



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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

Town of Palm Beach United Way continues hurricane relief fundraising efforts with new challenge gifts totaling \$50,000

Sandy and George Garfunkel and Elizabeth and Jerome Levy will match donations dollar-for-dollar; Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund has raised over \$500,000 to date

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New challenge gifts from Sandy and George Garfunkel and Elizabeth and Jerome Levy will allow the Town of Palm Beach United Way to continue fundraising to support emergency relief efforts along Florida's Gulf Coast following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian. Together, the couples will match donations to the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

"It will take years for some of these families to recover, especially seniors, low-income populations, people with medical conditions and other vulnerable residents," said Sandy and George Garfunkel. George Garfunkel is a member of the Board of Trustees. "As they go without a bed to call their own and a place to make a comforting meal, a financial contribution to help provide immediate assistance is the least we can do."

To date, the fund has raised over \$500,000 thanks to previous matching gifts from the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation, Irwin and Ginny Edlavitch, Danielle Moore, Barbara and Richard Rothschild, Susan and Dom Telesco and Norma and Bill Tiefel.

"Being from Sarasota, just north of much of the damage, we are honored to join our friends George and Sandy to help people in Florida impacted by Hurricane Ian," said Elizabeth and Jerome Levy. "We hope our matching gift will encourage others to continue donating."

The Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund was created on September 29 to help with short term relief efforts along Florida's Gulf Coast. A total of \$250,000 has been distributed to Americares (\$50,000), Global Empowerment Mission (\$75,000), Project HOPE (\$50,000) and World Central Kitchen (75,000). The agencies are using the funds to provide food, water, healthcare, medicines, clothing, hygiene kits, baby supplies, and other emergency aid items to tens of thousands of residents in need.

World Central Kitchen is providing meals to residents in Lee County, including Port Charlotte, Cape Coral, North Port, Fort Myers, Englewood, Arcadia, and Pine Island. With the help of restaurant and food partners and their signature paella pans, World Central Kitchen has distributed more than 500,000 hot meals and sandwiches, as well as truckloads of clean water to people in six counties.

"We are so grateful for this support from the Town of Palm Beach United Way," said Jason Collis, WCK's Vice President of Relief. "This generous gift will help us keep cooking to provide fresh, nourishing meals to communities that continue to feel Hurricane Ian's impact."

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.

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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