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Contact:

Florida Keys Community Land Trust
Irina Woelfle
Irina@iwprgroup.com
(772) 231-7532

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (KEYS CLT) RECEIVES MATCHING GRANTS TO BUILD FIRST KEYS COTTAGE ON BIG PINE KEY

**Grants from the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, The Ocean Reef Community Foundation
and United Way of the Florida Keys totaling \$90,000 make first Keys Cottage possible**

Big Pine Key, FL (June 25, 2018) – The Florida Keys Community Land Trust, a 501c(3) organization committed to providing affordable housing for working families of the Florida Keys, announced today it has received grants to be used toward construction of first Keys Cottage on Big Pine Key.

Made possible by a matching grant initiative established by The Ocean Reef Community Foundation, the first two groups to step forward awarding grants are the United Way of the Florida Keys and Community Foundation of the Florida Keys with \$22,500 each and a matching gift of \$45,000 from The Ocean Reef Community Foundation. These grants will offset the costs of construction for the first Keys Cottage on Big Pine Key, which will be offered as a rental to a family whose home was destroyed due to the storm.

Local contributors to the KEYS CLT to date are the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, the Florida Keys Hurricane Recovery Foundation, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, Monroe County Land Authority, Ocean Reef Community Foundation, and United Way of The Florida Keys. In April the Monroe County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a request from the KEYS CLT for nearly \$400,000 to purchase four lots at \$99,999 each to further offset construction costs for four code compliant, deed restricted affordable workforce rental homes on Big Pine Key. The county will lease back the parcels to the KEYS CLT for a period of 99 years. Restrictions in the lease allow units to be subleased only to households deriving a minimum of 70 percent of their household income from gainful employment in Monroe County. Monthly rents, not including utilities, shall not exceed 30 percent of the amount that represents up to 80 percent of Monroe County's area median income.

"We are thrilled Ocean Reef, United Way and The Florida Keys Community Foundation have so generously stepped forward to help with the affordable housing crisis in The Keys," said Michael Laurent, Executive Director of The Florida Keys Community Land Trust. "We are honored and humbled by their trust in our team as we endeavor to make truly affordable, resilient and dignified rental housing available to working families in Monroe County."

Individuals and organizations who wish to make a match donation may do so by contacting Florida Keys Community Land Trust Executive Director Michael Laurent at (678) 778-5420.

About Florida Keys Community Land Trust

The Florida Keys Community Land Trust is a non-profit 501C3 established in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irma to preserve and enhance the way of life for working families of Monroe County, Florida. Through the community land trust model, FKCLT constructs energy efficient and resilient Keys Cottages designed by Marianne Cusato of the world-renowned Katrina Cottage initiative that will be deed restricted and offered as rentals to households earning less than 80 – 120 percent of the area median income of Monroe County. The FKCLT, working closely with the Florida Housing Coalition, is committed to bringing workforce housing to The Keys into perpetuity. For more information, visit www.affordablekeys.org

About the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys

The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys serves the needs and philanthropic aims of donors who wish to better the Keys. For more than 20 years, CFFK has been making Key West and the Florida Keys a better place to live now and in the future by encouraging philanthropy and matching these acts of caring to the community needs. CFFK currently manages over 140 funds and endowments for individuals and other nonprofits and causes throughout the Florida Keys. CFFK and its funding partners have granted more than \$26 million to the community since 1996 helping residents from Key West to Key Largo through grants, scholarships and program services. More than \$2 million has been granted specifically for relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Keys following Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Additional information is available at www.cffk.org or by calling 305-292-1502.

About Ocean Reef Community Foundation

Ocean Reef Community Foundation facilitates philanthropy by North Key Largo, Florida's Ocean Reef Club community. ORCF's primary annual grants program has contributed more than \$10 million to nonprofit organizations in neighboring areas of Northern Monroe and Southern Miami-Dade Counties where the thousands employed in the private-club community live and raise their families. In the wake of Hurricane Irma, ORCF is in the process of donating more than \$2 million in disaster relief in those areas and all throughout the Florida Keys. ORCF's numerous charitable funds have collectively granted more than \$80 million since it was established in 1994. For more information, visit orfound.org or contact Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay at 305-367-4707 or foundation@oceanreef.com.

About United Way of the Florida Keys:

United Way of the Florida Keys is an independent, local 501(c)(3) organization that has been supporting the Keys community for more than 30 years. UWFK supports strong working families by providing access to nutritious food, childcare support and safety net services. Money raised in the Keys, stays in the Keys. Since Hurricane Irma, we have been working diligently to assist the Keys community in rebuilding stronger than ever. UWFK also plays a unique role in convening businesses, nonprofits and government to work together to address community needs. For more information or donation and volunteer opportunities, visit www.keysunitedway.org or call (305) 735-1929. **Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.**

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