

Ocean Reef Community Foundation

2014 Community Grants Announced

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation has released its complete list of 2014 Community Grants to 36 local charities after months of careful vetting of 60 applications by their Grants Committee.

"The Foundation's Community Grants program is a direct result of the Ocean Reef community's participation in the annual All Charities Auction Weekend," according to ORCF Chairman Bill Nutt, "and it is with gratitude to the community for their extraordinary generosity that the Foundation will distribute an unprecedented \$700,000 off the Reef this year."

Nutt was particularly pleased to announce the Foundation's new "Backpack" Childhood Hunger Relief effort in Monroe County. "Backpack" programs confidentially send weekend meals home in the backpacks of children from low income families who frequently come to school hungry after spending the weekend without adequate nutrition. The initiative will be the first of its kind in the Upper Keys.

He explains, "This year our Community Grants program will provide weekend meals to all 150 pre-school children qualifying for subsidized childcare at eight Upper Keys centers and about 50 children attending the YMCA summer camp on scholarships. This effort has inspired private donors to co-invest with us. Thanks to a matching offer from our Donor Advised Funds we are also now just a few thousand dollars away from funding the first two years of the backpack program for nearly 300 Pre-K through third grade children qualifying for free or reduced lunch at Key Largo School."

"Thanks to all who participate in the All Charities effort and our private donors' commitment to co-investment with us, Ocean Reef will be providing supplemental nutrition directly to virtually all disadvantaged pre-school through third grade children in Key Largo in the year ahead. This project will have a major impact in the Upper Keys and is a truly meaningful philanthropic effort made possible by the Ocean Reef Community," he concludes.

Grants for the "backpack" effort are among many being made through the Foundation's Community Grants program, which awards funding to dozens of worthy

charities supporting Education, Youth, Health & Family Services and Community at Ocean Reef and in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys each spring. Including the 2014 grants, the Foundation will have allocated \$3.5 million to local charities (in addition to the All Charities Partners) -- \$3.15 million of it beyond the gates -- since the All Charities effort began in 2008.

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation's entire share of 2014 All Charities Auction Weekend proceeds -- \$690,992 -- will be distributed (combined with additional donations for a total of \$740,000 in grants) as follows:

Grants to Ocean Reef Based Charities:

- ♦ Ocean Reef Chapel Foundation, \$10,000
- ♦ ORCC Historical Society, \$10,000
- ♦ Ocean Reef Volunteer Fire Department, \$10,000
- ♦ U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 13-4, \$10,000
- ♦ Total at Ocean Reef, \$40,000

Grants to Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys Charities:

ARC Project Thrive-Classroom equipment, furnishings and computers for new special needs children's classrooms-\$19,800

Arsht Center for the Performing Arts- "Learning through the Arts" curriculum and live performance field trip for 5th Graders in Homestead and Florida City Title I schools - \$15,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

Autism Society of the Keys-Early intervention and therapy for Autistic children in the Upper Keys-\$10,000

Branches Florida City-Civic development/engagement effort for Teen Leadership Program including workshops, mentoring and community service projects for 50+ teens-\$25,000

Burton Memorial Methodist Church Food Pantry-Freezer to enable acceptance of more fresh and frozen foods -\$2,800

Camillus House-CHEER educational initiative to assist homeless children in attending school and catching up with peers-\$7,122

Chapman Partnership-Supporting services and educational activities for children of families transitioning from homelessness-\$10,000

City Year-Mentoring, academic support and drop out prevention at Homestead Senior High School-\$20,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

Domestic Abuse Shelter-Youth Primary Prevention Programs in Upper Keys elementary and middle schools and workshops for Teens-\$7,500

Faith Church of the Redlands Food Pantry-Walk-in freezer to enable acceptance of more fresh and frozen foods -\$11,930

- ♦ Feeding South Florida
- ♦ Food distributions and services for Burton Memorial and Homestead Food Pantries and the "Extra Helpings" program donating ORC surplus foods-\$50,000
- ♦ Year-round "Backpack" weekend meals for all 150 pre-school children receiving subsidized child care in the Upper Keys-\$46,800
- ♦ 10-week "Backpack" weekend meals for all 51 children expected to attend the Key Largo YMCA Summer camp on need-based scholarships-\$3,060

Florida International University School of Environment, Arts & Society-Family Science Nights at Upper Keys Schools-\$2,000

Florida Keys Children's Shelter-Van to transport abused, neglected and runaway youth being sheltered-\$30,000

Florida Keys Community Concert Band-Music Mentor program for 6th-8th grade students in the middle school band at Key Largo School-\$4,000

Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association-Unfunded needs for children in Foster Care in the Upper Keys-\$5,570

Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition Upper Keys Safety Program-Child safety education and equipment for homes and vehicles -\$10,000

Good Hope Equestrian Training Center-"Endless Strides" 10 week therapy program for about two dozen people with disabilities-\$10,000

GMFC KIX Program-Refurbishment of the outdoor area at a new building as a suitable play space for youth program-\$25,100 (of which \$5,000 for a shade structure requires a MATCH)

Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys-Toward additional affordable homes in the Mandalay project on county-donated land-\$25,000 (MATCH REQUIRED)

Hospice VNA of the Florida Keys-Critical hardware and software/technology upgrades to improve quality of service, productivity and efficiency-\$30,000

Jacobs Aquatic Center-Maintenance and repairs to children's aging play area features and fencing-\$20,000

Le Jardin Community Child Development Centers-Ipad educational technology for pre-school children at three centers-\$23,287 Key Largo School

- ♦ Licensing for "Gizmos" hands-on science software/curriculum for all

855 2nd-8th graders-\$3,500

- ♦ AVID college readiness program for middle school students, including supplies, teacher training and college visits-\$10,870
- ♦ Installation of a special accessible/safe surface to accommodate wheelchairs and a variety of disabilities for the Varying Exceptionalities classes' new playground-\$21,500
- ♦ Bus transportation for the 5th grade class to participate in the Arsht Center "Learning Through the Arts" program-\$1,000
- ♦ **MUJER** (Family Violence Services)-"Breaking the Secret Workshops" w/ University of Miami and follow up therapy for 40+ abused children-\$32,667

Open House Ministries-Weekly dinner to supplement the poor diets of disadvantaged children with nutritious foods-\$5,160

PATCHES-Half the cost of providing fresh healthy meals for medically complicated children for one year-\$12,000

Redlands Christian Migrant Association Child Development Centers-Early learning computers and upgrades for three centers serving 260 disadvantaged children and the Community Resource Center computer labs used for both children's homework and GED and literacy classes for parents-\$14,205

South Dade Child Development Center-Three "Smart Boards"/educational technology for disadvantaged pre-school children-\$23,729

South Florida National Parks Trust-Classroom and field components for the Florida Bay Day educational program for seven Upper Keys schools-\$6,400

South Florida Science Museum & Aquarium-Science Passport educational program for at-risk Title 1 elementary school students-\$15,000

Take Stock in Children-College scholarships (matched 100 percent by the Florida Pre-Paid College Foundation) for Upper Keys mentor program students-\$55,000 YMCA of Greater Miami & The Keys

- ♦ Homestead Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp-\$25,000
- ♦ Homestead Afterschool Programs at Title 1 schools-\$10,000
- ♦ Key Largo Marine Biology & Summer Learning Loss Prevention Camp-\$35,000
- ♦ Key Largo School Afterschool Program-\$15,000

Total in Homestead, Florida City and Upper Keys-\$700,000

Total On & Off Reef Grants-\$740,000

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