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March 2019 Community Foundation Newsletter



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The Coral Gables Community Foundation's Tour of Kitchens Celebrates its 10th Anniversary!



The Coral Gables Community Foundation's Tour of Kitchens celebrated ten successful years on Saturday, February 9th. Presented by INFINITI of Coral Gables, Miami's most

luxurious kitchen and home tour inspired guests with the latest in kitchen and home design, while offering indulgences from local restaurants and vendors along the way.

Chaired by Venny Torre for the fourth consecutive year, this year's Tour of Kitchens broke attendance and fundraising records. Proceeds from the Tour of Kitchens benefit the Coral Gables Community Foundation and its Culinary Arts Fund, which provides support and scholarships for the Culinary Arts Program at Coral Gables Senior High School.

Thank you to our Homeowners, Tourists, Sponsors, Participants and Committee for making the 10th Annual Tour of Kitchens a great success! We look forward to seeing you in 2020!

Committee

CHAIR VENNY TORRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARY SNOW
ELLE BECERRA | PAT BLANCO | HERBERT BRITO | CAT COHN PEREZ
KATHERINE DAGAND | XAVIER DURANA | TAMARIND EFFIO | JORGE FERNANDEZ
GINA GUILFORD | JULIA JOHNSTON | ISABELLA LORET DE MOLA | MATTHEW MEEHAN
ALLISON ORTIZ | LIZ PARNES | YASSER PONCE | TINA SAYAGO | DIONNE SIMMONS
LORI THOMAS | COCO TORRE | VALERIE QUEMADA

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MG DEVELOPER
Beatrice Row
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inkberries
DESIGN & PRINT-DIGITAL WORK

Coral Gables Community Foundation Welcomes Four New Board Members



John Harris



Gina Guilford



Liz Parnes



Maria Gralia

The Coral Gables Community Foundation is pleased to welcome **Maria Gralia** , **Gina Guilford** , **John Harris** and **Elizabeth Parnes** to the 2019 Board of Directors.

Coral Gables resident **Maria Gralia** is a shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller with over 20 years of experience in real estate development. Maria represents developers, businesses, financial institutions, not-for-profit institutions and private property owners in the acquisition, development, leasing and sale of residential and commercial property. Prior to joining the firm, Maria served as the Assistant General Counsel to the University of Miami where she oversaw the University's real estate portfolio.

Gina Guilford is an award-winning writer and active community member. Gina has written for 25 years, and continues to do so for her website, *Foodie in Miami*. Gina has served on the Riviera Country Club's Art Committee and currently belongs to the Pinecrest Garden Club and is the incoming Program Director. Gina has been on the Coral Gables Community Foundation's Tour of Kitchens Committee for seven years, serving in different capacities and co-chairing in 2015.

John Harris is the Managing Director of Coral Gables Trust Company. He has nearly 30 years of experience in wealth and investment management, trust, private banking, commercial lending and financial and estate planning experience. John is actively involved with several organizations including The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, the Miami Chapter of the International Food and Wine Society and the Georgetown University Alumni Association.

Elizabeth Parnes had an illustrious career with Xerox Corporation for over 30 years, where she excelled in Marketing and Operational Management. She is a current board member of the Young Patronesses of the Opera, a member of the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board of the City of Coral Gables and a past board member of the Miami Children's Museum and the Dean's Council at the Business School of Florida International University.

Chairman Jack Lowell Recognized by Miami-Dade County Public Schools



On Wednesday, February 13th, Chairman Jack Lowell was recognized by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas. Jack received a proclamation for his dedication to public education and Coral Gables schools.

In addition to Jack's noteworthy real estate career and serving as Coral Gables Community Foundation Chairman, he is also a proud member of the 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory and the Superintendent's Business Advisory committees.

Thank you for all you do, Jack!

Scott Poulin and Venny Torre named 2018 Board Members of the Year; Michael Walsh elected Board Treasurer



Venny Torre and Scott Poulin were named 2018 Board Members of the Year. Venny has chaired the Tour of Kitchens for four consecutive years. Scott just ended two years as the Foundation's Treasurer.

In January, Board Member Michael Walsh was elected to serve as the new Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Thank you to our committed Board Members!

Foundation partners with Baptist Health South Florida and Doctors Hospital for Community Day of Service





On January 26, the Coral Gables Community Foundation, the City of Coral Gables, Baptist Health South Florida and Doctors Hospital partnered for a Community Day of Service at George Washington Carver Elementary.

The morning was spent painting the school library with materials donated by Home Depot. Thank you to Principal Fairclough for being a lovely host, Commissioner Mike Mena, Vice Mayor Vince Lago, Baptist Health South Florida and Doctors Hospital!

Congratulations on 70 years to our Community Partner, Doctors Hospital!

Celebrating 70 years of caring

For 70 years, Doctors Hospital has been proud to serve our community's health needs. As we celebrate our anniversary and our future, we thank our employees, physicians, volunteers and our community. We are honored you have put your trust in us and are committed to caring for you for many years to come.



BaptistHealth.net



Doctors Hospital

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

Islands of Cocoplum Tennis Tournament raises money for Scholarship Fund



On Saturday, February 24th, the Islands of Cocoplum Men's Doubles Tennis Tournament raised funds for their Scholarship at the Community Foundation. The Islands of Cocoplum Philanthropy Committee has partnered with Coral Gables High School to help local, high-performing, underprivileged students attend university and acquire internship and vocational opportunities with business owners throughout their own community. The Coral Gables Community Foundation manages the Islands of Cocoplum's Scholarship Fund.

The deadline to submit an application for the Islands of Cocoplum Scholarship is April 1.

[Click here for an informational video.](#)
[Click here to donate.](#)

New Funds Established at the Coral Gables Community Foundation

The Coral Gables Community Foundation is pleased to announce two new funds have been established.

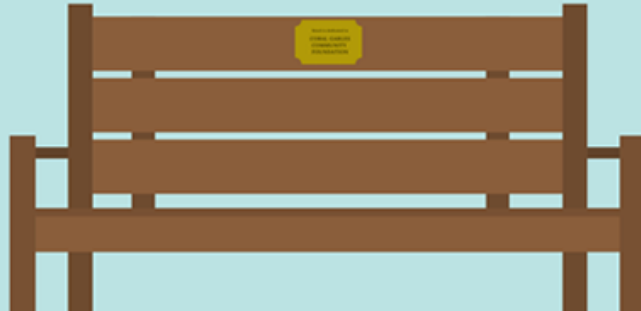
We've Got Your Bag Fund was established by Andrea de Armas and Lili Gutierrez. The fund will serve local communities by distributing knapsacks filled with items that are specific to community's needs.

The **R&L Cohen Donor Advised Fund** was established by Coral Gables residents Lucy & Robert Cohen.

[For more information on how to open a fund at the Foundation, click here.](#)

Mark your Memories with the Commemorative Bench Program

Commemorative Bench Program



In partnership with the City of Coral Gables, the Coral Gables Community Foundation launched the Commemorative Bench Program in 2016. Families and friends from around the community have placed benches in Coral Gables' beautiful parks to honor memories, milestones and loved ones. This is a collection of the stories behind the benches, Benchstories.

[Click here to read Volume 1 of Benchstories.](#)

[Click here for more information on the Commemorative Bench Program.](#)

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Merrick

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\$200,000 + | William A. Bonn & Ruben Ceballos • Aura Reinhardt

\$150,000 + | Matthew Meehan & Rod Hildebrant

\$125,000 + | Lee Osiason, Esq.

\$100,000 + | Robert* & Marian Fewell

\$75,000 + | Jason Neal & Waste Management • Tony & Marielena Villamil

\$50,000 + | Nelson Lazo • Ron Shuffield & EWM

\$40,000 +

Henry Langston • Jack & Natasha Lowell • David & Ann Olazabal
Hon. Don & Jeannett Slesnick • Rick & Margarita Tonkinson

\$30,000 +

John Allen • Pat Blanco • Sissy DeMaria-Koehne • Carlos & Debbie Garcia
John O'Rourke & Marichi O'Rourke

\$25,000 +

Evelyn Budde • Paul & Teresa Lowenthal

\$20,000 +

Wayne Cameron Eldred • Alex Montague & Maria Alonso • The Torre Family

\$15,000 +

Scott & Karla Richey • Brent & Daniella Reynolds • Laura Russo, Esq.

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Oscar Torres • Michael Walsh

\$1,000 - \$4,000

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Mercedes Palomo • G. Frederick Reinhardt • Tony Rodriguez • Bryant Ruano
Roland Sanchez-Medina • David Segre, Esq. • Dr. Victor Shabanah • Lori Thomas
Barbara Tria & Coral Pine Real Estate Janessa Valera • Jessica Valera
Mayra Vide-Perez, Dr. Jose Chaviano Jr. & Illustradent Dental • Stephanie Voell

*denotes deceased

George Merrick's vision for better living continues today as involved Coral Gables stakeholders strive to maintain the look and feel of the City Beautiful.

The Coral Gables Community Foundation established the Merrick Society so that visionary people can continue George Merrick's dream. The Merrick Society preserves key philanthropic activities in the Gables and raises unrestricted funds for the Foundation.

This exclusive group commits to a three-year annual contribution of \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000. To find out more, please contact our Executive Director, Mary Snow, at 305.446.9670, or via email at mary@gablesfoundation.org.

[Click here for more information on the Merrick Society](#)

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