

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

2018 Grant Application Deadline Fast Approaching, Charity Tour Dates Set



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The Ocean Reef Community Foundation recently changed the annual Community Grants application deadline, setting it earlier with applications for 2018 grants due postmarked within the month by October 1, 2017.

Each spring the Community Grants program awards funding to dozens of charities at Ocean Reef and in Homestead, Florida City and Key Largo for projects supporting Education, Youth, Health & Family Services and Community.

Members and employees of Ocean Reef are encouraged to recommend our Community Grants program to and share the new deadline with local charities you support. Interested Members and nonprofits can find guidelines, giving priorities and applications on the Community Grants page of our website at www.orfound.org.

The Community Grants pro-



After touring the campus to get a glimpse of what college life will be like, the KLS students participated in the ropes course, another tool to boost individual confidence, and propel them on the road to success.



The KLS 8th grade AVID class traveled to Florida Atlantic University in 2016.

gram is funded primarily by the Ocean Reef All Charities effort which consolidates fundraising for all on-property nonprofits with an option to make a donation with your annual Ocean Reef Club dues and the All Charities Auction Weekend each February.

The Foundation has distributed

\$6.3 million in resulting Community Grants to date and awarded more than \$1 million off The Reef for the first time in 2017. The growth of the program has led to an increase in applications and the earlier deadline gives the Grants Committee time needed to process and thoroughly evaluate proposals.

It will also make it possible to offer an additional Charity Tour in the upcoming season. The community is now invited to join the Grants Committee on Charity Tours to see the impact of past grants firsthand and provide vital feedback on new proposals on four tours each season. Visits to Homestead/Florida City charities are scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 and Friday, February 2, with Upper Keys charity visits slated for Monday, January 8 and Friday, February 23.

Charity Tours depart promptly at 8:30 a.m. (to-go coffee, tea and water available from 8 a.m.) and return by 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required: foundation@oceanreef.com or 305-367-4707.

Featured Grant: Key Largo School AVID

According to Key Largo Principal Laura Lietaert, "AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a proven system dedicated to closing the achievement gap by supporting students in their endeavor to prepare for a post-secondary education. Key Largo School has AVID school-wide, but the elective classes target students who have the potential to go to college, yet are struggling to overcome specific obstacles in their lives." With thanks in part to ORCF funding for AVID college readiness projects, organizational supplies, trips and teacher training, KLS is serving as a model for other schools in the area and well on the way to becoming the only designated AVID Site of Distinction in the county.