

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS



Florida Keys Hurricane Response Fund Committee Chairman Bob Schmetterer (center) presents a grant to benefit Upper Keys youth to Keys Children's Foundation President Lee Westervelt (right).



This gathering represents distribution of \$135,000 in grants from the Florida Keys Hurricane Response Fund: \$10K to the Marathon Community Theatre, \$20K to Florida Keys Community College's Hurricane Relief Fund, \$25K to Womankind clinic, \$60K to Star of the Sea Outreach Mission and \$20K to Kreative Kids Academy. The theatre and academy, both in Marathon, had major damage to their buildings.

## Foundation in Action



by Yurianna Mikolay  
Executive Director  
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

This season has been even busier than usual at the Foundation. In addition to vetting our now standard 90+ Community Grants applications, we've also been considering an extra 50 or so hurricane-related grant applications and awarding those grants up and down the Keys at a time of year when we're normally just focused on investigating nearby charities.

I am pleased to report that one of the grants from our Florida Keys Hurricane Response Fund was made to a terrific organization right here on property. The Keys Children's Foundation has already put our grant to work in the Needy Funds and food pantries of Key Largo Schools, to name a few of the donations they made to help kids in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. With all our grants committees have going



Grants Committee Members learn about a program that pairs athletics and academic tutoring at Mayor Roscoe Warren Municipal Park in Homestead.

on it was really fantastic to be able to entrust the community's donations to such a well-respected partner. Keys Children's Foundation's strong relationships with and knowledge of Upper Keys nonprofits, along with excellent due diligence and follow up practices, made it an ideal choice to help us meet the tremendous need in that area.

Last week we also had our first of four Charity Tours this season to visit with Homestead and Florida City nonprofit organizations. This tour took us to Laura C. Saunders Elementary School for the first time. We made a grant to City Year earlier this year which extended their added services and

personal attention to prevent students dropping out to the school so that the program now assists students from third grade all the way into high school in Homestead. We then met with two different organizations that share the same goal of bringing programs that combine athletics with tutoring and academic assistance to the area. Our final stop was at Centro Campesino, where the staff has applied for a grant to provide access to computers and training to the children of local families who don't have computer or internet access at home.

The community is invited to get in on the action to help in vetting the charities that have



Centro Campesino makes a presentation about their grant application for a children's computer program to the Foundation Charity Tour group.

applied for funding. Join the Foundation's Grants Committee on Charity Tours to see the impact of past grants firsthand and provide vital feedback on new proposals on four tours each season. Another visit to Homestead and Florida City charities is scheduled for Friday, February 2, with Upper Keys charity visits slated for Monday, January 8 and Friday, February 23. Tours depart promptly at 8:30 a.m. (to-go coffee, tea and water available from 8 a.m.) and return by 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations (required) can be made by emailing [foundation@oceanreef.com](mailto:foundation@oceanreef.com) or calling 305-367-4707.