Bullseye!
by Lesley Kirschner Eckhardt

Tradition is the very heart of the Ocean Reef Club, envisioned by Morris Baker at the inception of his dream, carried forth with each new step in leadership, continually transforming a place of recreation and respite commensurate to this tropical paradise. It is the great visionaries that guide us in the spirit and tradition of the club, improving upon the amenities and activities that bring life and growth to the Ocean Reef Community.

Committed to this task, Bob Schmetterer, Chairman of the Board, has done just that. As a yachting enthusiast, his vision was kindled by the rich resources of our surrounding waters that are rooted in the clubs’ beginnings and remain an intrinsic part of our way of life. Wanting to maximize on one of our greatest resources, his goal was to provide greater opportunity for Ocean Reef Club members to spend time on the water. With a brilliant mind for creative strategies in advertising, he was searching for something much like his vintage Haven 12 ½, rich with tradition, that would

All Charities Turns 10

Only at Ocean Reef could one bagel sell for $129.00. Certainly, it will be a very special bagel, baked by Stacy Schmetterer… one of a dozen in an auction package that received a high bid of $1552 at last weekend’s 10th Anniversary All Charities Auction.

Since the dozen went for $1359 last year, appreciating more than 14 percent, we can only assume that carbs are back in style and All Charities brings out the generosity of Ocean Reef members.

The bidding was wild and crazy, and a record number came out for some serious socializing at Friday’s wine tasting and Saturday’s lunch, showing support for the one combined annual fundraiser supporting nonprofits on and off the Reef.

This year, a whole lot of the giving was actually done by members from their couches, by the pool or even on the golf course.

“Every year, I look forward to Smiles, cheers and wine at every turn. Vicki and Alan Goldstein enjoy the evening with Adelaide Skoglund and Bill Legg.
pouring a glass of wine, sitting in a chair overlooking the water, and placing all my bids,” said social member Carl Belk. “While I wish I were able to be at Ocean Reef in person, I’m glad that I can still participate in All Charities Weekend.” He recently returned from a vacation in Beaver Creek that he won in the 2016 auction.

“While in the first three years, bidding was done with actual paper and pen, now 100% of bids are made electronically,” said All Charities co-director Mike Berman. Members do the most of their auction shopping via cell phone and for the first time, bidders received text messages when they were outbid by another member.

This technology helped bring in a record 3803 bids in the silent auction which raised over $1 million, versus $684,464 last year and $447,065 in 2015.

“The hottest category was wine, with a total of 1161 bids,” said Mike Jones who finished his first season as All Charities co-director, overseeing the operations and staff along with Berman, following the “retirement” of chairs emeritus Alan Goldstein and Tom Davidson who maintain a strong advisory role.

The most bids on a single item was 98, from members eagerly vying to have Damian Gilchrist come to their homes and be their chef for the night, hosting a dinner party for 12. The high bid was $10,262. “Jump the Line at the Raw Bar” was bid up to a record $26,000 and a new offering for the first time this year: “Your Name Featured on a Pizza on the Gianni Menu” raised $7,625 (be sure to try out the new pizza next season).

At Saturday’s black tie gala, 2017 event chairs Ken Karl and Adelaide Skoglund were pleased to welcome many first-timers, including several new equity members. In some past years, live auction bidding has become competitive and the item donor would generously step forward an offer a second auction package so there could be two winners. For the first ever, this happened an unprecedented five separate times – yes, five of the items were actually sold twice. Now that’s a community coming together.

The future leaders transitioning the All Charities giving program into its second decade were announced by Skoglund. 2018 event chairs will be Cindy Manzo and Kathy Weiland, then, Luisa Bryan and Roy Sutton will chair the 2019 All Charities Weekend.

Contact allcharities@ocean-reef.com or 305-367-5996 to learn more about volunteering on the 2018 All Charities committee. All Charities Weekend will be held in Carysfort Hall on February 9-10, 2018.

All Charities directors Mike Jones and Mike Berman and 2017 event chairs Adelaide Skoglund and Ken Karl at the 10th Anniversary All Charities Gala.

Surprise! Angela returned from the Ladies room to discover that her husband Doug was the high bidder on an 8 day Mediterranean cruise for three couples. Left to right: Angela and Doug Martin, Suzanne and Henry Stout.