Visit, Volunteer in the New Year

If volunteering is one of your New Year’s resolutions but you’re not sure where to begin outside the gates, the Foundation’s Charity Tours and Community Outreach projects remove any guesswork in the way of getting started by organizing outings with fellow Members for you.

Charity Tours are a great way to test the waters and get a sampling of local causes while taking part in the Grants Committee’s vetting process. The community is invited to join us on site visits of Upper Keys charities on Friday, January 11 and of Homestead charities on Friday, February 1 (seats are limited, reservations required).

Our Community Outreach volunteering excursions are each led by a member of the Grants Committee and assist charities the group has evaluated and funded. Those who give through the All Charities effort are already giving to the non-profits where projects take place in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys, so we encourage Members to get out there and see the great work you’re funding! Sign up to receive volunteer project announcements and we’ll take care of the details, including transportation.

Our first Community Outreach project of the season, led by Patty Davidson and pictured here, was a little out of the ordinary in that no transportation was necessary! Two-dozen Members volunteered at the Cultural Center to help disadvantaged children in the Homestead area last month by packing weekend meals for food-insecure children at Title I schools in nearby Homestead.

According to Ashley Giritli of Caring for Miami, “The volunteers packed 300 bags of weekend meals complete with hand written notes to the children with messages such as ‘You are loved,’ ‘Stay Strong,’ and ‘Never Give Up.’ They also piloted a new packing system to assist in making an additional 300 oral hygiene kits. We are truly grateful for Ocean Reef’s support and for the volunteers’ time and commitment to care for children in the community!”

Look for several off-The-Reef projects in the works here soon or email foundation@oceanreef.com to receive project announcements, inquire about your personal volunteering interests and make Charity Tour reservations. We work with dozens of organizations in need of volunteers and are at the ready to connect Members to vetted organizations.

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