

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

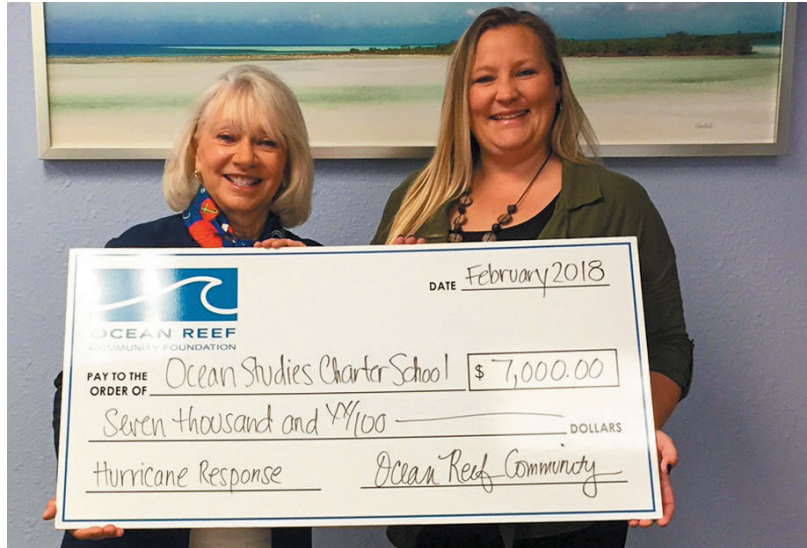
Off Reef Volunteer Projects Offered



by Yurianna Mikolay
Executive Director
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

According to its Chair **Janie Sims**, "The ORCF Grants Committee has had numerous requests from Ocean Reef Club Members who want to become more actively involved in charities outside the gates through volunteering." In response, a Community Outreach Task Force was recently formed to help Members do so.

She explains, "Our Community Outreach projects offer an opportunity to volunteer at a past or present ORCF grant recipient organization in Homestead, Florida City or the Upper Keys. Helping these charities with a specific need provides a chance for our community to see firsthand what a difference we make in the lives of others through our volunteer efforts and giving."



Foundation Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims (left) presented Ocean Studies Charter School Principal Abbie Freeman with a Community Relief Fund grant last week to help the Tavernier public charter school cover hurricane-related expenses. After Irma, they were forced to hold classes in a neighboring dance studio for several weeks during mold remediation. Ocean Studies will also receive a new playground and landscaping project through a grant from another organization, which will present opportunities for Members to volunteer on April 5, 6 and 7. According to Freeman, they are "looking for 75 volunteers to help with assembly of the playground, as well as serve on food and play committees. A food committee will set up and serve breakfast and lunch and the play committee will lead games and dances with the children and volunteers." Email ymikolay@oceanreef.com for contact information.

Each of the following upcoming projects will take place at a charity we know well and be organized and led by a member of the Grants Committee.

- The first available opportunities will be at the **Burton Memorial United Methodist Church Daily Bread Food Pantry** in Tavernier at mile marker 93. Volunteers will help restock shelves and pack and give out food packages to clients on Wednesday,

February 28, Monday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. More dates may become available in April. Please contact Grants Committee member **Jill Sullivan** (jsullivan@navesinkco.com) to volunteer.

- Two March dates have been set aside for Ocean Reef volunteers at **Branches** in Florida City. Members will interact with elementary school kids, provide tutoring

and homework help and assist teachers with special projects on Thursday, March 15 and Tuesday, March 20 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Grants Committee member **Kathie Markel** (knmarkel@gmail.com) is hoping for a carload of five volunteers for each date.

- **Touching Miami with Love's** West Homestead site will offer a half-day of light work projects including painting on Wednesday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grants Committee member **Patty Davidson** invites Members to "come help make their center a more welcoming place!" Interested parties can contact her for sign up and information (pattykaydavidson@gmail.com). Depending on the number of volunteers, transportation may be provided by the Foundation.

The Foundation works with dozens of charities in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and virtually all offer a variety of ways to volunteer for both individuals and groups. We're happy to research prospects in your particular interest area that will work with your calendar and connect you with charities. Please feel free to contact me at ymikolay@oceanreef.com for information about these and other projects.