Over a recent six-day period, more than 600 Ocean Reef Club Associates, Member employees and ORCA and community staff took advantage of the FEMA Application and a whole selection of support services and resource referral brought in by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation at the Club’s HR Training Center. We also provided grocery store gift cards through the Club and ORCA to those employees who worked during and immediately following Hurricane Irma. Urgent financial support is also currently being provided to ORC and ORCA Associates to help with expenses ranging from car repairs and insurance deductibles to providing bridge loans until insurance money through Member donations directly to those employees who worked during and immediately following Hurricane Irma.

Mike told it better from a newcomer’s somehow-more-intimate perspective than I can: “Irma was a historic storm. Her severity severely impacted residents and associates alike. Mandatory evacuations produced unanticipated damage and often onerous expenses on the ORC associates. Damage to homes and contents imposed hardships. Many, though not all, of the damages caused by Irma are covered through FEMA. Unfortunately, the disaster relief application can be extremely challenging. Many employees required significant assistance completing the application, some with technology, some with language and others with literacy. Recognition of these challenges prompted the contracting of our team to be created and trained from scratch, I wondered how our efforts compare to what others are doing. He answered, ‘I really am amazed by ORC’s response to Irma. The rapidity of response, the thoughtfulness of the residents, the gratitude of the associates and the competence of the administrative staff are all heartening. In trying times, it has become cliché to talk about ‘pulling together.’ Rarely have I seen the rubber hit the road the way this community has stood up for its people—many of them among the most vulnerable. Ocean Reef has much to be proud of.” I am not one to rush to pride, but I couldn’t agree more. I am very proud of what the Membership enabled us to do and you should be, too.

Mike Jackson of the Executive Office seeks assistance with her applications.

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

ORCF Provides Assistance Team to Help Navigate Claims

by Yurianna Mikolay
Executive Director
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

Taking 45 minutes to an hour with one person. I’m actually pleased with this because I know people are receiving additional services - like the D-Snap (a disaster food program) registration that should be very helpful. You took care of your associates well.”

Next, I turned to the second in command of the Disaster Recovery Assistance team assembled to meet employee needs, Mike Fina. Knowing we had to ask for this team to be created and trained from scratch, I wondered how our efforts compare to what others are doing. He answered, “I really am amazed by ORC’s response to Irma. The rapidity of response, the thoughtfulness of the residents, the gratitude of the associates and the competence of the administrative staff are all heartening. In trying times, it has become cliché to talk about ‘pulling together.’ Rarely have I seen the rubber hit the road the way this community has stood up for its people—many of them among the most vulnerable. Ocean Reef has much to be proud of.” I am not one to rush to pride, but I couldn’t agree more. I am very proud of what the Membership enabled us to do and you should be, too.

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More than 600 received post-Irma assistance this past week. Photos by Carol Ellis.

Mike Jackson of the Executive Office seeks assistance with her applications.

Our work here has just begun.