

Countdown to Inspiration

All Charities Weekend 2024 Invites Ocean Reef Members to Imagine & Shine



by Sarah A. Cart

This season's All Charities Weekend (ACW – **Feb. 2-4**, 2024) begins just eight weeks from today (if that feels early, *that's because it is* – we don't want to conflict with Super Bowl LVIII, after all)! And with Easter coming early, too, the whole calendar feels compressed.

But experience has shown

that **when Ocean Reef Members are presented with a challenge, they transform it to an amazing opportunity, and shine.**

When it comes to All Charities, that means that right now, even as the holidays are gearing up – Hannukah began last evening – is the time to pay attention, take action, and make plans.

If you've registered on ACW's "Imagine the Possibilities" theme and been thinking there was something you'd like to donate, large or small, the moment has arrived to reach out to 2024 ACW co-chairs **Susie Misini Hassett** and **Cathy Totonis**, ACW Silent Auction co-chairs **Lori & Brad Young**, or the wonderful All Charities staff (305-367-5996) before the Dec. 15 deadline for the print catalog (later donations will appear on the online bidding website and on display at the Silent Auction).

Wondering where to begin? Perhaps you'll find some inspiration among the categories that will immediately follow the descriptions of the Live Auction items in the 2024 ACW catalog, already under construction:

- Wonders on the Water.
- Showcase.
- First Dibs.
- Amazing Adventures (including Great Golf and Fantastic Fishing).
- Art & Antiques.
- Cheers (think "Wine & Spirits").
- Friends & Family Fun.
- Gourmet Gatherings.
- Luxury Lifestyles (everything from Bags & Baubles to Mind & Body).

And two new categories for 2024:

Imagine the Possibilities (over the top, super indulgent, and anonymous); and "Support What Touches Your Heart," the opportunity to make an unrestricted gift from the comfort of home – these monies will support our All Charities' recipient partners here on The Reef as well as facilitate grants in southern Dade and northern Monroe counties.

Planning ahead: Because of the compressed calendar, now's also the time to consider what kinds of items you'll want to win. Many of the date-specific items on offer via First Dibs and

Gourmet Gatherings, for example, will take place before the March 31 Easter celebration. So keep tabs on your calendar and be ready to act as soon as online bidding opens (in seven weeks).

As the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's (ORCF) annual fundraising event, ACW and its unique Member-curated experiences large and small have helped foster miracles since 2008. Over \$63 million has been raised, enabling ORCF to provide financial grants with an emphasis on youth, education, community, and health and family services to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City, as well as support and strengthen the non-profit entities vital to our "unique way of life" here on The Reef: the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association.

Allow the 12 Days of All Charities emails that will begin arriving this coming week to inspire you.... Let's transform the challenging timeframe into the opportunity it is, and shine!

Questions? Contact the All Charities office at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@OceanReef.com. To learn more, visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org.