

ALL CHARITIES

What are All Charities' First Dibs?



by Sarah A. Cart

With only a few weeks left until All Charities Weekend (ACW, **Feb. 20 - 22**) (and hard copy of the All Charities 2026 Auction Catalog arrives as the insert in the **Feb. 13** *Ocean Reef Press*), an explanation of "First Dibs" is in order.

These items are **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE** opportunities available to all when bidORC.org goes live at 9 a.m. Feb. 13. (Don't worry – bidORC.org will be explained in these pages, in detail, before then!). Think: a blanket, some wine, fabulous dinners, mind-blowing concerts – specifically ...

Things You Can Take Home:

The limited-edition tapestry blanket featuring a vintage image of Ocean Reef Club's original 1961 Gazebo Bar, that is the ACW 2026 signature item. At 52 x 68 inches, it reflects the grace and elegance of The Reef's earliest days and comes in a navy blue Reef Royale All Charities tote.

Three custom Tom James shirts or blouses OR a \$750 gift certificate towards a bespoke shopping experience thanks to Tom James Company, the world's largest manufacturer of custom clothing – 100 certificates available at \$350 each.

All Charities Private Label Table Rosé ... Just 12 cases, this one-time limited-edition offering is produced especially for All Charities by new Preferred Partner Karen Crouse and Mount Veeder Magic Vineyards. Custom-crafted, bright, fresh, crisp, and dry, to serve chilled at the pool, beach, backyard or on your boat.

Educational Experiences:

Early morning birdwatching in late April. This walking tour of The Reef in the company of an ornithologist will open your eyes to the magnificent spring migration of songbirds returning from the tropics.

Also in April, learn about the **Art of Tuscan Living & Wine Wellness** in this fully immersive experience designed to spark joy, fulfillment, and connection and flowing seamlessly into a full Tuscan dinner prepared by The Reef's Culinary Team. Leading you on this journey? A world-class violinist, Riverdance soloist, and Brunello producer Athena Tergis Bollag.

The third annual Iron Chef All Charities competition! Four teams, each with four enthusiastic cooks, and a whirlwind of culinary creativity, competing in mid-April in front of a panel of four esteemed ORC judges with culinary and directorial credentials, for the glory of creating the winning recipe that will then be prepared and served by the Cooking School Culinary Team at the 2026 Equity Welcome Back Gathering Party.

All Sorts of Dinners:

The mid-March Vino and Virtuoso on the Bay Wine Dinner, set to music ... settle in at the **Reycraft's** beautiful home overlooking Card Sound to take in extraordinary wines, a mouthwatering gourmet meal prepared by Chef Cesare Casella, and a world-class performance by acclaimed lyric tenor Matthew Polenzani.

Napa Cult Wine Dinner at the end of March. This crowd favorite returns thanks to Preferred Partners **John** and **Mary Lee** and Fine Wine Society, with the evening's gourmet meal prepared by Master Chef Rich Rosendale, and insights regarding the evening's vintages (think: Screaming Eagle, Scarecrow, Harlan Estate, and more) shared by Master of Wine, Vanessa Conlin.

An intimate, first-ever Mount Veeder winemaker dinner, in the **McKee's** breathtaking Ocean Reef home in early April. Karen Crouse/Mount Veeder Magic Vineyards, will be pouring small-lot Cabernet Sauvignon, crafted from 45-year-old hillside vines and rarely poured outside her home, and Paul Woolls, co-founder of Progeny Winery, will share a curated lineup of Rhône-style selections – exceptionally rare Napa offerings, precisely paired for a full-sensory epicurean experience.

Amazing concerts:

JosephPalooza! An exciting mystery performance ... at the home of **Amy** and **George Joseph**. As the sun dips low and the sky begins to glow, gather on **Feb. 24** for festival food, cocktails, and an intimate private concert. Remarkable band, great music, grand company, fun food and drink, irreplaceable memories.

Matteo Bocelli – The son of the legendary tenor Andrea Bocelli has become a star in his own right since headlining here in 2018. Matteo returns to The Reef a couple weeks before Christmas, and following a candlelit wine dinner, you will be entranced by his magnificent talent as he performs a truly magical and intimate concert.

FUN parties:

The Return of the Redneck Breakfast ... Dinner in mid-March – the power of legacy, served hot off the smoker. What began years ago as a beloved Redneck Breakfast hosted by Herb Matthews has evolved into a full-blown Good Ol' Boy BBQ, proudly presented by his son, **Chip**. Don your coveralls, flannel, or camo, and head to the Field at Four Corners to tuck into true Southern barbecue, from pulled pork, brisket, to beer-can chicken plus cold beer, special batch bourbon, tasty southern deserts, and a welcoming crowd, plus a

great live band.

And then comes November - and **What the Duck?** A festive dinner that marks the start of the season with a spirited Chinese flair. Featuring renowned Chef Scott Drewno and, once again, emceed by the always-entertaining **Jim Loomis**, this evening welcomes the opening of Ocean Reef's season with bold flavors, delicious wines, and lively entertainment. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous, multi-course, Asian-inspired menu starring America's Tastiest Duck from Joe Jurgielewicz & Son. Expect to eat well, drink well, and laugh often as the night unfolds.

What do YOU want to call "Dibs!" on first?

A REMINDER OF WHAT ALL CHARITIES IS ALL ABOUT

Over nearly two decades, All Charities has enabled 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, Conservation Association, and Chapel and Fellowship Center. As the Foundation's annual fundraising event, ACW has been the primary driver, bringing in nearly \$80,000,000, through the years, of which nearly \$25,000,000 has been passed through to our neighbors "outside the gate."

Questions? Give a call to the All Charities office, 305-367-5996, or reach out via email to allcharities@oceanreef.com.