You Can Help Make Miracles Happen

These are exciting days as all snaps into place for this season’s Feb. 7 and 8 All Charities Weekend (ACW) with its Live and Silent auctions. Online bidding and ‘First Dibs’ open Jan. 31, so now’s the time to strategize so you’ll be ready to act when the auction catalog comes out in that day’s issue of the Ocean Reef Press.

Once again myriad amazing opportunities will be offered. From gourmet wine-dinners, phenomenal golf rounds, cruises and villas, shopping sprees and theater events, artworks, wines and jewelry, every Ocean Reef Member can find a way to support the cause and help make miracles happen.

While ACW co-chair MaryAnn Larkin notes what a privilege it’s been to so deeply involved, her co-chairs Cindy and Tim Brammer share amazement and strategy. Cindy marvels, “We’ve had donors coming out of the woodwork. The generosity has been incredible,” and noting the extraordinary packages on offer, Tim adds, “To post the winning bid for some of these items you’re just gonna have to be lucky, but for others, it will help to plan ahead.”

Adventures near and far:
Talk with friends and consider multiple options for visiting Napa, for wine, for food, for golf. And Europe. Same agenda, by land (Ireland or Scotland, each for eight) or by sea (Spain, for two). Or leave the clubs behind and have adventures in France for six, Italy for four, or Portugal for eight. Or two of you can go to Africa and the Seychelles (business class airfare included) instead!

Closer to home, six of you can fly roundtrip out of ORC to Georgia for a 48-hour sneak preview of the Masters, attending its practice round and Par 3 Tournament, followed by an overnight and a round of your own at Sea Island.

If you’d rather bid singly or as a pair on experiences here on The Reef, you can sip some of Napa’s finest cult wines while dining on a fabulous meal worthy of them. Go bird-watching. Step over to Key Largo Anglers Club to feast on mouth-watering ribeye steaks prepared on Himalayan salt slabs while sipping big cabs. Experience Pure Michigan.

Up-close-and-personal Concert:
In late March, Hall of Fame guitarist Don Felder, formerly of The Eagles, will perform for just 200 of you after a delicious meal. You’ll experience a transformed Town Hall where there will be no such thing as a bad seat, followed by a nightcap, dessert, and a meet-and-greet. (For additional information and reservations, contact the All Charities office.)

Baubles, Bubbles and Jewels!
Ahead of ACW, from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, enjoy hors d’oeuvres and sparkling wines in the courtyard of the Cultural Center as Chicago jeweler Lester Lampert, a Preferred Partner, exhibits gorgeous pieces and once again generously returns 20 percent of the proceeds to All Charities (Valentine’s Day follows ACW by only a week … hint, hint).

The weekend schedule:
Plan to take part in the wine tasting and ACW Silent Auction at Carysfort Hall from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7. Tickets are $25 at the door.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, return to Carysfort Hall and enjoy Burgers, Beers and Bidding from noon to 2 p.m. thanks to the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce.

Or if you fancy beautiful planes, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, check out Preferred Partner NetJets’ aircraft display at the Airport.

All Charities’ purpose:
In the mid-2000s, Ocean Reef was overwhelmed by the number of fundraisers each season (over 27). Thus organizers conceived of a combined fundraising effort that has evolved into ACW. In the years since, All Charities has raised over $38 million, benefitting The Reef’s Medical Center, Cultural Center, Art League, Academy, ORCAT, and the Ocean Reef Conservation Association as well as the lives of thousands in Key Largo, Florida City, and Homestead through grants from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

Curious to know more? Contact the All Charities office at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@oceanreef.com, or visit allcharities.orfound.org to see the bid packages (please keep in mind it is a work in progress). If you would like to take part but are unable to be present that weekend, call or email All Charities to register proxy bids.

“Going Gaga for Napa” will send four people on an extraordinary west coast trip that pairs a Napa cabernet getaway with Friends & Family tickets to see Lady Gaga in Vegas. First, the winning bidders will travel by private air from Ocean Reef Club to Napa Valley and spend three amazing days wining and dining the countryside, with a tasting itinerary cultivated just for them, and three luxurious nights in the beautiful Cardinale Estate Guest House. Then from there, they’ll travel by private air to Las Vegas, check in for two nights at The Four Seasons at Mandalay Bay, and be a special guest with four Friends & Family tickets to Lady Gaga’s May 3, 2020, Jazz & Piano Show at MGM Grande.