

Celebrating Old & New Together



by Sarah A. Cart

With 2024 arriving momentarily, an exciting blend of old and new details is quickly coming together for All Charities Weekend (ACW – **Feb. 2-4**, 2024).

Familiar favorites and new additions: Participants will find time-honored auction categories (from the “Cheers!” collection of wine and spirits, golf and fishing opportunities, Gourmet Gatherings, NetJet hours, and dozens of other beloved entries), to a wealth of delights in the Showcase section (a Kalos golf cruise around the Iberian Peninsula aboard the *Sea Cloud Spirit*; New Orleans in November at Emeril’s Carnivale du Vin 2024, or Mardi Gras at the end of February 2025; time at Wyoming’s Three Forks Ranch to recharge, renew, and refresh, or a professional lighting package to elevate some of your home’s loveliest art).

Additionally, anyone who appreciates what ACW aims to accomplish can look forward to this season’s innovative developments, from an additional participation option that can be exercised from wherever you find yourself to a spectacular high-end category offering luxuries far beyond the conventional.

The simplest option for those who’d love to support the cause but would prefer to skip competitive bidding or any social obligations is the new “Support What Touches Your Heart” route, an opportunity to make an



Three Forks Ranch in Wyoming.

unrestricted gift in peace and quiet. These funds will support our All Charities’ recipient partners here on The Reef as well as facilitate grants in southern Dade and northern Monroe counties. This gesture from your heart is another means to help the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) to continue to fulfill its mission.

New and extremely exclusive: On a different note, ACW continues to evolve from its 2008 beginnings, which means that in concert with this season’s “Imagine the Possibilities” theme, a category with that same name has been created.

Here “Luxury meets rarity,” explains Richard Weinstein, ORCF president and COO, noting, “These prizes are the perfect opportunity to create something you and your family will cherish for generations – perhaps a rare gemstone with stories etched in time, destined to become the future family heirloom, or a unique experience that redefines elegance and lives on in the memories of those who take part.” In each case, All Charities commits to protecting the privacy of all bidders; winners’ identities will be guarded with the utmost discretion.

Exquisite treasures: Consider the 10-carat Astaire Diamond, so named because its light dances, made possible by Preferred Partner Lester Lampert. Or a pair of

impossible-to-obtain balcony tickets (traditionally reserved for those that have been nominated for an award) for the 2025 Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Or ... how about five nights to call the 74 acres of tropical paradise Necker Island your own: 24 suites for 48 guests, all inclusive, all exclusive, with dedicated staff taking care of every aspect of your stay, from fine dining prepared by world-class chefs to professional sports instructors, spa therapists, and your own private Captain.

Admit it: You’re imagining the possibilities, aren’t you? As 2024 arrives, All Charities looks forward to helping you transform what you imagine into reality.

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

A Primer on All Charities & the Ocean Reef Community Foundation

All Charities was conceived in 2008 to minimize the number of fundraising events held each season (nearly 30 at that time). The monies raised through the All Charities auctions enable the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) to provide millions of dollars in the form of 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 to support and strengthen the non-profit entities here on The Reef that are vital to our “unique way of life”: the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association.

In 2009, ORCF awarded 17 grants totaling \$365,000; 16 years later, over \$63 million has been raised and \$21 million passed through to our neighboring communities. As the Foundation’s annual fundraising event, ACW has been the primary driver enabling that success, and ORCF continues to be amazed and grateful for The Reef’s steadfast generosity.