Charities Child Development Centers

### 2009 continued

■ The Small Urgent Response Grants Fund is established in reaction to the recession to meet emergency funding needs outside the regular Community Grants annual grant cycle.

■ The Foundation first leases donated land to ORCA at a nominal annual fee for use as a community dog park.

■ Ron Elenbaas, ORC President at the time of the institution of the Charity Check Off, recalls in *The Link's* report on the effort's results how sorely that solution had been needed, saying “every charity was raising money all the time,” and notes that the combined effort already “has worked very well, made the environment here at Ocean Reef much more pleasant.”



## Ocean Reef Chapel Foundation



A warm thank you to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation for helping to fund the Ocean Reef Chapel renovations in part. This is a building the whole community can proudly use for worship, weddings, memorials and other worthwhile activities. The new roof, windows, sound system, organ and other additions have all improved our wonderful place of worship for the benefit of the Ocean Reef Community members, families, visitors and employees.

Joan Techet, President on behalf of the Ocean Reef Chapel Foundation Board of Trustees

## Ocean Reef Volunteer Fire Department

The Ocean Reef Public Safety Department prides itself on providing an unmatched level of service to the residents of Ocean Reef. This is made possible through the generous donations from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation which is applied to the purchase of state of the art ambulances. **These ambulances ensure that the residents of Ocean Reef receive the highest level of service in the event of a medical emergency.** Thank you for your support to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation! It truly has a positive impact.

Scott Lynch, Director of Public Safety



## United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-04



Arriving in October for rescue and training in deep or shallow waters (Manufacturer's Stock Photo)

After two years of restructuring, the "Year of 13-04" is now unfolding. An exciting, super-fast, twenty-nine foot, dual console, twin hull vessel equipped with twin 300HP out-board engines that is "Keys-Perfect" for training and rescue will be delivered mid-October to replace our previous, inadequate, patrol-rescue vessel. Confident in our choice of a stronger on-the-water program, we have also used these years to change the historically distant relationship with our sister Flotilla in Key Largo and infrequent assistance to and from the USCG in Islamorada. We have built a vital three-area working team that our new vessel and eager, new members can support. **Thanks OR Community Foundation, impossible without you!**

Jim Leenhouts, Flotilla 13-04

## Ocean Reef Historical Society

For 15 years the Ocean Reef Community Foundation has kept me talking. And I talk in my own particular way. Talking about our history as a fishing camp and regaling our colorful history is as excitin' as hookin' a Bonefish. AND I get to meet all sorts of interesting folk. I tell them all about the old days when Ocean Reef was nothin' but a fishing camp. You should see the surprise on their faces! You can say that I've seen it all. **Without the ORCF help, our members and guests would be fishin' in the dark about our history.**

"Capt. Tommy Gifford," Museum Android



### 2010

■ Now 15 years in, assets are \$14 million and grants distributed for the year total \$3,389,400.

■ The Phoenix Fund is established offering an \$850,000 matching gift for donations to save the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center.

■ The Haiti Relief Fund is established in the wake of a devastating earthquake in recognition of the many Club employees with families in Haiti. A massive cooperative effort with the Club raises a combined total of almost half a million dollars and launches a two year response program.

## Redlands Christian Migrant Association



The more than 150 migrant and rural poor children served by RCMA's child care centers and community learning center in Florida City are learning with technology thanks to the new computers, monitors and chairs purchased with ORCF's support. These children have barriers against learning that make it difficult for them to keep pace academically.



Technology has become an indispensable communication tool, enabling access to a virtual world of possibilities; breaking down barriers and facilitating greater engagement for children who are often isolated in rural communities. RCMA is grateful; having access to this new technology will help our children be successful!

Beatriz Coronado,  
Florida City Area Coordinator

## YMCA



On behalf of the YMCA of Greater Miami, and specifically the Homestead and Upper Keys YMCA families and youth – we thank you. Throughout the 20th century, numerous studies have examined general learning loss among all students during the summer months. Additionally, over one in every three of our local children in elementary and middle school is left unsupervised after 3pm. **Your gift allowed nearly 400 youth to have impactful childcare for 39 weeks during the school year and 10 weeks last summer that enhanced their cultural growth, social and cognitive skills.** A family's socioeconomic status affects children's achievement scores almost exclusively when school is closed. Without your support our children would have little hope of closing achievement gaps; with your generosity those gaps were filled with trips to nature preserves and museums, quality time with caring and engaged adults, and nutritious meals as learning fuel.

Nyam Smith, Executive Director  
Homestead & Upper Keys



## GMYFC KIX

Thank you ORCF for helping us create a FUN, safe space for our children to run, play, explore, relax and enjoy the outdoors at our newly purchased KIX youth center! This Shade and Play area will provide a place for our children to play with their peers outside the walls of a classroom setting (no computer/TV screens here)! Our new Shade and Play area is FULL of health benefits for the 50-100 children who will regularly enjoy this AWESOME space! **Thank you for helping us provide both fun and fitness!** We can't wait until this play space is completed in the next few months! I know it will bring our children endless smiles!

Stacy Morales,  
Homestead KIX Director



## 2010 continued

■ Ocean Reef Presidents' Organization, Ocean Reef Club and the Foundation collaborate to present "Estate Planning in an Uncertain World" with Jonathan Blattmachr.

■ The Anglers Club Community Fund is established to improve the water quality of the neighboring community's lakes.

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$2,426,684.

## 2011

■ Collaboration and a Foundation grant make it possible for Ocean Reef Club to donate surplus banquet foods through the Extra Helpings program.

■ An All Charities office opens in the Fishing Village.



## Good Hope Equestrian Training Center

We are eternally grateful to ORFC for supporting Endless Strides! Your benevolence has provided forty individuals with physical, intellectual and emotional disabilities, equine therapy scholarships to assist them to achieve their rehabilitative goals. Thanks to the generosity of the ORCF donors, each participant has been touched by the healing properties of the horse, from the child diagnosed with Autism who speaks their first word to the individual who is freed from the confinement of their wheelchair, as the horse's legs become their own. You have left footprints on the hearts of the individuals whom have made great strides towards independence!

Peggy Bass, Executive Director



■ Preferred Partners businesses first sign multi-year agreements to support All Charities Weekend, helping to secure the future of All Charities effort.

■ John Taylor steps down as President after nine years in office during which giving, both on and off the Reef, increased dramatically and much was accomplished. Vice President Tom Davidson reacted on behalf of the board in *The Link*, saying "John has brought great professionalism and compassion to the Foundation and increased focus on worthy causes outside the gate."

■ Grants distributed for the year total \$5,734,027.

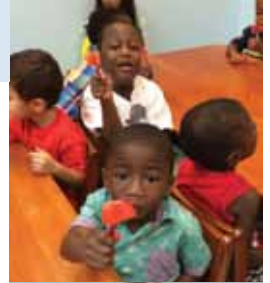
PATCHES

Your organization has been a God-send to PATCHES! This year's grant provided two fresh healthy meals a day for 35 children for an entire YEAR! The only balanced nutrition some of our children receive is at PATCHES. We were able to vary our food selections and introduce new foods.



We can't let the opportunity go by without thanking you again for the 2013 grant Ocean Reef provided us for a cardiac monitor. This monitor is routinely critical, and was a literally a life saver when used during a code situation with the baby pictured at left. Because we were able to record his rhythm, the doctors were able to identify his intermittent transient abnormal cardiac function. He was transferred via fire rescue to the local hospital and air lifted to Miami Children's where he remained in PICU for over 4 months. Today this child is on the road to a full recovery. With excellent nursing care and therapies, he should be able to grow and thrive and catch up to his peers. **Every life is precious and your gift helped save this child.**

Joanie Ippolito RN, BSN and Kyle Smith RN, BSN, Founders



South Florida Science Center

Thank you Ocean Reef! The Ocean Reef Community Foundation continues to be an amazing partner this year through the Science Passport Plus Program. The generous contribution from the Foundation will touch the lives of over 1,000 students from Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys Title 1 Schools. Each of the students participate in over two hours of hands-on learning programs with topics such as physics, environmental conservation, DNA, marine resources, computer coding, dissections and much more! We continue to be grateful for the unwavering support of Ocean Reef. **Through your generous funding you have single-handedly made South Florida a better place to live, work and play for the kids in your surrounding areas.**

Kate Arrizza, CEO

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Florida Keys

**We are deeply indebted for your philanthropic vision. It helped initiate a transformative change for our organization.** Jody Gross, President/CEO

Implementing the system was crucial for compliance with new Medicare, Medicaid and HIPPA regulations. Your support provided us the opportunity to better manage our patient case notes and to maximize clinical productivity. Your support has had a huge impact on our entire staff. Kathleen Ryzoc, COO

We can now provide improved teaching and educational materials to our patients, helping them to understand their illnesses and medications. Clinical data entry now allows for a more comprehensive assessment in real time which is beneficial for the patient care. Mary Turick, RN, BSN



2012

- Grants distributed for the year total \$5,250,038.
- In the article, Ocean Reef Community Association President David Ritz is quoted remarking "The Ocean Reef Community Foundation and the All Charities program have been extremely beneficial to the Ocean Reef Community. The program has significantly improved both this community's well-being and the Ocean Reef image in surrounding communities. It is amazing how many lives are touched by the Community Foundation's efforts."
- After the five year mark, *The Link* reviews the progress of the All Charities effort, which had raised \$9.6 million to date for the All Charities Partners.



### Take Stock In Children

On behalf of the Monroe County Education Foundation, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of the Take Stock in Children program. **The generous support of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation not only positively impacts our scholars and program, but it directly results in the opportunity for our scholars to realize their dream of a college education.** Our scholars, who are low-income, at-risk, and often first-generation college bound students, benefit from your support and are able to attend a Florida state university or college with a Take Stock scholarship and earn a degree.

Chuck Licis, Program Coordinator



ORCF Scholar Sarah Dodamead

ORCF Scholar Mayla Gracia-Herrera

### South Florida National Parks Trust



More than 230 students have gone snorkeling in Florida Bay since Everglades National Park launched a Florida Bay education program in October 2011 with support from Ocean Reef Community Foundation.



Here's a thank-you letter from one of those students: "Our field trip was amazing! We got to learn about the different kinds of seagrass in Florida Bay. I always just called it seaweed, but now I know that there are different types and they have names. I even know how to tell them apart! Who knew you could have so much fun while you learn so much? I hope more classes will be able to go on this field trip because it is such an amazing opportunity to learn about our environment and how to protect it."

Don Finefrock, Executive Director

### 2013

■ Vice President and All Charities Chairman Tom Davidson's remarks include crediting as critical the success of "the Community Trustee Program where generous individuals from our community are willing to pledge a minimum level donation prior to the event. The Trustees have grown from an initial group of 15 five years ago to over 60 this year."

■ Alan Goldstein steps down as Chairman "after 11 years of leadership resulting in remarkable growth and success," according to the *Ocean Reef Press*. In the article, Vice-President and All Charities Chairman Tom Davidson, recalls "By 2002, the Foundation had assets of just under \$5 million. Alan was elected Chairman in 2003. Today the Foundation has fiduciary management of more than \$26 million in assets and distributes about \$5 million in charitable grants annually."

Continued from page 1

The backpack preschool program Williams refers to is a pilot program created and funded by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and Feeding South Florida. So called backpack programs were developed in response to disadvantaged children, who benefit from free or reduced price meals during the school week, frequently coming to school hungry and unfocused on Mondays after a weekend without adequate nutrition. Such programs provide packages of kid-friendly, shelf-stable foods (in this case, six meals and two snacks) distributed confidentially directly into the backpacks of needy kids on Friday afternoons.

Feeding South Florida runs several elementary school backpack programs (serving kindergarten through third grade) in three counties to the north, but had never done so in Monroe County and didn't have a protocol to address independent preschools. The Foundation reached out to the Early Learning Coalition, which provides childcare subsidies to disadvantaged families and works with all eight preschools in the Upper Keys, as a partner to aid in identifying eligibility, establishing appropriate guidelines for the age group (foods are safe for ages 3+; infants are helped by other programs), instituting the program across eight independent agencies and centralizing distribution.

During the summer, children who benefit from food programs during the school year are also especially vulnerable. In an effort to address this, the program was extended to children attending the YMCA Key Largo Summer Camp on need based scholarships.

"The reaction to the backpack program, from both the membership and the Key Largo community, is the most enthusiastic I have ever seen for any effort," according to Foundation Executive Director Yuri Mikolay. "In fact, word of mouth from the grants committee discussions while developing the pre-school program created enough private donor interest to spur the creation of a new fund to extend the program to Key Largo School."



The Key Largo School program now offers weekly food packages to all pre-school through third grade students eligible to receive the federal free or reduced lunch benefits. Several generous matching grants have stimulated giving and a second school year has now been funded.

Mikolay worked directly with the Keys agencies to establish the new programs smoothly and said "Literally everyone we worked with on this has wholeheartedly embraced pitching in to do whatever it took to make it happen and meet this unanimously agreed upon need. This program has a lot of working parts and requires the efforts and cooperation of countless individuals

and many agencies and I am very grateful to be able to say that we have that in abundance."

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. One preschool director commented, "I think the backpack program is working very well. The parents are so grateful for the extra help. Most of them are really struggling to make ends meet." One single mom of three said her own mother has been a Club housekeeping employee for more than 10 years. She commented, "I work full time but we're just getting by. Thank you for helping my family out. It makes me feel there is hope. It is really going to help children."

Foundation Chairman Bill Nutt focused on the big picture significance of the effort, saying "Thanks to all who participate in the All Charities effort and our private donors' commitment to co-investment with us, Ocean Reef will be providing supplemental nutrition directly to virtually all disadvantaged pre-school to third grade children in Key Largo in the year ahead. **This project will have a major impact for hundreds of families in the Upper Keys and is a truly meaningful philanthropic effort made possible by the Ocean Reef Community.**"

The Grants Committee also reports additional progress underway since. Over the summer the Foundation worked to identify and encourage the most viable option for a regular pantry operation in Key Largo proper to better serve that community. After much discussion and collaboration, St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church has recently opened a pantry in partnership with Star of the Sea Foundation and has started expanding services with thanks to a grant from an ORCF Donor Advised Fund

## 2013 continued

- The Foundation provides consulting support for the establishment of the Ocean Reef ACT organization which links volunteers in the Ocean Reef community to nonprofit projects.
- Grants distributed for the year total \$4,719,324.

## 2014

- All Charities effort doubles its first year (2008) proceeds with record-setting results of \$3.1 million raised for the All Charities Partners, benefitting from 91 Community Trustees.
- Annual Community Grants reach an all time high with \$700,000 in grants to surrounding communities.

## 2014-2015 Charity Tours

**Friday, December 12** Homestead/Florida City

**Friday, January 23** Upper Keys

**Wednesday, February 11** Homestead/Florida City

Tours depart the Cultural Center promptly at 8:30 a.m. returning by 12:30 p.m.

**Please call 305-367-4707 to reserve your seat and for more information.**

providing a commercial refrigeration unit.

"I appreciate your help a great deal getting this project off the ground and establishing it here at St. Justin Martyr," said Father Stephen Hilley who leads the church. Many will recognize Hilley from the services he leads at the Ocean Reef Chapel.

"There is a real consensus that this pantry is needed and will make a huge difference for Key Largo families. We recognize it is a major undertaking and we're very pleased that St. Justin's and Star of the Sea are stepping up to provide this service to the community," said Sims.

"Another important development," added Wishnack, "is a new effort by Florida Impact to reach out to local agencies with the goal of improving the utilization of federal child nutrition programs in the Florida Keys. We are collaborating with Florida Impact and expect to see resulting grant applications this year for projects that will help Upper Keys childcare centers qualify to begin offering federally funded lunch and snack programs.



## 2015 ALL CHARITIES WEEKEND



Nick Lanni and Gayle Tallardy  
2015 All Charities Weekend Chairs

We have planned an amazing weekend filled with exciting surprises and fabulous entertainment. With your participation we will make this another record year of fun and good will with all our charities.



### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Opening Night Wine Tasting with Silent Auction Showcase  
4-7 p.m. | Heron Hall

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Silent Auction Showcase | 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Heron Hall  
NetJets Aircraft Display | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Ocean Reef Airport

### *Giving Hearts Ball*

**Cocktails and Silent Auction** | 6 p.m. | Heron Hall  
**Dinner, Live Auction, and Dancing** | 7 p.m. | Town Hall

FOR TICKETS, DONATIONS OR INFORMATION

contact Lesa Crayne, Auction Administrator  
305-367-5996 | lcrayne@oceanreef.com  
or go to [orfound.org](http://orfound.org) and click the auction logo.

■ The Backpack Childhood Hunger Relief initiative is launched in the Upper Keys providing supplemental nutrition directly to disadvantaged preschoolers and summer campers through a Community Grant and Pre-K through 3rd Graders qualifying for free or reduced lunch at Key Largo School through a private donor effort.

■ An April issue of the *Ocean Reef Press* reports "In a recent survey by All Charities Partners, 100 percent of the participants said that they prefer the combined charity effort vs. the dozens of individual fundraising events that existed prior to 2008. Furthermore, over 97 percent said that All Charities Weekend was 'Very' or 'Extremely Valuable' to the Ocean Reef community."



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PERMIT #3203

### Our Mission

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation is an independent, charitable and not-for-profit organization established to promote and enhance responsible and effective philanthropy in our community.

305-367-4707  
[www.orfound.org](http://www.orfound.org)

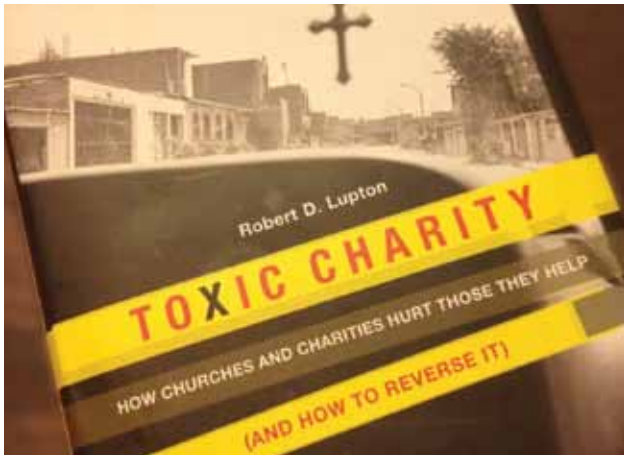
## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation  
Presents a Complimentary Talk by

**ROBERT LUPTON**

Author of *Toxic Charity - How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help and How to Reverse It*



To be held in the morning at the  
Ocean Reef Cultural Center  
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

## Time Flies



Time and the  
IRS are not known  
for their flexibility,  
but we are...

Open a Donor Advised Fund by December 31st  
to get your 2014 tax deduction and all the time you need  
to decide how to best distribute your charitable gifts.

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**Don't let it fly away with  
your tax deduction!**

### 2014 continued

■ Now 20 years in, the Foundation has more than \$30 million in assets (including \$7.7 million in more than 60 Donor Advised Funds) and grants distributed for the year total more than \$6 million.

■ We are looking forward to...  
**OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:  
THE NEXT 20 YEARS**

