

## PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

# Community Relief Fund Report



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Almost four months ago now, Ocean Reef Club and the Foundation joined forces to facilitate Member giving to help employees and the communities where they live in the wake of Hurricane Irma. In very short order, the Membership responded to Club outreach with more than 650 donations adding up to \$1 million. Over \$600,000 of that was raised in tax deductible donations through the Foundation's Community Relief Fund.

Thanks to the community's generosity, we were able to quickly respond with much needed assistance. Not only did the Club's non-tax deductible donations provide direct assistance to their own and ORCA employees, the Foundation immediately initiated broader programs to both help employees of the community directly and to support the nonprofit institutions relied upon in their home communities of Homestead/Florida City and the Upper Keys to provide important services.

With most of the Community Relief funds now approved for distribution in a recent slate of grants, we can now share a complete overview of what was accomplished with your donations.

## Direct Employee Relief Efforts

- More than two hundred \$100 grocery store gift cards provided to employees working in first response efforts on-site after the hurricane
- Over a six-day period, more than 600 Ocean Reef Club Associates, ORCA and Member employees/community workers took advantage of the FEMA



The Monroe Association of reMARCable Citizens recently received a \$39,999 grant from the Community Relief Fund to replace one of two of the Upper Keys location's wheelchair accessible vans destroyed in Hurricane Irma from ORCF Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims (right).

- application and insurance paper work assistance and other support services and resource referral by a team brought in by the Foundation at the Club's HR Training Center
- About one thousand \$200 grocery store gift cards distributed to Club and ORCA employees, as well as those of OR nonprofits and Clubs Within the Club
- About one thousand \$100 Home Depot gift cards distributed to Club and ORCA employees, as well as those of OR nonprofits and Clubs Within the Club

## Grants to Upper Keys & Homestead/Florida City Charities

A dozen grants were approved for Upper Keys and Homestead/Florida City charities, both to repair damages and recoup losses to get help get them back up and running and to help them provide hurricane recovery services:

- United Way of the Florida Keys (Upper Keys) \$45,000
- Key Largo School \$20,000
- Coral Shores High School \$20,000
- Guides Trust Foundation (Upper Keys Guides) \$30,000
- Monroe Association of Retarded Citizens (Upper Keys) \$39,999
- Good Health Clinic \$21,200
- Take Stock in Children (Upper Keys) \$25,000
- ARC of South Florida/Project



ORCF Vice President Mike Berman (left) and Chairman Emeritus Alan Goldstein (right) present a \$25,000 Community Relief Fund grant to Take Stock in Children Program Coordinator Chuck Licis (center).

- Thrive & Ace Academy Florida City \$25,000
- Touching Miami With Love (Homestead) \$25,000
- Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition (Upper Keys) \$25,000
- Guides Trust Foundation (Ocean Reef Guides Assistance) \$23,000
- Ocean Studies Public Charter School \$7,000

While our Community Relief Fund was created to help employees and the areas where they live, the scope of this disaster is well beyond that of the immediate neighbors it was created to help. Less than a month after the storm a generous anonymous match offer helped to create our Florida Keys Hurricane Response Fund to benefit all of hard hit Monroe County. Employees of the Ocean Reef community are also benefiting from many FKHRF grants and they can apply for the direct aid program for individuals and families it funded through the Coldwell Banker Schmitt Charitable Foundation at [www.gooddeedsinthekeys.org](http://www.gooddeedsinthekeys.org).

To date, almost \$1.3 million has been raised for the separate countywide effort and about \$800,000 of that has been distributed to Monroe County nonprofits. Between the two funds, that's \$1.4 million contributed by the Ocean Reef community already at work helping people in their time of need.