



Town of Palm Beach United Way
44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

MARY FREITAS
Chairman

MARK COOK
CHRISTINE CURTIS
J. IRA HARRIS
DANIELLE MOORE
TRIP MOORE
Vice Chairmen

MISSY AGNELLO
Treasurer

JORGE CABRERA
Deputy Treasurer

DEBRA VASILOPOULOS
Secretary

JAY BOODHESHWAR
GAIL CONIGLIO
CHRISTINA DENNIS
STEPHEN HALL, JR.
ANN HEATHWOOD
CARA CONIGLIO MCCLURE
LOUISE SNYDER
CHRISTINE STILLER
Executive Committee

BETH WALTON
Chief Executive Officer

PALM BEACH UNITED WAY MATCHES FIRST \$100,000 PLEDGE TO CORONAVIRUS FUND; TWO NEW MATCHING GIFTS ANNOUNCED

For Immediate Release – March 20, 2020

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

Within 72 hours the Town of Palm Beach United Way has raised \$200,000 for its Coronavirus Emergency Fund, meeting two initial \$50,000 dollar for dollar matching gifts from generous donors **Christina Dennis** and **Danielle Moore**. Now the United Way is working to meet two additional \$50,000 matching gifts from supporters **J. Ira Harris**, through the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Foundation, and **Jason Taubman Kalisman**, through the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

“It’s clear the coronavirus pandemic is going to get worse before it gets better, and we must all do our part to help our neighbors during such trying times,” said Harris, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Nicki and I hope this matching gift will inspire others to give what they can to meet the needs of the thousands of Palm Beach County residents who will be impacted by this virus.”

Added Kalisman, a member of the Board of Trustees: “Fear and anxiety are high right now, especially for vulnerable residents and workers worried about losing their jobs and their incomes. Josephine and I chose to offer this matching gift through the Town of Palm Beach United Way because we know the money will go to the people in our community who need help the most.”

The Coronavirus Emergency Fund will be dispersed to local nonprofits to meet the needs of Palm Beach County residents who are impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Several agencies have already requested funding for food, diapers, medical equipment and more.

“We continue to distribute food at six of our community pantries, but resources are dwindling,” said Ruth Mageria, executive director of CROS Ministries, a United Way partner agency. “We have already seen a significant increase in clients who have never needed to seek our services before. This crisis is unprecedented, and we anticipate the need for food will only increase in the coming months.”

Many organizations also need help funding childcare, mental health and financial assistance programs. United Way partner Center for Child Counseling has asked for help funding telehealth and telecommunications services to support children in need of counseling services during this difficult time.

“We know that issues like financial insecurity, food uncertainty, and times of high stress are exactly the factors that exacerbate issues, often resulting in spikes in child abuse and violence,” said Renee Layman, chief executive officer. “With so many families facing this kind of uncertainty on all fronts, we must ensure services to build resiliency, calm fears, and help our children through the storm.”

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has already received several calls from individuals in need of financial support as businesses continue to lay off workers in response to local,

state and national mandates to limit restaurant capacity and practice social distancing. The 211 Helpline, which receives funding from United Way, also reports an increase in calls from people who need assistance, need information and guidance, or simply need reassurance in this time of uncertainty.

“We are committed to supporting our community any way we can, but we need help,” said Board Chairman Mary Freitas. “Our partner agencies will face challenges for weeks and months to come. We’re relying on the Palm Beach community to help us address those challenges and in turn support the thousands of residents who will be affected by this crisis.”

To donate to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund visit

www.palmbeachunitedway.org/coronavirus-emergency-fund or call 561-655-1919.

Checks should be made payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with “Coronavirus Fund” in the memo and mailed to 44 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% will go directly to local organizations delivering services to disadvantaged and under-resourced communities most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

-end-

CLASS OF 2020

Kathy Bleznak
Jay Boodheshwar
Sean Bresnan
Paula Butler
Mark Cook
Christine Curtis
Marvin Davidson
Christina Dennis
Lynn Foster
Mary Freitas
Juliana Gendelman
Sarah Gewirz
J. Ira Harris
Darlene Jordan
Sir Geoffrey Leigh
Matthew Lorentzen
Danielle Moore
Esther Murray
Tom Quick
Cater Randolph
Joyce Reingold
Christine Stiller
Dominick Telesco
Rebecca Williams
Robert Wright

CLASS OF 2021

Jack Borland
James Borynack
Nancy Brinker
Michael Donnell
George Garfunkel
Bruce Gendelman
Roni Goldsmith
Lee Gordon
Stephen Hall, Jr.
Ann Heathwood
Vicky Hunt
Jason Kalisman
Harriet Miller
Heidi Niblack
Daniel Ponton
Lyn Ross
Richard Rothschild
Linda Saville
Laurie Silvers
Lisa Wilkinson
Susan Wright

CLASS OF 2022

Missy Agnello
Ann-Britt Angle
Sean Baker
Howard Bernick
Cynthia Boardman
Sandy Bornstein
Jorge Cabrera
Atesh Chandra
Tasha Dickinson
David Duffy
Gail Engelberg
Brian Hurley
John Kessler
Michele Kessler
Paulette Koch
David Mack
Cara Coniglio McClure
Pamela McIver
Bill Meyer
Sydell Miller
Trip Moore
Hess Musallet
Rita Nowak
Stephanie Ribakoff
Louise Snyder
Bill Tiefel
Betsy Turner
Wally Turner
Debra Vasilopoulos
Kathryn Vecellio
Allen Wyett

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Michael J. Bracci
Patricia Cook
Gail Coniglio
Diana Ecclestone
Sidney Kohl
Paul Leone
Margaret Luntz
Sydelle Meyer
Anita Michaels
Lesly Smith



 561 655 1919
 561 655 1740
 Townofpbunitedway
 www.palmbeachunitedway.org
 @PBUnitedWay
 pbunitedway
 townofpalmbeachunitedway.wordpress.com