Ocean Reef Community Foundation Announces 2013 Community Grants

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation Board of Directors recently voted to approve its Grants Committee recommendations, made after months of careful vetting and evaluation of more than 50 grant applications, and is pleased to announce its complete list of 2013 Community Grants.

The Community Grants program awards funding to dozens of worthy charities at Ocean Reef and in Homestead, Florida City and Key Largo each spring for projects supporting areas of Education, Youth, Health & Family Services and Community.

The Foundation’s Community Grants program is a direct result of the Ocean Reef Community’s participation in the annual All Charities Auction Weekend. Thanks to the community’s extraordinary generosity, the Foundation will be able to distribute an unprecedented amount this year.

Since the first All Charities Auction Weekend in 2008, more than $12 million has been raised for Ocean Reef All Charities Partners which, in addition to the Foundation, include the Reef’s Academy, Art League, Conservation Association, Cultural Center, Medical Center and now ORCAT. Including this year’s grants, the Foundation has allocated $2.9 million to local charities, $2.45 million of it beyond the gates.

The 2013 All Charities Auction Weekend raised a record setting $2.54 million for the Ocean Reef All Charities Partners. The Ocean Reef Community Foundation’s share of auction proceeds — $619,358 — will be distributed as follows:

Grants to Ocean Reef Based Organizations:

**Ocean Reef Chapel Foundation**
- Roof replacement project $10,000
**ORCC Historical Society**
- Scanning of historical documents and photos to make available on ORCC Library computers $10,000
**Ocean Reef Volunteer Fire Department**
- Contribution to ambulance lease $10,000
- Replacement sets of deteriorating bunker gear $6,000

**U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 13-4**
- Maintenance of the FREDRICK B. WELLS vessel $10,000
**Total** $46,000

Grants to Homestead/Florida City and Upper Keys Charitable Projects:

Legend: Homestead (H)/Florida City (FC)/Upper Keys (UK)

- ARC Project Thrive (H/FC) $23,248
- Arsh Center for the Performing Arts (H/FC)/MATCH REQUIRED $16,000
- Autism Society of the Keys (UK) $11,961
- idaps for autistic children and training for families to maximize benefits $5,000
- Branches Florida City (H/FC/UK) $40,000 total
- “Get Out of the Line” Program to assist families using Homestead & Burton (UK) food pantries to gain financial independence $15,000
- Civic development/engagement program for Teen Program including leadership workshop series $25,000
- Camillus House (H/FL) $75,000
- CHEER educational initiative for homeless children $5,000
- City Year (H/FL) $18,200
- Maintaining, academic support and drop out prevention at Homestead Senior High School $25,000
- Domestic Abuse Shelter (UK) $8,800
- Youth Primary Prevention Programs in Keys elementary and middle schools $10,000
- Feeding South Florida (H/FL/UK) $25,000
- Food distributions and services for Burton Food Pantry (UK)/Homestead Food Pantry (H/FC) and the “Extra Helpings” Program donating ORC surplus foods in both communities $50,000
- Florida International University School of Environment, Arts & Society (UK) $25,000
- Discover Our Backyard Program at Key Largo School $2,000
- Florida Keys Children’s Shelter (UK) $75,000
- Security System, 7 laptop computers and institutional grade furnishings which prevent boundary issues $23,000
- Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition Upper Keys Safety Program (UK) $10,000
- GMYFC KIX Teen Program (H) $5,000
- Expanded computer lab, educational experiences and academic and extracurricular support program designed to bolster college admissions $15,000
- Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys (UK) $25,000
- Toward additional affordable homes in the Mandalay project on county-donated land $7,200
- Homestead Food Pantry (H) $25,000
- Lighting, food storage, benches and a take-a-number system to improve efficiency
- Island Dolphin Care (UK) $8,800
- Jacobs Aquatic Center (UK) $25,000
- Anti-slip deck matting for safety and additional shade structures
- Key Largo School (UK) $11,961
- “Gizmos” hands-on science software/curriculum for all 572 3rd-8th graders, AVID organizational systems for all middle school students and bus transportation to participate in the Arsh Center “Learning Through the Arts” program $11,961
- MUJER (Family Violence Services)/(H/FC) $8,800
- Breaking the Secret Workshops w/University of Miami and follow up therapy for 40+ abused children $25,000
- Open House Ministries (H) $5,000
- Effort to supplement the poor diets of low income children with nutritious foods $4,800
- PATCHES (H/FC) $18,200
- Cardiac Rhythm Monitor, state required kitchen upgrades and four computers for nursing staff $18,200
- RCMA Centro Villas Child Development Center (H/FC) MATCHING REQUIRED $4,800
- Playground shade structure $5,000
- South Dade Child Development Center (H/FC) $8,800
- “Smart Board” technology
- South Florida Science Museum (H/FC) $8,800
- Science Passport Educational program for 750 Title 1 Elementary School students $75,000
- Take Stock in Children/Monroe Co. Ed. Foundation (UK) $5,000
- College scholarships for mentor program students $75,000
- YMCA of Greater Miami (S95K) $15,000
- Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp (H/FC) $35,000
- West Homestead Elementary Afterschool Program $10,000
- Marine Bio Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp (UK) $35,000
- Key Largo School Afterschool Program $15,000
- **Total in Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys** $548,209

Reserved in the Urgent Response Grant Fund $4,800
- **Allocated for Off Reef Charities** $573,209

**Total On & Off Reef Grants** $619,209

To learn more, please call the Foundation at 367-4707 or visit www.orfound.org.