



Town of Palm Beach United Way

44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

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John and Jana Scarpa and Joe and Susan Plumeri offer challenge gifts totaling \$100,000 to Town of Palm Beach United Way hurricane fund

United Way Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund nearing \$1 million raised for hurricane relief efforts

For Immediate Release – October 26, 2022

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

Palm Beach couples John and Jana Scarpa and Joe and Susan Plumeri are each offering dollar for dollar matching gifts of up to \$50,000 to help the Town of Palm Beach United Way Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund top \$1 million raised. The United Way started the fund on September 29 to help residents impacted by the powerful Category 4 storm that hit Florida's Gulf Coast causing billions of dollars of damage and claiming the lives of at least 114 people.

"I look at images of the destruction and think, 'that could have been us,'" said John Scarpa, a longtime donor of Town of Palm Beach United Way and member of the Board of Trustees. "It will take time and resources to rebuild what was lost, and Jana and I are honored to be a part of those efforts along with our Palm Beach neighbors."

To date, the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund has raised over \$950,000 thanks to 12 previous matching gifts from the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation, Sandy and George Garfunkel, Irwin and Ginny Edlavitch, Dorothy and Sidney Kohl, Elizabeth and Jerome Levy, Danielle Moore, Claudia and Nelson Peltz, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter, Barbara and Richard Rothschild, Judy and Bob Snyder, Susan and Dom Telesco and Norma and Bill Tiefel.

"It's wonderful to see so many people in our area stepping up to help others in need," said Joe Plumeri. "The United Way has done a terrific job of distributing dollars where they will have the greatest impact. We hope to help them push the needle forward even more."

A total of \$410,000 has been distributed to Americares (\$75,000), Convoy of Hope (\$50,000), Global Empowerment Mission (\$105,000), NAACP Collier County (\$20,000), Project HOPE (\$50,000), Samaritan's Purse (\$35,000) and World Central Kitchen (\$75,000). The agencies are using the funds to provide food, water, healthcare, medicines, clothing, hygiene kits, baby items, cleanup supplies, building materials, and other aid to tens of thousands of residents.

In addition to providing food, water and other essentials, Convoy of Hope has gathered more than 1,200 volunteers to assist residents with debris removal and home repairs.

"Convoy of Hope is grateful to Palm Beach United Way for its generous support of our recovery efforts," said Ethan Forhertz, Convoy of Hope National Spokesperson. "As survivors get back on their feet, Convoy of Hope has delivered more than 1.5 million pounds of relief supplies to more than 92,000 people so far. This grant from Palm Beach United Way allows Convoy to continue to offer help to those who need it, and look to make a big impact when it comes to long-term recovery."

Samaritan's Purse is also providing cleanup equipment and supplies to thousands of families impacted by Hurricane Ian. Teams of volunteers have helped mud-out flooded homes, cut downed trees, remove debris and tarp roofs.

"We appreciate your generosity and share your concern for communities affected by the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Ian," said Wayne Shoemaker, Regional Manager of Samaritan's Purse. "Be assured these funds will be used to assist residents who find themselves in dire conditions."

To donate visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org, call 561-655-1919 or send a check. Please make checks payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with "Hurricane Ian" in the memo and mail to 44 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

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ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

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