



## Possibilities Imagined Can Now Be Realized (Thank You, Ocean Reef!)

By Sarah A. Cart

Richard Weinstein, president and COO of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF), recently shared that as a result of this season's All Charities Weekend, "the generosity of the Members helped to enable distributions to the not-for-profit recipient partners at Ocean Reef [Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association] and to organizations off The Reef in excess of any past annual distributions."

That means that, thanks to additional direct donations to ORCF's Community Grants Fund, for the second year in a row, **ORCF will once again be able to distribute record-breaking funds in excess of \$2,000,000** via grants to organizations in the surrounding communities beyond Ocean Reef. In fact, Yuri Mikolay, ORCF's executive director, confirmed that the Foundation will be able to make its largest Community Grants distribution to more organizations in Florida City, Homestead, and in the Upper Keys than ever. In addition, the monies will further enhance the Foundation's Impact Fund, instrumental in assisting such projects as Baptist Health's helipad, programs at the

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College of the Florida Keys and others.

That's a wonderful testament to this season's Imagine the Possibilities theme and to the Members of Ocean Reef.

**Praises are due to the whole team:** The 2024 All Charities Weekend co-chairs, **Susie Misini-Hassett** and **Cathy Totonis**, Silent Auction chairs **Lori** and **Brad Young**, their committees, the Preferred Partners, and the All Charities staff. Yet, Weinstein says, not to be forgotten is the passion of the Membership across the

board – Equity, Social, and Legacy – contributing not just over that one weekend but through the dues check-off; that support continues 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 as he's mentioned before, “the generosity coin has two sides: Members bidding, AND donating – everything from wine, golf, chef-prepared dinners at home, trips across the U.S. and the world, and great stuff.”

The most popular items on the auction block? “Your Dog or Cat Crowned Pet of the Year” garnered 163 bids! Golf for a threesome at Winged Foot went for \$22,500! And while sailing in the Seychelles aboard Perseus earned the highest bid in the Live Auction, the February 29 Bordeaux on the Bay dinner brought in the most monies for

Ocean Reef Community Foundation	\$ 1,736,574
Ocean Reef Medical Center	\$ 1,767,290
Ocean Reef Cultural Center Academy at Ocean Reef	\$ 950,000
Ocean Reef Art League	\$ 798,624
Ocean Reef Conservation Association	\$ 399,312
ORCAT	\$ 117,149

In addition to these distributions, the Community Foundation will provide the final installment of \$300,000 to the Chapel as part of a one-million-dollar three-year commitment to their new Fellowship Center. An additional \$700,000 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.

the Silent Auction.

As in past seasons, many longtime Community Trustees (those who commit their monies and participation long before the weekend) stepped up to higher levels, and in their wake, many new Members added their energy, enthusiasm, and bids to the weekend's success.

Finally, this year's end-of-the-evening “Raise the Paddle,” when everyone gives in recognition of the sheer volume of grants requests, was second only to the monies so raised post-Hurricane Irma. As Weinstein explains, 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, empowering people and helping others to be self-sufficient.

Specifics regarding those distributions will be forthcoming soon.

Thanks are due as well to ACW's 14 Preferred Partners, whose steadfast support, through their cash and auction item donations 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 “Bravo!” to Baer's Furniture; Baptist Health South Florida; Barton & Gray Mariners Club; Haute Explore; John & Mary Lee's Fine Wine Society; Lazzara Yachts; 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; and Somerset Charters.

As has been highlighted multiple times since All Charities's 2008 beginnings, “This community has a tradition of making miracles happen.”

Thanks to you, Ocean Reef, possibilities that previously had only been imagined will now be made real.

To learn more about All Charities, call the office at 305-367-5996 or email [AllCharities@OceanReef.com](mailto:AllCharities@OceanReef.com).