

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

All Charities Off Reef Results



by Yurianna Mikolay
Executive Director
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

For the 10th year the Ocean Reef Community will come together to consolidate support for the vital Medical and Cultural Centers, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and scores of charities beyond the gate through the Conservation Association and Ocean Reef Community Foundation during the All Charities Weekend on February 10 & 11.

There are many reasons to be a part of this crucial effort, not the least of which are the thousands of lives it touches, improves and sometimes even saves in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys thanks to your generosity. Since 2008, the All Charities effort has enabled the Foundation to grant more than \$5 million to worthy causes in the communities the employees who make Ocean Reef's unique way of life

possible call home.

The Foundation's Grants Committee, chaired by **Janie Sims**, is in the process of vetting more than 70 applications for 2017 grants totaling more than \$1.5 million, and is awaiting the results of the upcoming weekend. They anticipate being able to grant only about half of what's been requested for projects benefitting the program's interest areas of Youth, Education, Health & Family Services and Community.

If you're wondering how your peers on the Grants Committee make the funding decisions, check out the program priorities that guide them on the Community Grants page of our website www.orfound.org. There you'll also find every dollar of All Charities donations accounted for with a complete record of the 2016 grants and more detailed descriptions in *The Link* newsletter on the homepage, and those for all previous years on the News and Newsletter Archives pages.

Please enjoy a few more messages of gratitude from 2016 grant recipients to inspire your bidding at the auction events next weekend and online at bidorc.org starting today!



Good Health Clinic

"The Ocean Reef Community provided needed emergency response equipment in our free clinic for low-income, uninsured Keys residents. It also allowed us to purchase essential lab equipment to care for diabetic patients. Diabetics who monitor, and consequentially control, their A1C levels do exponentially better physically, mentally, and socially. They have less overall health issues and heal quicker. Because they are not sick all time, they are better family members, friends, and workers. By providing this equipment, ORCF has literally helped save lives and helped our patients live healthier, happier, more productive lives! THANK YOU!" - Kate Banick, Executive Director



Communities in Schools

"Thank you to the Ocean Reef Community for supporting CIS's efforts to reach nearly 800 students in Homestead Senior High School. CIS is a key partner in the Diplomas Now initiative, partnering with City Year and John Hopkins University to help struggling students stay on-track towards successful high school graduation. As a teacher, I know firsthand the impact that your funding has had for the students. I have tremendous admiration and appreciation for the work that CIS of Miami does here. Thanks to you, students are provided support groups and connected with community resources such as counseling, health care, housing, food and clothing." - Tara Playford, HSHS Teacher