

Grateful for Teamwork, Support and Rebuilding



by Sarah A. Cart

The generosity and caring exhibited by Ocean Reef Club Members is a phenomenon more powerful than any hurricane. Therefore, since this is the season for giving thanks, in the wake of Hurricane Irma, All Charities has a long list:

- The Club and ORCA's cooperation, partnership and thorough communications with all of us before, during and after;
- The thoughtful preparation that led to asking, "How can we help?" when the storm's track shifted to our benefit, and thus accommodating the first responders and equipment crucial to helping our neighbors

A New Face in the All Charities Office

Long-time Key Largo resident Amy Cornaire joined the All Charities team this fall as Community Relations Manager; stop in and welcome her.

Although she's new to All Charities, Amy knows Ocean Reef well, having worked here for several years a lifetime ago, ending up as assistant restaurant manager at the Clubhouse.

The Maine native terms herself a "Jack of all trades" and has spent her most recent career engaged in digital marketing and events planning in Islamorada.



"I'm looking forward to contributing my skills to this amazing team. The level of dedication from the staff and Member volunteers is inspiring, and to know that the end result of our efforts here will help those in need is very rewarding."

In her spare time, Amy can be found chasing her six-year-old twin girls.

- in the middle and lower Keys ASAP;
- The "Riders of the Storm," those Club representatives whose courage and dedication came to the fore as they stayed through the darkest days;
- Best neighbors **Keith and Diane Hill** who sheltered in place and

then not only gave on-site feedback to homeowners far away, but also put in muscle to clear and restart generators and so much more – **Mike Jones** terms their generosity of spirit and taking action "above and beyond the call of duty";

- Immediate contributions made directly to the Club and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to help support the Associates of Ocean Reef and ORCA and their communities in Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys (over \$1 million to date), and the decision of the Club's Board to continue paying all Associates while the Club was closed;
- The anonymous commitment to match, dollar for dollar, \$500,000 in donations to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation Florida Keys Hurricane Recovery Fund, and this amazing community that met the challenge in less than a week. To date, almost \$1.3 million has been pledged for Keys-wide relief efforts and individual and matching donations continue to flow in;
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in ORCF donations to Key Largo School and Coral Shores High School, plus donations made by the Keys Children's Foundation to those schools and Plantation Key School to assist children and families in the Upper Keys that are facing unexpected challenges due to the hurricane's destructive force;
- The continuing hands-on assistance to our own Associates as they navigate bureaucratic

red tape of FEMA and insurance claims;

- The enthusiasm with which each reopening and milestone toward normalcy is embraced by Members and Associates.

Yet as Yurianna Mikolay of the Ocean Reef Community Foundation pointed out in these pages just a couple weeks ago, "The [remaining] need is every bit as overwhelming as the generosity it inspired."

Which calls us to All Charities Weekend (ACW) February 9 and 10, 2018.

ACW co-chairs **Kathy Weiland** and **Cindy Manzo** are laser-focused on that future: "We are grateful that the Ocean Reef community shares a unified dedication and commitment to All Charities Weekend, and we are honored to be working with such a strong, creative and generous All Charities team."

History was made the weekend of September 9 & 10 when Irma slammed into the Florida Keys as a Cat 5; let's counter that by making history again over ACW February 9 & 10. As the response to Irma has proved, when we come together as a team, look out for one another and rebuild, we are all made stronger. Your participation and support will be appreciated.

All Charities' Purpose

The monies raised via All Charities help ensure the viability of not-for-profit institutions important to Ocean Reef (Medical Center, Cultural Center, Art League, The Academy, ORCAT and Conservation Association) and provide much needed funds to dozens of worthy charities in Homestead, Florida City and throughout the Keys, helping to improve lives through grants from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

Questions?

Contact the All Charities office at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@oceanreef.com. The women there will be delighted to help you: Lesa Crayne, All Charities Director, and, new this fall, Amy Cornaire, Community Relations Manager.

If, in addition to taking part in this season's All Charities, you would like to make a gift to help with recovery efforts, mail your check made payable to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, with Florida Keys Hurricane Response in the memo line, to 35 Ocean Reef Drive, Ste. 148, Key Largo, FL 33037. To learn more, call 305-367-4707.



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