

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

Foundation Match Offers Double Donations



by Yurianna Mikolay
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While the Foundation's big news is awarding \$1 million in Community Grants outside the gate this year, that's not the end of the good news or the funding that will come from the Greater Ocean Reef Community. Following our annual grants announcements, we've traditionally invited our Donor Advised Funds to co-invest in charitable projects we were not able to fully fund. Our Co-Investment Opportunities, as we call them, have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities in addition to our grants and enabled private Ocean Reef donors to combine efforts to have a greater impact. We'll share the "opportunities" with the whole membership for the first time here.

This year we're offering two matching grants, which means the charity must raise half of the total request from other sources to receive our funding. It

also means the Foundation will match your contributions dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 to Habitat for Humanity and \$23,100 to the United Way for specific Upper Keys projects. Match challenges are meant to help charities broaden their support.

The Habitat match grant will go toward building a seventh and final reasonably-priced family home with a no-interest mortgage in Key Largo's Mandalay community on county-donated land. The Foundation has long recognized the critical lack of affordable housing that is driving Conch (local) families out of the Keys and contributed to each of the houses in Mandalay -- along with homeowners and many volunteers, local contractors and businesses -- over the years.

The United Way match project is a new one, developed in response to the high cost of living in Monroe County, which is 44% higher than the nationwide averages used to determine eligibility for assistance programs. The proposed Success by Six program was created to help working families with incomes considered too high to qualify for assistance with childcare costs for preschoolers, but which the United Way's ALICE (Assets Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report determine to be poverty level based on the area's actual cost of living. The grant will provide scholarships to help bridge the gap.

More than 40 projects were fully funded this year, but our Co-Investment Opportunities include almost 20 projects the Community Grants program was only able to partially fund, as well as four programs initiated by the Foundation to meet community needs. Each charity included has been fully vetted by a Grants Committee of your peers and qualified for Foundation funding.

The complete 2017 Edition of the Foundation's Co-Investment Opportunities is available on our homepage at www.orfound.org and can be requested with an email to foundation@ocean-reef.com. The format is abbreviated (one page with a list of amounts still needed and brief descriptions of projects funded on the reverse), but we have full grant applications and documentation for all the projects and charities and are happy to answer questions and provide as much detail as is desired.



This Week's Featured Grant: Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys. "The dream of home ownership is now a reality for the Stubblefield family. With the continued support of the Ocean Reef Community, we recently completed house number 6 at the Mandalay Project located at MM 97. Pictured is our newest Habitat family, Joe and Melissa Stubblefield with Joseph (13) and Kaitlyn (5). Their new three-bedroom home was completed in December 2016. What a great holiday blessing it was for this family, thanks to the amazing support of all the great folks from Ocean Reef!" - Jack Niedbalski, Executive Director

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