New $50k matching gift from Susan and Dom Telesco helps bolster Town of Palm Beach United Way’s Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund

A combined $50k challenge grant from Bill and Norma Tiefel and Richard and Barbara Rothschild has been met

For Immediate Release – October 4, 2022
Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or aleese.kopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way needs help meeting a new matching gift to assist with hurricane relief efforts along Florida’s Gulf Coast. Longtime donors Susan and Dom Telesco are offering to match donations to the United Way’s Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund dollar-for-dollar up to $50,000.

Previous donations to the fund have already been met by a combined $50,000 challenge gift from Palm Beachers Bill and Norma Tiefel and Richard and Barbara Rothschild. With the help of the matching gift from the Tiefels and Rothschilds, the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund, created on September 29, has raised just over $100,000.

“It was a painfully devastating storm,” said Susan and Dom Telesco. “Entire communities were decimated, and hundreds of individuals and families now find themselves homeless and in need of emergency aid. It could have happened here, and we’re so grateful it didn’t, but now we want to do our part to help with recovery efforts for our west coast neighbors. We hope this challenge gift will encourage others to do the same.”

The Town of Palm Beach United Way is distributing funds to aid organizations on the ground in the hardest hit areas of the Gulf Coast, including Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties. To date, Global Empower Mission and World Central Kitchen have both been sent $25,000 each to help with relief efforts.

“We greatly appreciate the support of the Palm Beach community,” said Michael Capponi, President of Global Empowerment Mission. “Our team is on the ground in Collier and Lee counties and has seen firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian. These funds will go a long way to help our work on the Gulf Coast.”

Global Empowerment Mission has already helped 13,000 families with food, water, tarps, and other supplies. The agency has established three distribution hubs and is working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to help support local shelters.

World Central Kitchen’s relief team is spread out across the Gulf Coast and has distributed over 150,000 sandwiches and hot meals to residents in need. The organization has secured kitchens, food trucks and restaurant partners to help with its relief efforts, and is distributing meals with vehicles, seaplanes, helicopters, and an amphibious vehicle.

-end-

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.
CLASS OF 2023
Suzanne Ainslie
Jay Boodheshwar
Paula Butler
Mark Cook
Carla Cove
Christine Curtis
Christina Dennis
Sheila Fine
Mary Freitas
Juliana Gendelman
Darlene Jordan
Beth Lang
Matthew Lorentzen
Danielle Moore
Tom Quick
Cater Randolph
Joyce Reingold
Christine Stiller
Jessica Surovec
Don Telesco
Simone Vickar
Rebecca Williams
Bob Wright

CLASS OF 2024
James Borynack
Nancy Brinker
Kristen Kelly Fisher
Cynthia Friedman
George Garfunkel
Felicia Taylor Gottsegen
Stephen Hall, Jr.
Vicky Hunt
Ellen Jaffe
Jason Kalisman
Josephine Kalisman
Roberta Kozloff
Jeff Marcus
Heidi Niblack
Daniel Ponton
Richard Rothschild
John Scarpa
Laurie Silvers
Robbi Toll
Susan Wright
Mark Zeidman

CLASS OF 2025
Missy Agnello
Sean Baker
Howard Bernick
Sandra Bornstein
Jorge Cabrera
Atesh Chandra
Wendy Cox
Ginny Edlavitch
Gail Engelberg
Lee Gordon
Ann Heathwood
Brian Hurley
Paulette Koch
Bill Mack
David Mack
Cara Conigli McClure
Pamela McIver
Bill Meyer
Trip Moore
Hess Musallet
Rita Nowak
Michael Pucillo
Farley Rentschler
Stephanie Ribakoff
Laing Rogers
Lyn Ross
Bill Tiefel
Betsy Turner
Debra Vasilopoulos
Kathryn Vecellio
Beth Wilf
Lisa Wilkinson

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS
Michael Bracci
Gail Conigli
Patricia Cook
Diana Ecclestone
Michele Kessler
Sidney Kohl
Paul Leone
Margaret Luntz
Sydelle Meyer
Anita Michaels
Lesly Smith

561 655 1919
561 655 1740
info@palmbeachunitedway.org
www.palmbeachunitedway.org
Townofpbunitedway
@PBUnitedWay
pbunitedway