



# OCEAN REEF PRESS

Vol. 12, No. 23

A Unique Way of Life

April 4, 2025

## 2025 ORCF Grants to Surrounding Communities Jump to \$2.5+ Million

Thanks to the Ocean Reef community's generosity, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's annual grants program will provide more than \$2.5 million to charities outside the gate this year, surpassing the previous year's record by well over half a million dollars.

The increase of almost 27 percent year-over-year reflects the community's overwhelming embrace of a change to the All Charities Weekend effort that dedicated 100 percent of the live Raise the Paddle for cash donations to the Foundation's Off Reef grants program, while still increasing the amounts going to all on property recipients that do not receive a set amount. The results will set a new record of 102 grants benefiting 90 non-profit organizations.

According to Grants Committee Chair **Janie Sims**, "Our committee strives to effectively represent the values of the Ocean Reef community and our shared

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# ORCF Grants

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commitment to help in the neighboring areas where those who work here live and raise their families. Together we are making a real and meaningful difference, serving employees members know and appreciate, and touching tens of thousands of lives every day."

Join us in recognizing the dedication and outstanding work of the Grants Committee, which includes **Sims**, Vice Chair **Steve Woodsum**, **Cindy Brammer**, **Chris Covington**, **Alan Goldstein**, **Diane Hill**, **Marie Jacobs**, **Amy Joseph**, **Ed Kramer**, **Cynthia Lee**, **Kathie Markel**, **Linda Owens**, **Amy Upjohn**, **Kathy Weiland**, and **Brad Young**.

The Community Grants program funds scores of worthy non-profit organizations in the interest areas of Education, Youth, Health & Family Services, and Community in the Upper Keys, Homestead, and Florida City each spring. Including 2025 grants, the program will have awarded more than \$20.8 million since the Foundation's All Charities effort to consolidate fundraising in the Ocean Reef community began in 2008.

The Foundation's share of 2025 All Charities proceeds not reserved for larger Impact Fund projects will be distributed, with additional donations directly to the Community Grants Fund, as follows:

**A Chance for Therapy (ACT4Me)** - Therapy programs for Homestead and Florida City children with neurological and genetic disorders - \$42,000

**Academy of CLASS** - Workshop series for parents and teens in families impacted by violence - \$5,000

**Adrienne Arshat Center for the Performing Arts** - STEAM curriculum and live *Busy Bees Great Adventure* performance field trip transportation for 1,500 7th graders in Homestead/Florida City Title I schools - \$15,000

**Advocate Program** - Financial assistance program for veterans in need - \$10,000

**Alliance for Aging** - Health

and wellness education for older adults in the Upper Keys - \$10,000

**ArtSouth** - "Arts Beyond the Classroom" arts education program for children at the Chapman Partnership Family Resource Center - \$10,000

**Autism Society of the Keys** - Technology and therapy for autistic youth - \$10,000

**Best Buddies International** - Mentorship program to support 50 parents raising kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities - \$7,500

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** - Continued expansion of youth mentoring program for 325 kids in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City - \$25,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

**Bleeding Blue** - Mental health support for law enforcement and first responders - \$20,000

**Branches Florida City** (\$60,000)

- "Grow & Climb" teen leadership development and employment mentoring program - \$35,000
- "It's a Money Thing" Financial Education program for 290+ students and families - \$25,000

**Bridge to Hope** - Homestead Healthy Food Distribution Hub services including food, nutrition education, access to health services, and career-focused technology training - \$33,000

**Burton Memorial United Methodist Church** (\$34,800 Total)

- Refrigerated truck usage to enable pick-up of perishable donations from local grocery stores and funds to purchase needed food items when not available by donation for Keys food pantry serving 11,500 - \$19,800
- Child Development Center Summer School enrichment program - \$15,000

**Camillus House** - CHEER educational initiative to assist 160 formerly homeless children in attending school and catching up with peers - \$15,000

**Caring for Miami** - Project Smile Mobile Dental Unit visits for 1,500 Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City residents -

\$40,000

**Centro Campesino** - Technology support, field trip transportation and "Arts4Learning" for the YouthPride after-school and summer programs for 160 kids in two locations - \$40,000

**Chapman Partnership** - Mentoring program at the Family Resource Center for 150 children of families recovering from homelessness - \$15,000

**Children's Bereavement Center** - Expansion of comprehensive grief support for 250 youth in Homestead and Florida City in partnership with existing youth programs - \$20,000

City Year - Academic and social-emotional development coaching for 665 youth at Homestead Middle School - \$30,000

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Association** - To assist the Ocean Reef Flotilla in serving the broader community in surrounding waters - \$6,050

**Coral Shores High School** (\$51,410 Total)

- Athletic Department Hardship Assistance Fund - \$20,000
- AVID college readiness program training for teachers - \$25,410
- Positive behavior interventions and support - \$6,000

**Cox Science Center & Aquarium** - Bringing the Science Passport educational program to 10,000 children in Title 1 elementary schools in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City - \$25,000

**DMF Employment Opportunities** - Employment initiative for 190 individuals with intellectual and development disabilities - \$25,781

**En FAMILIA** - Furnishings to complete updated library space serving 110 children - \$15,000

**Family Central** - Benefits Enrollment Program to support 200 vulnerable families in Homestead and Florida City - \$25,000

**Feeding South Florida** (\$110,000 Total)

- Food delivery and distribution to food pantries in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City - \$60,000

- Half the cost of a 53' truck needed to maximize efficiency in delivering product to pantries in our service areas - \$50,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

**Florida Goldcoast Ninety Nines** - Aviation education and training for Upper Keys, Homestead, Florida City women and girls - \$10,000

**Florida Impact** - Children's hunger relief program to benefit 400 Key Largo School students - \$29,980

**Florida Keys Area Health Education Centers (Keys AHEC)** - In-school primary medical and dental services program serving 2,500+ in Upper Keys schools - \$59,500

**Florida Keys Children's Shelter** - Residential & Counseling Programs for at-risk youth - \$65,000

**Florida Keys Community Concert Band** - Pops in the Park program enhancements including sound system, music lessons and instruments for children, and tablets - \$5,750

**Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition** - Upper Keys Child Safety Equipment and Early Childhood Development programs for 250+ - \$40,000

**Florida Keys Soccer Club** - Youth soccer league programs and equipment for club serving 360 - \$10,000

**Florida Keys Wild Bird Center** - Youth education and outreach program for 400 - \$5,000

**Florida Sheriffs Association** - "Lend a Hand" program for deputies and their families experiencing crisis situations - \$15,000

**Foster Care Review** - Expansion of Permanency Roundtable effort to secure lifelong families or supportive adult connections for youth in and aging out of foster care in Homestead and Florida City - \$20,000

**Friends of the Children** - To support the expansion of an intensive, long-term mentoring program to 120 families in Homestead and Florida City - \$17,500

**Genesis Hopeful Haven** - Independent Living Housing and

support programs for Homestead and Florida City young people aging out of foster care - \$50,000

**Gift of Adoption** - Financial assistance to complete the adoption process for at-risk children into Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City families - \$5,000

**Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida** - Community Troops program for 300 underserved girls in low-income and historically excluded Homestead and Florida City neighborhoods - \$20,000

**Good Health Clinic** - Providing \$2 million in donated medication and healthcare access to 750 low-income Upper Keys residents - \$39,000

**Greater Miami Youth for Christ** - Teen leadership development and employment mentoring program for 250 at West Homestead KIX - \$60,000

**Greater Miami Youth Symphony** - Early childhood music education programs for 200 kids in Homestead and Florida City schools and community organizations - \$15,000

**Guidance/Care Center** - Emergency Response program at Monroe County's only Assisted Living Facility for residents with chronic mental illness - \$20,000

**Guitars Over Guns Organization** - Music instruction programs and mentors for at-risk Homestead and Florida City youth - \$35,000

**Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys** - Towards two affordable homes for low-income families in Key Largo - \$35,000

**Health Information Project** - Peer-to-peer, comprehensive health education program for 2,000 students at five Homestead and Monroe County high schools - \$25,000

**Healthy Mind, Heart & Body** - Health education and hygiene kits for Homestead and Florida City children - \$5,000

**ICU Baby** - Comprehensive support for 240 Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City families with babies in the nearest NICUs at Miami hospitals - \$25,000

**In Jacob's Shoes** - "Sole Necessities" program to provide

shoes to 500 disadvantaged Homestead and Florida City children - \$10,000

**Island Dolphin Care** - Therapeutic programs for 48 special needs children in collaboration with multiple grantee organizations serving the special needs population - \$15,000

**Key Largo School K-8** (\$90,120 Total)

- Summer Recreation program for up to 250 pre-K through 5th grade students - \$50,000
- AVID college readiness program, college visits and teacher training - \$20,000
- Towards outfitting new Middle School Weight Room - \$15,000
- Furnishing calming space with equipment to serve 50 children with sensory differences - \$5,120

**Kristi House** - Homestead and Florida City expansion of services for child-victims of abuse and sex trafficking - \$50,000

**Ladies Empowerment & Action Program** - Incarcerated Women's "Chance for Change Initiative" - \$20,000

**Mexican-American Council** - College & Career Prep programs and scholarships for 250 students from families of farmworkers at Homestead high schools - \$40,000

**Miami Diaper Bank** - Expansion of mobile diaper distributions serving 2,100 babies in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City - \$50,000

**Miami Lighthouse for the Blind** - Children's Vision Program for 700+ in both service areas - \$10,000

**Monroe Association for Remarkable Citizens (MARC)** - Transportation program for Upper Keys Adult Day Training services for developmentally disabled adults - \$19,000

**MUJER** - Workshops and therapy for 130 abused children and non-offending parents - \$50,000

**National Alliance on Mental Illness Miami-Dade County (NAMI)** - Continued expansion of free signature mental health programming to serve 2,500 in the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City - \$20,000

**Ocean First Institute** -

Expansion of Marine Science Education in collaboration with Upper Keys schools - \$10,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

**Ocean Studies (Public) Charter School** - "Healthy Minds, Strong Lives" mental health support initiative for 300 students - \$29,950

**PATCHES PPEC** - Specially equipped van to transport 75 medically fragile children - \$48,000

**Pawsitive Beginnings** - Animal-assisted therapy program for Florida Keys Children's Shelter clients - \$3,900

**Raza Mentors** - Activities for mentorship program pairing 150 children of farmworkers with community leaders from the same background - \$15,000

**Redlands Christian Migrant Association** - Playground and surface replacement to meet critical safety standards at the RCMA Florida City child development center - \$46,025

**Somerset Prep Homestead (Public K-12)** - School-wide STEM curriculum and Athletic Program enhancements for school serving 1,400 - \$35,000

**South Dade Women Veterans Alliance** - Half the cost of Trauma Focused Training and 20 percent of the cost of the Annual Women Veterans Conference - \$12,500

**South Florida Council of Boy Scouts** - Scouting programs for 250 disadvantaged youth in the Homestead area - \$20,000

**Special Olympics Florida Monroe County** - Continued expansion of the Upper Keys Unified Championship Schools program for 315 youth with and without intellectual disabilities, including new outreach to schools in Homestead and Florida City - \$40,300

**St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church Child Development Center** - Summer camp program for underprivileged youth in the Upper Keys - \$54,125

**Star of the Sea Outreach Mission** - Upper Keys Hunger Relief Program serving 4,500 - \$36,000

**Start Off Smart** (\$61,282 Total)

- Homestead Police Department Community Education, Outreach & Crime Prevention program to safely engage thousands of local youth and families - \$21,282
- Two Police Academy Scholarships for locals committed to serving in the Homestead Police Department - \$15,000
- Family Empowerment program supporting victims of domestic violence in obtaining self-sufficiency - \$25,000

**Take Stock in Children** - College scholarships (matched by the Florida Pre-Paid College Foundation) for Upper Keys youth mentoring program - \$100,000

**The Children's Voice Chorus** - To expand choral programs at Branches Florida City to additional children - \$10,000

**The College of the Florida Keys** - Appliances for the Student Lounge and a Security Public Address System for safety at the Upper Keys Center - \$17,865

**The Motivational Edge** - Art-based Youth Engagement & Empowerment Program for at-risk youth - \$22,500

**The Salvation Army** - "Pathway to Hope" social services and financial assistance program for about 50 Upper Keys residents - \$18,000

**Three Virtues Organization** - To replace failing refrigeration units with a new fridge-freezer combo and industrial freezer at Homestead food pantry serving 1,800 - \$10,653

**TIPS** - Florida Keys Youth Basketball League essentials and enhancements for 250 1st-8th graders - \$8,000

**Touching Miami with Love Homestead Site** (\$70,000 Total)

- Adult Literacy Empowerment Program - \$35,000
- Youth Development Job Training Internship Program - \$35,000



# ORCF Grants

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**United Way of Collier and the Keys** - Upper Keys "Success by Six" School Readiness program - \$15,900

**University of Miami** - Pediatric Mobile Healthcare expansion serving 9,600 in Homestead and Florida City - \$25,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

**Upper Keys Baseball Development Foundation** - "Steady Bats" baseball program serving 100 youth - \$8,500

**Upper Keys Youth Lacrosse League** - Safety equipment to remove financial barriers to participating in lacrosse - \$10,000

**Veteran Sailing** – Basic Keel Boat to Coastal Cruising Sailing Certification for active-duty military and honorably discharged veterans - \$5,000

**Voices for Florida Keys Children** – Children's Welfare Program to assist about 200 families through the 16th Judicial Court Guardian Ad Litem - \$15,000

**Wellspring Counseling** - Financial Aid for counseling for 140 Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City residents - \$29,640

**Wesley House Family Services** – To cover items foster youth need to participate fully in formative life experiences that state funding does not cover - \$20,000

**YMCA of South Florida** - Homestead after-school and camp program scholarships for low-income families - \$20,000

**Young Musicians Unite** – Expansion of music education program to 12 additional schools and more than 3,200 students in Homestead and Florida City - \$40,000

## **Total 2025 Off Reef Community Grants: \$2,544,581**

To learn more about the Community Grants program and/or 2025 Co-Investment Opportunities to complement partial and match grants, please email [foundation@oceanreef.com](mailto:foundation@oceanreef.com), call 305-367-4707 or visit our office in the Ocean Reef Business Center.

## **BUT WAIT, THERE'S EVEN MORE GIVING TO REPORT!**

- One additional Community Grant application by The ARC of South Florida will also be funded, but from a different source – the Impact Fund. The Impact Fund was created with past All Charities proceeds and provides larger grants of \$100,000+ for projects that have long term, transformative impact. The grant of up to \$150,000 will close the gap of funds needed for a renovation of The ARC's Palm Drive school serving 270 children with special needs. The walls throughout the facility do not currently reach the ceilings which results in an incredibly loud environment that makes hearing, learning and focus very difficult, especially for children with sensory issues. The Grants Committee, who experienced the issue firsthand on site visits, unanimously recommended the renovation for approval by the Foundation Board. This project, scheduled to begin later this year, will bring the walls to the ceilings and permanently transform the learning setting.
- Another \$13,000 from this year's proceeds has also been set aside for the Foundation's Small Urgent Response Grant (SURG) Fund that provides small emergency grants to vetted, past grantees in crisis situations that must be addressed before the next annual grant cycle.