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Town of Palm Beach United Way Meets \$100,000 Matching Challenge for Nepal Recovery Fund

\$200,000 will be distributed to four trusted emergency relief organizations responding to the disaster

For Immediate Release: September 10, 2026

Contact: Aleese Grittner, 561-655-1919 or aleesegrittner@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has met a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching challenge from the **Cathleen McFarlane Foundation**, raising a total of \$200,000 through its Nepal Recovery Fund to support emergency relief efforts following the catastrophic flooding and avalanche that devastated communities in Nepal.

The United Way will distribute \$50,000 grants to each of four trusted emergency relief organizations: Americares, Convoy of Hope, Global Empowerment Mission and World Central Kitchen. Each organization has teams, partners or operations actively responding to the crisis and will use the funds to address urgent needs among affected communities.

"We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Town of Palm Beach United Way providing hope and help to those affected by the crisis in Nepal," said **Denis Coleman**, Chairman of the Board for the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation. "Our matching gift is a small way for us to turn compassion into action, and together with the generosity of our fellow community members, we were able to multiply the impact. We are proud to be part of a community that cares so deeply and comes together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others."

On August 26, a massive glacier collapse in the Himalayas triggered an avalanche of rock and ice, sending destructive floods and mudslides through communities along the Nepal-China border. As of September 9, at least 1,367 people have died and more than 5,000 remain missing, while homes, roads, bridges, power facilities and entire communities have been destroyed. Rescue and relief efforts continue, particularly in remote areas that remain difficult to reach.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who opened their hearts and stepped up to help the people of Nepal," said **Beth Walton**, CEO of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. "In the face of such devastating loss, our community recognized that people thousands of miles away needed help, and they responded with extraordinary generosity. Because of our donors and the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation's matching gift, \$100,000 in contributions has become \$200,000 in critical emergency relief. We could not have done this without the compassion and generosity of our community, and we are deeply thankful to everyone who helped make this possible."

How the Funds Will Help

Americares is supporting urgent health needs in Nepal, with emergency response experts in Kathmandu coordinating with local partners and health authorities and supporting mobile medical teams in hard-hit areas. Americares is providing emergency funding and preparing medicines and medical supplies for people who are injured or displaced.

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Convoy of Hope is distributing essential relief supplies in the Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, including food, clean water, blankets, shelter supplies and hygiene kits, working with local government and community partners. As of September 4, Convoy of Hope had distributed more than 12,000 meals and 1,800 blanket and bedding materials.

Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) is delivering humanitarian supplies to affected and isolated communities, with cargo flights from Miami and Warsaw bringing food, water, baby supplies, hygiene products, clothing and other necessities into Nepal. GEM has mobilized more than \$1 million in emergency shelter materials and relief supplies and is also caring for 40 children orphaned in the disaster in partnership with Nepal Peace Scouts.

World Central Kitchen (WCK) is providing meals and establishing community kitchens in hard-hit areas, working with local restaurants, Nepal Scouts and other community partners in Nuwakot and Rasuwa. As of September 2, WCK had established six community kitchens serving nine locations and had provided thousands of meals to affected communities.

The Nepal Recovery Fund remains open for those who wish to make an additional contribution to support relief efforts. To donate, visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org, call 561-655-1919 or send a check payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with "Nepal Fund" in the memo to 44 Cocoanut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

The Town of Palm Beach United Way will continue to work with established relief partners to help address the most urgent needs as the response evolves.

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