Foundation Announces 2018 Community Grants

by Yurianna Mikolay, Ocean Reef Community Foundation Executive Director

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s annual Community Grants program, which awarded more than $1 million to charities outside Ocean Reef’s gates for the first time last year, has approved grants totaling almost $1.5 million to charities in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys for 2018. The marked increase was made possible by an upsurge in Member support for the Ocean Reef All Charities effort, which topped the 2017 record by a remarkable $1.5 million and effectively doubled last year’s share of proceeds going to the Foundation at $2,022,636. The additional amount will fund “big picture” strategic projects for the region, including longer-term hurricane recovery initiatives, which will be fully reported at a later date.

The Foundation’s Community Grants program awards grants to dozens of worthy charities to benefit Education, Youth, Health & Family Services and Community in the areas surrounding Ocean Reef, where its employees live and raise their families, each year following All Charities Auction Weekend. Including 2018 proceeds, the All Charities effort will have resulted in more than $8.3 million in Community Grants since the collaboration began in 2008.

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The All Charities fundraising consolidation effort is administered by the Foundation and has raised $33.6+ million for local charities to date. This year it will provide more than $4 million to Ocean Reef’s vital Medical and Cultural Centers, The Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association (which largely distributes proceeds to charities outside the gate), along with a second gift of $100,000 for the Baptist Hospital Helipad at South Florida’s only comprehensive stroke center.

About $1.4 million of the Foundation’s All Charities proceeds, plus additional direct donations to the

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**GRANTS TO HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA CITY AND UPPER KEYS CHARITIES:**

**ACT4Me** – Therapy for disabled children – $30,000

**ARC of South Florida**

- 34 laptop computer packages for classrooms and afterschool program – $17,000
- Adaptive seating and sensory equipment – $12,600

**Arsht Center for the Performing Arts** – Learning through the Arts curriculum and live performance field trip for fifth graders in Homestead and Florida City Title I schools – $10,000

**Autism Society of the Keys** – Technology and therapy for autistic youth – $10,000

**Branches Florida City** – Grow & Climb teen leadership development and employment mentoring program – $25,000

**Burton Memorial Methodist Church Food Pantry** – Refrigerated truck usage to enable pick up of perishable donations from local grocery stores – $6,000

**Camillus House** – CHEER educational initiative to assist 300+ homeless children in attending school and catching up with peers – $15,000

**Caring for Miami** – Project Smile Mobile Dental Unit visits for the Upper Keys, Homestead and Florida City – $40,000

**Carrfour Supportive Housing** – Academic Excellence & Youth Leadership program for formerly homeless children and teens – $10,000

**Centro Campe sino** – Computer education programs for 200+ disadvantaged children and their families – $30,000

**Chapman Partnership** – Launch of a Parent Institute for families transitioning from homelessness – $10,000

**City Year** – Services at Homestead’s Laura C. Saunders Elementary School for elementary thru high school support for at-risk kids in the Homestead area – $30,000

**Common Threads** – Nutrition and cooking skills education for patients with conditions helped by diet thru Baptist Health and families thru Carrfour Supportive Services – $16,495

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**OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
Communities in Schools Miami – Extending Bridges to Graduation & Beyond dropout prevention program to Homestead Middle School – $30,000

Domestic Abuse Shelter – Prevention programs for Upper Keys youth and training for key providers of youth services – $10,000

Down South Xtreme Sports & Fitness Academy – Tutoring by certified teachers to expand program combining sports and tutoring to additional youth in Homestead – $10,800

Early Learning Coalition – Early Childhood Education Conference for Monroe County childcare providers – $8,000

Faith Church of the Redlands – Expansion of educational programs to provide job skills training for special needs students entering the workforce – $10,000

Feeding South Florida
Homestead School Pantry Program – $50,000
Food allocation for Burton Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry – $9,000
Food allocation for St. Justin Martyr Food Pantry – $10,000
Year-round “Backpack” weekend meals for children in the Upper Keys preschools – $25,000
Florida Impact – No Kid Hungry in Key Largo program to offer more accessible breakfast options and add healthy snacks at Key Largo School (K-8) and Coral Shores High School – $25,000
Florida Keys Area Health Education – In-school primary medical services program at Key Largo School and Coral Shores High School – $10,000
Florida Keys Children’s Shelter – Facility updates including artificial turf, video monitoring system and replacement of generator – $45,000
Florida Keys Community College – To expand Key West’s Game Changer scholarship program to 10 Upper Keys Students – $40,000
Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association – Unfunded needs for children in Foster Care in the Upper Keys – $12,000
Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition
- Upper Keys Child Safety Equipment & Education program – $11,000
- Upper Keys Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders programs and

Upper Keys Tot Time programs and training – $14,250
Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center – Rebuilding of boardwalk – $5,000
Good Hope Equestrian Training Center – Endless Strides ten-week therapy program for about two dozen people with disabilities – $10,000
Greater Miami Youth for Christ – Teen Indigenous Leaders development and employment mentoring program at Homestead KiX Programs – $30,000
Greater Miami Youth Symphony – Expansion of music lessons program at three schools in Homestead, Florida City – $15,000
Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys – Building of additional affordable workforce housing on county-donated land – $25,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)
Institute of Child & Family Health – Case management and prevention program for younger siblings of habitual juvenile offenders – $50,000
Jacobs Aquatic Center – Repairs and updates to pirate ship and kiddie/teaching pools – $18,000
Key Largo School – Summer Recreation program for up to 250 pre-K through 5th grade students – $35,050
AVID college readiness program, college trips and teacher training – $9,700
Bilingual library books – $3,000
Art supplies and tools for the elementary art program – $2,700
Reward therapy program for special needs students – $2,200
STEM Nature Trail project – $600
STEM 3D Design project – $4,026
Transportation for the 5th grade class to participate in the Arsh Center Learning Through the Arts performance – $1,000
Kristi House – Training for child services providers in dealing with childhood trauma and working with kids before, during and after a hurricane – $13,000
Medical Academy for Science & Technology (MAST) – Clinical Simulation Lab equipment – $5,000
Mexican American Council – College & Career Readiness program including mentoring for high school juniors and college transition and enrollment assistance for seniors from families of farm workers at Homestead high schools – $35,220
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind – Children’s Vision Program for 830 in both service areas – $10,000
Motivational Edge – Therapeutic Arts Program at Chapman Partnership and two residential treatment facilities for male juvenile offenders in Florida City – $15,000
MUJER – Breaking the Secret Workshops with University of Miami and follow up therapy for 40+ abused children – $45,000
New Hope C.O.R.P.S. – Generator for a residential outpatient treatment facility in Homestead – $19,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)
Paramount Dance – Partial scholarships for dance instruction for children from low-income families in Homestead – $6,000
PATCHES – Transportation solutions for pediatric nursing daycare for medically complex children – $60,000
ProjectArt – ProjectArt Miami’s youth art education program for the Homestead Public Library – $20,000
Redlands Christian Migrant

Caring for Miami – Project Smile Mobile Dental Unit
Association – ADA wheelchair ramp for Florida City childcare center – $8,000
Reef Environmental Education Foundation – Project Nature
Days summer field trips and environmental education for Florida Keys Children’s Shelter residents – $5,000
St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church – Installation of new flooring throughout preschool to replace 50-year-old linoleum – $24,630
South Dade Child Development Center – Family Enrichment Center and GED programs for parents of students – $17,534
South Florida Science Museum & Aquarium – Science Passport educational program for at-risk Title 1 elementary school students in both areas – $25,000
Star of the Sea Outreach Mission – Food pantry projects and services at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church Food Pantry – $24,000
Start Off Smart
- Development of the national PAL Youth Directors Program and projects at the Homestead Police Department’s Police Athletic League – $20,400
- Community Empowerment Project to coordinate programs including six bimonthly annual community events with organizations serving youth to increase and encourage positive interaction, communication and collaboration between youth and law enforcement in Homestead – $16,169
- Towards Police Academy Scholarships for local youth who...
### Community Grants

**commit to serving in Homestead** – $5,000

**System Miami** – Tutoring by certified teachers to expand program combining sports and tutoring to additional youth in Homestead – $10,800

**Take Stock in Children** – College scholarships (matched by the Florida Pre-Paid College Foundation) for Upper Keys mentor program students – $50,000

**TIPS** – Upper Keys youth basketball league – $6,000

**Touching Miami with Love** (Homestead Site) – Summer internship and employment skills mentoring program for teens from low-income families – $22,940

**VOICES for Florida Keys Children** – Children’s Welfare Program to assist families through the 16th Judicial Court Guardian Ad Litem – $5,000

**YMCA of South Florida**
- Drowning Prevention Program for 480 disadvantaged Homestead children – $63,020
- Homestead Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp and Afterschool Program scholarships – $50,000
- Key Largo Summer Camp and Afterschool Program scholarships – $53,000

**Total in Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys Charities** – $1,428,134

**GRANTS TO OCEAN REEF-BASED CHARITIES:**

- **Ocean Reef Volunteer Fire Department** – Training and equipment for Waterway Fire Partnership with Coast Guard Auxiliary – $12,600

- **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-4** – Maintenance of Flotilla boat – $12,000

**Total to Ocean Reef-based Charities** – $24,600

**Total On & Off Reef Grants** – $1,452,734

To learn more about the Community Grants program, co-investment opportunities to complement partial grants and donation matching opportunities, please call 305-367-4707 or email foundation@oceanreef.com.