



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

BILL TIEFEL
Chairman

MARK COOK
CHRISTINE CURTIS
JEFF MARCUS
DANIELLE MOORE
TRIP MOORE
Vice Chairmen

MISSY AGNELLO
Treasurer

JORGE CABRERA
Deputy Treasurer

DEBRA VASILOPOULOS
Secretary

CARLA COVE
MARY FREITAS
CARA CONIGLIO MCCLURE
RICHARD ROTHSCHILD
LISA WILKINSON
BOB WRIGHT
SUSAN WRIGHT
Executive Committee

BETH WALTON
Chief Executive Officer

Michele and Howard Kessler, Joanie and Murray Goodman, Gail and Alfred Engelberg offer new challenge gifts to Palm Beach United Way hurricane fund

For Immediate Release – November 2, 2022

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

Storm relief fundraising efforts continue in Palm Beach as couples Michele and Howard Kessler, Joanie and Murray Goodman, and Gail and Alfred Engelberg offer new matching gifts totaling \$125,000 to the Town of Palm Beach United Way's Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund. The Kesslers and the Goodmans will each match donations dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 and the Engelbergs will match contributions dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.

"If we can inspire more people to continue giving, we're honored to offer a matching gift," said Michele Kessler. "As our west coast neighbors continue to rebuild, so too do we hope our neighbors here in Palm Beach continue to give generously."

More than one month after Hurricane Ian destroyed parts of Florida's Gulf Coast, several communities are still waiting for working electricity and water. Hundreds of families are still in shelters. Debris cleanup and rebuilding efforts will be ongoing for months for many residents.

"We keep thinking how fortunate we were that this storm did not hit the Palm Beach area," said Joanie and Murray Goodman. "We can imagine the devastation it would have caused. That's why we want to do our part to help our neighbors across the state rebuild their homes and businesses."

Added Gail Engelberg: "We're impressed by the aid the Town of Palm Beach United Way has been able to help fund thus far, and we look forward to helping these devastated communities continue the rebuilding process."

To date, the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund has raised over \$1 million thanks to 14 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, Joe and Susan Plumeri, Barbara and Richard Rothschild, John and Jana Scarpa, Judy and Bob Snyder, Susan and Dom Telesco and Norma and Bill Tiefel.

"When we started the hurricane fund in late September, we had no idea we would receive this much support," said United Way Campaign Chairman Richard Rothschild, who along with his wife, Barbara, gave an initial matching gift of \$25,000 to kick start the fund. "We offer our sincerest gratitude to all who have contributed."

A total of \$700,000 has been distributed to American Red Cross (\$50,000), Americares (\$75,000), Convoy of Hope (\$100,000), Global Empowerment Mission (\$205,000), NAACP Collier County (\$20,000), Project HOPE (\$75,000), Samaritan's Purse (\$100,000) and World Central Kitchen (\$75,000). The agencies are using the funds to provide food, water, healthcare, hygiene kits, baby items, cleanup supplies, building materials, and other aid to tens of thousands of residents.

Several organizations have transitioned from providing immediate aid such as food and water, to focusing on rebuilding efforts.

Global Empowerment Mission has served over 77,000 people and distributed supplies valued at over \$1.7 million. President Michael Capponi said the agency recently signed a two-year lease for distribution space in Fort Myers, which he said will play an integral role in long term recovery.

"It is only with help from organizations like Town of Palm Beach United Way that we can make so much impact in affected communities," Capponi said. "On behalf of all the communities in Florida we serve, our sincerest gratitude for Town of Palm Beach United Way's generosity and partnership."

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.

-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 Surovek
Dom Telesco
Simone Vickar
Rebecca Williams
Bob Wright

CLASS OF 2024

James Borynack
Nancy Brinker
Kristen Kelly Fisher
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 Coniglio 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 Coniglio
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](https://www.facebook.com/Townofpbunitedway)

 [@PBUnitedWay](https://twitter.com/PBUnitedWay)

 [pbunitedway](https://www.instagram.com/pbunitedway)