Ocean Reef Foundation Gala Chairs Offer Thanks

We would like to thank the entire Ocean Reef Community for making the 2009 ORC Foundation Auction Day a real success. Through the Wine Tasting & Auction Preview party, the Silent and Live Auctions, and the Gala Wine Dinner, we raised more than $1.6 million for charities both on the Reef and, perhaps more importantly, in the Upper Keys and South Dade. In addition, these events were widely supported, were great fun, and showed the best attributes of our Community.

It would be impossible to thank here everyone who contributed to this year’s Auction weekend events. The volunteers who made up the Gala Committee solicited great items to auction, and brought creativity and real enthusiasm for the hard work of putting together these events. Our very generous sponsors are shown on a full page notice of appreciation in this paper. They opened their homes and wine cellars, secured yachts and airplanes, and created unique events and experiences to auction. The Wine Committee created and hosted a new event to preview the Silent and Live Auction items, offering great wines which had been donated. We particularly want to thank the Co-Chairs of the Silent Auction Barb & Ron Besse and Kathie & Steve Markel.

Perhaps most importantly, we want to thank the many of you who individually and collectively bought items at the Silent and Live Auctions. Your generosity in these times was a huge compliment to the Ocean Reef Community. We also want to thank Paul Astbury and the ORC Catering and Banquets Associates for all their preparation and presentation at the events. Finally, working behind the scenes, but very importantly were Alan Goldstein, Tom Davidson, John Taylor and, with tireless effort and expertise, Rose Michno and Lesa Crayne.

In sum, we sincerely thank all of you.

Dedie & Bill Nutt
Marcia & Tom Martell

Lunch Honors Take Stock in Children Mentors
Potential Mentors Also Invited to Attend

By Yurianna Mikolay
Ocean Reef Foundation Administrator

The Ocean Reef Foundation invites the community to attend a lunch honoring volunteers who mentor young people in the Upper Keys Take Stock in Children program, which helps low income children graduate from high school and attend college. The lunch takes place on Monday, March 2 at 11:30 a.m. in the Cultural Center Heritage Rooms.

In addition to the complimentary luncheon, representatives from the Take Stock in Children program will be on hand, along with the current mentors being honored, to discuss their experiences with the program and answer the questions of potential mentors in attendance.

Take Stock in Children provides four-year college tuition scholarships and educational counseling to selected low-income students who sign a contract to keep their grades up, obey a code of conduct, stay crime and drug free and meet weekly with a mentor. Each dollar donated is matched by Florida companies and the state by an additional $3, and 100 percent is designated to the area program benefiting students in the Upper Keys. Each mentor makes the commitment to meet with his or her student on a regular basis. With a focus on student success, mentors provide academic coaching, advice, support and friendship.

According to Keys Program Coordinator Jim Hall, Monroe County is a leader among Florida counties in level of participation and number of students who receive college scholarships.

“We would not be as successful as we are right now without Ocean Reef’s support,” he said.

For reservations to the Mentor Lunch, or to find out more about becoming a mentor, call the Foundation at 367-4707.