

Volunteers Needed to Make the Magic of Giving Happen for Charities

By Yurianna Mikolay
Ocean Reef Foundation Administrator

On Feb. 12 & 13 at “The Magic of Giving” All Charities Gala Weekend events it should appear that great fun and fundraising for local charities happen almost by magic, but in fact, that will be a masterful illusion. A committee of dozens of volunteers has been working diligently since last year’s event, and dozens more “magician’s assistants” are needed to make the magic happen.

Whether directly, or through a grant from the Foundation’s Community Grants Fund, every charity on the Reef benefits from these important events, and volunteering your time is a great way to show your support for the charities you care about. The events’ chairs have come up with a variety of enjoyable jobs

for people of all ages and abilities, some in the weeks leading up to the events and some at the events themselves.

Prior to the big show, volunteers will be vitally important in assembling auction catalogs and other goodies into packages 7-10 days out. Last year a great group got together to make quick work — and quite a festive social event — of this job, and event Co-Chairs Barb & Ron Besse and the Kathie & Steve Markel are planning for more of the same this year. Additional volunteers will also be needed to deliver the catalogs and then, later, sweep neighborhoods for unopened packages.

During the day on February 12, help is needed to set up all the auction items. The Gala Wine Committee Chairman Mike Berman asks you to “consider being

a ‘wine ninja.’ On the day of the tasting this special group of creative people will join forces and slip into Great Heron Hall and create approximately 35 amazing Wine Baskets.” Berman offers an additional incentive, “As if the joy of contributing were not enough, you will have the opportunity to finish off whatever is left of the almost 400 bottles to be tasted” that night, and even throws in “transportation on request.”

At both the Wine Tasting & Preview Party on Friday and Saturday’s Not-So-Silent Auction Day Celebration, volunteers are needed to assist at the entrance, with raffle sales and in a whole host of other roles critical to success.

However you choose to participate, the chairs have set out to make it fun, and the charities you

care about will reap the rewards. If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact Lesa Crayne

at lcrayne@oceanreef.com or 367-6303. Lesa will be happy to help match you with an important task.



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