

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

# 2017 Community Grants Awarded



by Yurianna Mikolay  
Executive Director  
Ocean Reef Community Foundation

Last week more than 100 representatives of 50 nonprofit organizations serving Ocean Reef, Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys gathered at Carysfort Hall to meet and receive their 2017 Community Grant awards from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

"It was a very special day," according to Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims, "and we and the charities greatly appreciate the community support that made it possible." Largely as a result of Ocean Reef's support of the All Charities effort, the Foundation's Community Grants program was able to award more than \$1 million beyond the gate this year.

Last year we tentatively tested interest in such a gathering, assuming the distance and travel time would be prohibitive for many. We were so pleasantly surprised by the turn out and collaborations that came from people from all the different organizations meeting and interacting that we decided to make an annual event of it before it was even over.

Although given the choice to receive checks by mail, literally every charity awarded a grant this year – even two which will not actually receive checks until they raise a match amount – came from as far south as Key West and as far north as West Palm Beach to express their thanks in person. See a complete list of recipient organizations at [www.orfound.org](http://www.orfound.org).



All Charities Co-Director Mike Berman with Jacobs Aquatic Center President Jim Boilini.



Grants Committee members on either side of Le Jardin Community Center Director of Operations Heather Duenas, Executive Director Eduardo Berrones and CEO Audelia Martinez.



Hospice of the Florida Keys' Kim Sovia-Crandon with Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims and Livia Barbosa, RN.



South Florida Science Center CEO Kate Arrizza with Vice Commander Peter Liashek and Past Commander Jim Leenhouts of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 13-04.



ORCF, Star of the Sea Outreach Mission, Feeding South Florida and the Florida Keys Children's Shelter reps making introductions.



Homestead Police Department Police Athletic League's Officer Robbie Tate and Alisha Wiggins receive a grant to Start Off Smart for PAL programs flanked by Kathie Markel and Janie Sims.



ORCF Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims (right) with Christina Sudduth of Florida Impact.



Representatives of the Mexican-American Council with ORCF Chairman Bill Nutt and Grants Committee members.