Resolutions
Solutions

by Yurianna Mikolay
Executive Director
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

Time flies! Here we are reviewing the year, chilling Champagne and readying our resolutions again. About half of Americans make New Year’s resolutions. Not to put a damper on the celebration, but studies show only eight percent are successful in achieving them. Surprisingly, the Foundation can actually lend a helping hand with several of the most common resolutions.

Chief among these are to “Volunteer” and “Do More for Charity” in the New Year. We offer many services to help accomplish your personal philanthropic goals. Take advantage of our Charity Tours and complimentary Donor Advised Funds (DAFs), get involved with the All Charities effort and connect to volunteering opportunities beyond the gate, just for starters. If “Learn Something New” is on your list, we’re here with expertise on local needs and charities and resources far and wide.

Another popular resolution is to “Get Organized.” Charitable funds are a simple way to streamline and organize giving. Instead of writing dozens of checks and attempting to corral as many receipts, a DAF lets you time your contributions for maximum tax advantage and delivers one clear statement consolidating both your tax deductible contributions and all your outgoing gifts to charity each year. We do the work, you get the credit. If you’re reading this on Friday, there’s still time to drop off or postmark a donation by the 31st to open a named fund for your 2016 deduction and a more organized 2017.

“Spend More Quality Time with Family” is the dearest of resolutions and involves a key component of successful family philanthropy. Ocean Reef Community Foundation will begin offering a membership to the National Center for Family Philanthropy with all DAFs in early 2017. The NCFP Online Knowledge Center features an abundance of resources to help families share, maximize and pass on philanthropic values. Among these, their “Generations Together” program provides a curated collection of effective and enjoyable activities to introduce youth to family philanthropy and prepare family members for transitions and future leadership roles. It’s a heartening reminder that, while the years keep flying by, what we resolve to do in the year ahead can have a meaningful impact for generations to come.

Start Off Smart (Subliminal?) Thank You Message

“Thank you to the Ocean Reef Community for enabling the Homestead Police Athletic League and Start Off Smart, Inc. to provide life changing support and direction to children who have been exposed to violence within their homes and community. We have all seen the traumatic impact that violence can have on our children. Through your generosity these children are provided with a safe haven to go to every day, in a nurturing environment where they can express their fears and concerns. Through positive direction they are given the opportunity to plan for a future free of violence. The simple expression of a thank you does not seem adequate when you consider the life changing impact ORCF has provided to our community.” - Sandra Nanni, Director