All Charities Announces 2019 Distributions
Generosity Flows for Charities On and Off The Reef

By Sarah A. Cart

Once again, the Ocean Reef community’s support of the annual All Charities giving program will result in wonderfully generous donations to local nonprofit organizations.

“I am delighted to report that 2019 was the best year outside 2018, the hurricane year (kind of like the NFL or the NBA – we’re gonna retire Cindy Manzo’s and Kathy Weiland’s jerseys, and their numbers),” notes Michael Berman, Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) vice president and chairman of the All Charities effort. “This year exceeded 2017 by 15 percent, with a total seasonal raise, including the annual Ocean Reef Club dues statement donation, of slightly over $6 million.”

He went on to credit the...
All Charities

hard work of this season’s All Charities Weekend (ACW) auction co-chairs Luisa Bryan and Roy Sutton. “They took charge and masterminded a memorable and successful event with innovative ideas and a lot of positive energy.”

This year’s All Charities distributions to benefit Ocean Reef directly include $1,263,405 to the Medical Center at Ocean Reef, $953,513 to the Cultural Center at Ocean Reef, $619,784 to The Academy at Ocean Reef, $309,892 to the Ocean Reef Art League and $96,514 to ORCAT.

In 2015, before ORCF increased its focus on our neighboring communities, $1,061,000 was donated outside the gates. For 2019, the All Charities initiative, including among others distributions to ORCF ($1,239,568), the Ocean Reef Conservation Association ($309,892), and $100,000 toward the Baptist Hospital Helipad (to enable fast, lifesaving access to South Florida’s only comprehensive stroke center), will be giving $1,829,000 outside the gates, an increase of 73 percent.

Highlights of the 2019 auction weekend included Diane and Keith Hill’s donation of an African safari and the donation of a week aboard their M/Y Corona in the Greek Isles by Sarah and George Chirakadze. Lester Lampert’s donations of jewelry as part of the Country Music Awards, a trip and tour of De Beers’ newest Canadian diamond mine, and 20 percent of the proceeds from All Charities sales of Lester Lampert Jewellers to Members bring the total Lampert has given to over $1 million since he became a Preferred Partner three years ago.

Other 2019 Preferred Partners include 121 Marina, Baptist Health South Florida, Lexus of Kendall/Lexus of West Kendall, Magnolia Blossom, Marsh, NetJets, Northern Trust, Ocean Reef Club Sotheby’s International Realty, Oceania Cruises and Wheels Up, plus two new partners: Somerset Charters and Haute Explore.

For 2020, Berman is delighted to welcome back Preferred Partner Mary Lee with the beloved Cult Wine and French Laundry dinners plus a new pre-Super Bowl Taste of the NFL dinner.

Looking toward the future, ACW 2020 will be chaired by Mary Ann Larkin and Cindy and Tim Brummer (who are already hard at work with some great fun ideas), followed in 2021 by Linda Johnston and Dom Di Napoli. Meanwhile, Sarina Kinney has joined Berman and Michael Jones as part of the permanent All Charities leadership, ensuring the endurance of All Charities for years to come.

To paraphrase Luisa Bryan and Roy Sutton as this season’s ACW began, “The entire Ocean Reef community is extraordinary… We are deeply grateful.”

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