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A Unique Way of Life

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It's All Charities Weekend: The Possibilities are LIMITLESS!

by Sarah A. Cart

It's **All Charities Weekend** (ACW)! If you're new to ACW, know that it's easy and fun – LIMITLESS opportunities abound!

In a nutshell, as of this morning, you have 36 hours left to make dreams come true. What items have *you* found tempting? Where do *you* want to go? What do *you* want to do? Grab the auction catalog that arrived with last week's *Ocean Reef Press* or **go to bidORC.org**. Talk to friends. Finalize your game plan. Bolster your bids. If you're entranced by something in the Live Auction, reach out and discuss your bidding strategy with whomever you need to. **Your actions will drive this weekend's success.**

Come taste the wine (and some bourbons, too): Whether or not you've already been bidding online, plan to come to Carysfort Hall tonight between 4 and 7 p.m. for the Silent Auction Showcase, the weekend's official opening and the first eyes-on occasion

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to investigate closely all the wonderful packages on offer. For just \$50 (included in your ticket if you are already a Patron or Trustee), you'll have the opportunity to taste and vote for the Members Choice wines to be featured in Ocean Reef's dining establishments for the next 12 months as well as sip a little bourbon.

Your mission for this evening, should you accept it (and, oh, goodness, how can you resist?), couldn't be simpler:

Connect with your friends and neighbors. ... Survey. Study. Consider ... Use one of the iPads in the room or your own device and BID! ... Sip. Spit. Vote. ... Revisit. Review. Bid with intention. ... Chat. Laugh. Reconnect. ... Sip some

more. Bid anew. ...

Have fun. Do good. Cheer the chairs, and volunteers, and staff and thank them for their vibrant creativity and boundless energy. ... Keep a keen eye on your bids at bidORC.org.

What will it be? An adventure, a meal, a fine wine to savor? Some art or jewelry? Pickleball? Golf? Fishing? A day trip, some yoga, a spa session, or a shopping spree?

Whatever sparks your fancy, now's the time to make meaningful stuff happen, for yourself, AND for others.

Why? Because by the time all auction bidding closes at 10:30 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday* – the highest bidders at that time will be the winners, identified at "My Bids" on the bidding site – you do not need to be present to win), the limitless generosity that defines this amazing community will once again have provided the means for the Ocean Reef Community

Foundation's distribution of financial grants to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City plus local entities vital to Ocean Reef: The Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT, Conservation Association, and Chapel and Fellowship Center. It doesn't get any better than that.

Return Saturday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to keep tabs on your favorite items. Enjoy complimentary "Burgers, Beers and Bidding" from noon to 2 p.m. Browse, but too, leave time to visit the display of NetJets aircraft at the Ocean Reef Airport between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Both tonight and tomorrow, purchase Bucket Raffle tickets for wonderful items from the practical to the fanciful, the drawings for which will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

And from 4 p.m. today through the conclusion of the

pick-up window for Silent Auction winnings (9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at Carysfort Hall), jeweler Lester Lampert will be at Carysfort with beautiful pieces for your consideration (no matter the price tag, Lester donates 20 percent back to All Charities).

If you have questions, or are unable to attend but wish to arrange a proxy bid, contact the All Charities office at 305-367-5996 or via AllCharities@OceanReef.com.

Now, go BID! Early, often, and outrageously (thank you)!

** For those who have RSVP'd, Saturday night's black-tie All Charities Gala and Live Auction begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails in Carysfort Hall, followed by 7 p.m. dinner, auction, and dancing in Town Hall. The evening will feature a timeless black-and-white theme, attendees are invited to embrace this idea by incorporating black and white into their choice of wardrobe.*