

All Charities Update: There's Never an "Off Season"

by Sarah A. Cart

All Charities may appear on the calendar as being "only" an annual weekend in February, but it is an event the benefits of which, fun from and preparation for are year-round.

A recent *Ocean Reef Press* article detailed the nearly \$3,000,000 in grants to organizations on the Reef and in Florida City, Homestead and Key Largo made possible thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community in support of All Charities Weekend 2014. Meanwhile, the fun and unique experiences purchased at that weekend's auction are being savored one by one, and almost daily, phone calls are being made, emails sent, and meetings held to prepare for next season's ACW, which will be February 6 and 7, 2015.

"We're looking forward to another terrific auction," says Nick Lanni, who with Gayle Tallardy is chairing the 2015 event. "Lots of awesome items have already been promised – it's going to be another great weekend with tempting options for everyone."

Many popular experiences will be offered again; one not seen for a while will return, and several new and exciting options that will appeal to the broad spectrum of the Reef's membership are in the works.

Among the already committed returning favorites are a dinner prepared by Emeril Lagasse; an evening at the Point for 50; jewels like no other from Martin Katz; an African experience; a couple 10-hour contracts with NetJets; and another opportunity to attend the Masters.

A favorite from 2014 will return with a new twist: Attendance at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, this time in the Hall's hometown of Cleveland,



Stephen Woodsum and Anne Lovett with Mike and Diane Jones at the Wine and Dine event donated by John and Mary Lee's Legends Invitational.

and an old favorite that has been missed for the last couple years will reappear: the Raise the Paddle "Oyster Fest" for 100 at the Farmers' home on Sunrise Cay.

And new for 2015 will be a 2016 NASCAR Daytona 500 VIP Package; a three-day boating adventure to Bimini Bay Resort and Marina; a three-night luxury Costa Rican adventure at Los Suenos Resort; and two concert packages – one to hear and meet Kid Rock and his band and the other for the same with Zac Brown; plus multiple new offerings for foodies: a wine and gourmet food weekend in Dallas for three couples; a meal for four couples prepared in the successful bidder's home by Chef Mario Batali and Jimmy and Leslie Liautaud; and a 1960s beach party for 100 with Chef Guy Fieri of the Food Network serving up his famous burgers.

Meanwhile, items on the drawing board are evolving one exciting step at a time; just imagine chatting with an Emmy Award-winning actor while on a day-long visit to the L.A. set of a breakthrough sitcom, *Modern Family*, or a personal concert by an award-winning Great American Songbook musician ... in Manhattan or Ocean Reef, buyer's choice.

So Ocean Reefers – mark your calendars!



Pictured is Bob Schmetterer at the home of Roe and Penny Stamps. Twelve couples won "An Evening with The Stamps".



Food, Fabulous Food was a festive dining event prepared by Vicki Goldstein and Judy Astbury and celebrated by 12 ladies.

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