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## Town of Palm Beach United Way Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund receives \$100,000 challenge grant from the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation

Previous matching gifts have helped the fund raise over \$200,000 to date

For Immediate Release – October 7, 2022

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or [aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org](mailto:aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org)

The Cathleen McFarlane Foundation is the latest donor to offer a challenge grant to help the Town of Palm Beach United Way raise funds for hurricane relief efforts along the Gulf Coast of Florida. The Foundation will match contributions to the United Way's Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.

"Thousands of families are left homeless and will need short- and long-term supportive services due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian," said Sunni Johnson, Executive Director of the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation. "We are proud to partner with the Town of Palm Beach United Way to help alleviate the suffering of so many families in need."

To date, the fund has raised over \$200,000 thanks to matching gifts from Palm Beach couples Barbara and Richard Rothschild, Susan and Dom Telesco and Norma and Bill Tiefel.

"The response we've seen so far from the Palm Beach community has been amazing," said Bill Tiefel, Board Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. "I am extremely thankful for all the donations we have received, and especially grateful to the families who have offered matching gift opportunities. I hope we can keep the momentum going."

The Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund was created on September 29 to help with short term relief efforts in Southwest Florida. A total of \$100,000 has been distributed evenly to Americares, Global Empowerment Mission, Project HOPE and World Central Kitchen. The Town of Palm Beach United Way is in the process of identifying additional organizations providing direct aid to residents in the hardest hit areas of Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties.

Americares has emergency response teams on the ground in southwest Florida working to restore access to health services for survivors. The health-focused relief and development organization is delivering urgently needed medicines and relief supplies to help meet the health needs of survivors as well as emergency funding to help repair damaged health facilities. In addition, Americares has the capability to deploy mobile medical teams to provide primary care services.

"Hurricane Ian caused widespread destruction across southwest Florida, devastating communities and putting the health of thousands at risk," said Americares U.S. Director of Emergency Response Mariel Fonteyn. "Americares has an emergency response team on the ground in Florida working hand-in-hand with local partners to restore health services in the hardest hit communities, and this grant will allow us to continue to provide shipments of urgently needs medicines, relief supplies and emergency funding to support clinics and survivors."

Global Empowerment Mission, Project HOPE and World Central Kitchen are providing food, water, healthcare, medicines, clothing, hygiene kits, baby supplies, and other emergency aid items to tens of thousands of residents along Florida's Gulf Coast.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing that marginalized populations have been hit hardest by Hurricane Ian – it's the communities of color, people living in poverty, and people with disabilities who have the most need," said Harley Jones, Project HOPE's Senior Manager of Domestic Response. "Project HOPE works to fill those gaps and ensure that we are prioritizing their health and medical needs as we continue down a long road to recovery."

To donate visit [www.palmbeachunitedway.org](http://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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