



OCEAN REEF PRESS

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A Unique Way of Life

February 7, 2025

And the Winners are ...

By Sarah A. Cart

Everywhere you go, Ocean Reef Community Foundation's (ORCF) 18th annual **All Charities Weekend** (ACW, Jan. 31 – Feb. 2) has been receiving rave reviews, from the full house at the gorgeous Silent Auction preview Friday evening and Saturday's bustling midday Burgers, Beer & Bidding, to the stunning Black & White Gala and Live Auction Saturday evening and the Sunday afterglow as people stopped in to pick up their winnings.

Brad Young, who chaired this season's ACW with his wife, **Lori**, opened his welcoming comments at the Live Auction Saturday night by thanking Lori first and foremost as he noted that she has "lived All Charities 2025 for the past year." He went on to explain, however, that after all is said and done, **ACW's true winners are the causes** everyone's dollars support.

"The item or event you win is a *thank you* for your contribution.... [Because] of your generosity ... the heartbeat of Ocean Reef beats not only **INSIDE** our bubble, but ... is felt in our surrounding communities."

In addition to supporting and strengthening the non-profit entities that define The Reef's "Unique Way of Life" (the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT, Conservation Association, and the Chapel and Fellowship Center), ORCF awards dozens of grants outside the gates each year. A decade ago, ORCF (which

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All Charities Weekend 2025



Mike Berman, ORCF Vice Chairman, with Meg and Pat Shields, 2025 Silent Auction Co-Chairs and 2026 All Charities Weekend Co-Chairs.



Mike Jones, Wine Chair Kelly Jones, and Diane Jones.



Town Hall was filled with energy and bidding at the Live Auction.



Lexus Raffle Winner Bill Legg.



Lori and Brad Young, 2025 All Charities Weekend Co-Chairs.

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celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024) funded 31 projects and programs focused on youth, education, community, and health and family services for our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead, and Florida City; by 2024, that number had nearly tripled, to 91; tremendous gratitude is due to the members of ORCF's Grants Committee and the committee's chair, **Janie Sims**, for the tireless research and devotion necessary to facilitate that funding.

In the beginning: Throughout the weekend, the Carysfort Ballroom dazzled thanks to Silent Auction chairs **Meg and Pat Shields** and their committee who succeeded brilliantly in expanding the occasion with new items and experiences.

And the lobby was a hive of activity as well with more

Members than ever taking advantage of opportunities to talk with representatives of **All Charities' Preferred Partners** (Baer's Furniture, Baptist Health, Barton and Gray Mariners Club, Haute Explore, Lampert Jewellers, Lexus of Kendall/ Lexus of West Kendall, Marsh McClennan, Mary & John Lee's Fine Wine Society, NetJets, Northern Trust, Ocean Reef Club Sotheby's, Seaborne Cruise Line, Somerset Charters, and new this season, Ethan Dupree's Burgundy House). As **Michael Berman** in his capacity as Vice Chairman of ORCF and Chairman of the Medical Center Foundation pointed out, those partners help underwrite and produce ACW; their steadfast support, through their cash and auction item donations, ensure that ORCF can distribute to non-profits *100 percent of the donations Club Members make to the Silent and Live Auctions.*

Auctioneer David Goodman was once again in fine form as he inspired Gala attendees to raise their paddles high and

often throughout the evening. The Raise the Paddle finale, a testament to the **limitless generosity** of our community, raised over a million dollars - all of which is earmarked to make an impact beyond the gates.

The crowd eagerly joined in the excitement of the "Heads or Tails" challenge, and in the end **Tom Davidson Jr.** emerged victorious, taking home a brand-new Apple Watch as his prize. And as the evening reached its grand finale, cheers erupted as **Bill Legg** was announced as the lucky winner of the stunning 2025 Lexus RX 350.

One of the weekend's most heartfelt moments was hearing the many cherished memories shared about Sam Friedman as Members eagerly signed up for his Inaugural Cajun Birthday Celebration. Known for his generosity and legendary parties, Sam's spirit will live on thanks to his wife **Edwina** and the **Friedman family.**

Lost and found: Richard Weinstein, ORCF's president and COO, observed that over

the years, there have been multiple stories of items lost at ACW (everything from a sentimental ring to a stone from an heirloom piece) that have brought people together as they've searched, and FOUND (laughing and rejoicing), the missing keepsake. But too, he notes, there's a larger picture: when life's challenges have threatened a loss of dignity and balance for those living in our neighboring communities, the monies raised via ACW have made it possible for ORCF to help them find their way to a gentler future.

Looking forward: Having chaired this season's Silent Auction, Meg and Pat Shields now step up to chair ACW 2026 as **Patty** and **Tom Davidson** settle in to chair the 2026 Silent Auction and then chair ACW 2027.

Details about the total raised will be available in a few weeks, but there is no doubt the funds raised will fuel miracles.

Thank you, Ocean Reef.

Ocean Reef Art League

Members New Works Show Opening Reception & Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, February 11th • 5-7PM



Dive into a world of artistic brilliance at the Ocean Reef Art League Show! Submit your artwork on February 6th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and February 7th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cast your vote on February 10th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and join us for the reception and awards ceremony on Tuesday, February 11th. All mediums welcome!

Please call The Art League 305-367-2359 or email artleago@bellsouth.net for more information.



ALL CHARITIES

The Heart of Ocean Reef

*January 31 - February 2,
2025*

2025 ALL CHARITIES WEEKEND, THEMED "LIMITLESS," SHOWCASED THE UNPARALLELED GENEROSITY OF OUR ORC MEMBERS. KICKING OFF WITH FRIDAY'S SILENT AUCTION AND WINE & BOURBON TASTING, THE FESTIVITIES CULMINATED WITH SATURDAY NIGHT'S GALA AND LIVE AUCTION, TRANSFORMING LIMITLESS POTENTIAL INTO IMPACTFUL REALITIES FOR OUR LOCAL NON-PROFITS, HERE AT THE REEF AND IN OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.



Bill Wonfor and Kathy White.



Patty and Tom Davidson, Jr., 2026 Silent Auction Co-chairs and 2027 All Charities Co-chairs.



Cheryl Weiss and Carol Roaman.



Ray and Mary Ann Larkin, Kathy and John Weiland, and Paul Bishop.



Auctioneer David Goodman.



Terry and Ned Ferrarone.



Janet and Scott McFarlane.



Alexis and Alex Rogers.



Pete and Jackie Cerar.



Annual game of Heads or Tails.