

OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hunger Action Month: Ocean Reef Generosity at Work

By Amy Cornaire, Communications & Events Manager, Ocean Reef Community Foundation & All Charities

September is Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort to raise awareness of hunger in our communities and encourage everyone to play a part in helping neighbors put food on the table. This year, Hunger Action Day falls on **Tuesday, September 29**.

The need is especially timely. Families continue to feel the pressure of higher food costs, while nonprofits across the country are navigating reductions and uncertainty in government funding as demand for essential services remains high. Here at Ocean Reef, those pressures make the generosity of our Members more important than ever. Through participation in All Charities, Ocean Reef Community Foundation Donor Advised Funds and direct donations, Members help make the Foundation's Community Grants program possible.

The Foundation also helps Members get involved personally. Last November, our Restock the Pantries Food Drive brought Ocean Reef Members, volunteers and staff together at the Chapel with groceries and monetary donations for four Community Grant partners – Feeding South Florida, Star of the Sea, Burton Memorial United Methodist Church Pantry and Bridge to Hope. Trucks left stocked with donations to replenish local pantries ahead of the busy holiday season.

That generosity continues through the Foundation's 2026 Community Grants, helping local nonprofits get food where it is needed most.

Feeding South Florida received an \$88,800 Community Grant



Members of the Foundation Board, Grants Committee and staff with the Feeding South Florida truck funded by the Foundation, helping keep nutritious food moving to families throughout South Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.



Ocean Reef Members, volunteers and staff filled baskets with groceries during the Restock the Pantries Food Drive, helping replenish local food pantries ahead of the busy holiday season last fall.

this year to support food delivery and distribution to pantries throughout the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City. Just last year, the Foundation made the purchase of the Feeding South Florida truck pictured here, critical infrastructure that helps move food efficiently into communities served by ORCF's nonprofit partners, possible.

In the Upper Keys, Star of the Sea Foundation received \$50,000 for its Upper Keys Hunger Relief Project, continuing a relationship with ORCF that dates back prior to 2017, when the Foundation first enlisted SOS to open the only food pantry in Key Largo at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church. Today, nearly 200 families and individuals visit the pantry each week. This year's grant also supports summer meals for children and brings SOS's "Shop Smart, Save Big" nutrition and budgeting program to the Upper Keys for the first time.

Another long-term partner,

Burton Memorial United Methodist Church in Tavernier, received \$19,800 for refrigerated truck usage to pick up perishable donations from local grocery stores and to purchase food when donations fall short. Its pantry serves 11,500 people.

In Homestead, Bridge to Hope received \$50,000 to support its Homestead Pantry Hub and home food delivery program.

Its Fresh FARMacy Food Pantry serves 8,000 to 10,000 people each month through pantry distributions, appointments and deliveries for the homebound and elderly. After federal cuts resulted in a \$1.2 million loss in in-kind meals, Bridge to Hope doubled its retail partners and expanded food pickup routes to help make up the difference.

A new 2026 Community Grant recipient is bringing food assistance directly into a local school. At Homestead Senior High School, a \$5,000 grant to His Hands & Feet supports the Haven of Hope Pantry, providing food, hygiene items and school supplies to students who need them.

Together, these grants represent \$213,600 in 2026 Community Grant funding for food security at a time of heightened need. Thanks to the generosity of the Ocean Reef community, they are part of nearly \$2.7 million in Community Grants awarded this year to organizations serving the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City.

This September, and especially on Hunger Action Day, we celebrate the nonprofits doing this important work every day and the Ocean Reef Members whose generosity helps keep trucks moving, pantries stocked and neighbors fed.

To learn more please email foundation@oceanreef.com, call 305-367-4707 or visit our office in the Ocean Reef Business Center.