



**CELEBRATING
OUR FLORIDA KEYS**

UNSUNG HEROES

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**

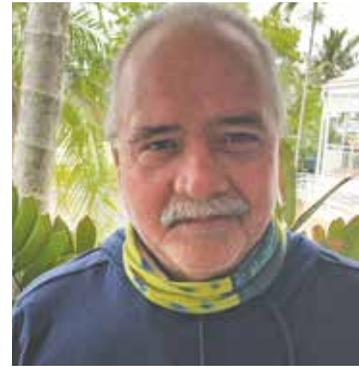
The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK) is shining the spotlight on our community's tireless volunteers who are the stars of our nonprofit organizations. Volunteers help supply food to children and families in need, foster animals, mentor students, assist at homeless shelters, and so much more throughout the Keys.

CFFK will recognize volunteers from 83 nonprofits on Friday, February 5th at noon in a virtual celebration to be livestreamed on the Community Foundation's Facebook page and at cffk.org. The celebration is free and open to everyone. No RSVPs necessary.

This year's 21st Annual Unsung Heroes celebration is sponsored by the Lower Keys Medical Center and promotes community service.

David Clay, CEO of Lower Keys Medical Center, said, "The not-for-profit organizations and their volunteers being recognized are so vital to the health and well-being of our communities, providing food, shelter, financial assistance and health and human services to our residents in need. The Unsung Heroes event is our chance to celebrate the giving nature of the Keys and the people who work tirelessly to help their neighbors."

Charitable organizations based in and serving the Keys nominated their Volunteers of the Year to be recognized. Congratulations to our 2021 Unsung Heroes.



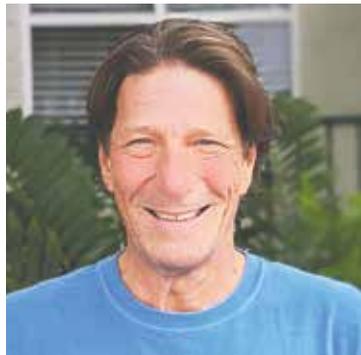
CONCH REPUBLIC MARINE ARMY: STEVE ESTES

Steve Estes is the owner/publisher of the News Barometer, a Lower Keys paper. Steve helps get the organization's message out to thousands of readers by writing articles about achievements and providing free space to share the nonprofit's weekly activities. Steve is an outstanding voice for the Marine Army and quietly its unsung hero every year.



DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER: JENNIFER POWELL

Jennifer Powell is Board President and not your typical volunteer, working endless hours in her role. The organization lost its 25-bed emergency shelter during Hurricane Irma and has been challenged with raising funds to replace it. Jennifer works in every imaginable way to try to make it possible for the organization to save lives.



A POSITIVE STEP OF MONROE COUNTY: ROB DEROOSE

During the summer of 2020, the organization was not able to have its regular Idle Hands Summer Youth Employment Program because of the virus. Rob Deroose contacted the nonprofit with a generous offer to help Black youth in the community. The nonprofit created a community coding group and has been working with Rob since.



ANCHORS AWEIGH CLUB: LORI MARSHALL

Lori Marshall has been an active member for several years, offering mentorship and guidance for newcomers and old-timers, plus being an active participant in all fundraising events. When activities were curtailed by COVID, she started baking so the club had treats to sell at the concession counter.



BAHAMA VILLAGE MUSIC PROGRAM: SALLY BINARD

Sally Binard has served on the Board for a short time, but her impact has been undeniable. Sally's support and willingness to see the big picture as treasurer has been invaluable in these uncertain times. She's not all numbers either! Her artistic talents shine through in her vision of the world as well as for BVMP.



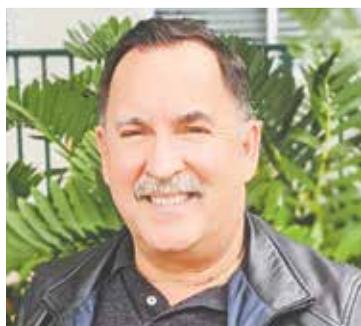
CORAL RESTORATION FOUNDATION: PATTI GROSS

As a Keys-based volunteer and a previous volunteer Dive Safety Officer, Patti Gross has contributed an unfathomable amount of work. Her time as DSO allowed her to meld her passion for restoration with the safety of those who partake in associated activities, thus creating a safe diving atmosphere. Her infectious cheerful personality makes any day on the water unforgettable.



EDUCATIONAL COALITION OF MONROE COUNTY: TINA BELOTTI AND CHRISTINA BELOTTI

Tina Belotti is ECMC's Co-founder and Director, and her daughter, Christina Belotti, is Educational Coordinator. They have been volunteering daily for 20 years to meet the needs of the students at Marathon High School. They work tirelessly to provide food and clothing for the students' families. They also co-sponsor the youth club Champions for Change.



A.H. OF MONROE COUNTY: STEVE TORRENCE

Nourishment for the soul and the body... Steve Torrence compassionately provided both in 2020. Since March, freshly prepared meals were delivered every Saturday to clients under his watchful eye. The aptly-titled program is 'Cooking With Love,' and AH Monroe is grateful for Pastor Steve Torrence -- the agency's Unsung Hero.



ANNE MCKEE ARTISTS FUND: DANI HOLLIDAY

The incomparable Dani Holliday has brought the Artists Fund into the 21st century. Dani's technical modernizations allow much greater reach and efficiency. When asked why she volunteers, she said, "Artists submit art, patrons buy the art, the income funds artists' grants, grantees become auction donors -- it's the full circle of artists helping artists that I find so compelling."



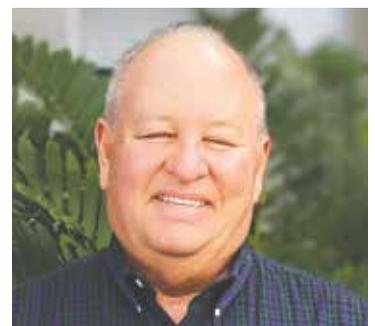
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF THE KEYS AREA: (ADRIENE) LYNNE CASAMAYOR

Lynne Casamayor serves as Board Secretary; however, she voluntarily did the work for a vacant position recently, filling a great need. A College Success Coach for the Take Stock in Children program, she recommended high school students as employees and volunteers and solved the very difficult problem of staffing for school breaks and summer camp. She is fantastic!



CORNERSTONE RESOURCE ALLIANCE: PETER BENNETT

Peter Bennett began as a volunteer, driving meals to the shelter. After hearing about a new shelter on the horizon, he offered his expertise in project management. Always eager to help, he has spent countless hours authoring documents and attending planning meetings for the new facility. His expertise and dedication have been invaluable!



FIRMKEYS: MEL MONTAGNE

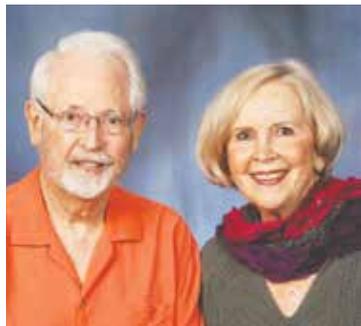
Mel Montagne has served on the Board since 2008 and as its President since 2013. His expertise in the field of property insurance provides insight and guidance into every aspect of FIRM's mission to fight for fair and affordable property insurance. Mel cares deeply about protecting residents from risk and keeping its people and economy resilient.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ISLAMORADA: HEATHER NEAL
Heather Neal is a major behind-the-scenes contributor tirelessly involved in all aspects of food procurement and preparation for distribution. She coordinates food pick-up from pantry partners, receives and sorts shipments, and coordinates the staging and portioning of food for distribution. Due to COVID-19, food distribution has increased by 50% and Heather ensures the food is staged and ready for delivery.



FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY LAND TRUST: MAGGIE WHITCOMB
Maggie Whitcomb founded the Trust in 2017, contributed capital to purchase land and build 4 homes on Big Pine Key, and serves as an unrelenting advocate for affordable housing in the Lower Keys. In 2020, her efforts created a new charitable partnership resulting in \$14.1M in financing for 31 additional rental homes. Her innovation has created a powerful new charitable entity.



FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL OF THE ARTS: MARYCARLIN AND BILL PORTER
Grateful thanks to MaryCarlin and Bill Porter for their passion, dedication, support and love of the many artists and arts organizations they support and promote throughout Monroe County. Their ongoing support and leadership of the Culture Circle Series exemplifies their commitment that the arts and education build a stronger community.



FLORIDA KEYS DROWNING PREVENTION TASK FORCE: SUSAN MITCHELL
Susan Mitchell is an outstanding volunteer, swim instructor, and donor. She has dedicated countless hours to train infants from 6 months to toddlers important swim survival skills so they have the ability to self-rescue when in the water. She has helped train over 100 children.



FLORIDA KEYS ASSISTED CARE COALITION: JOAN HIGGS AND EDWIN SWIFT III
In 2004, a dedicated group of professionals came together to fulfill a dream for a facility for seniors of all income levels to age in place. The long process took twists and turns. Joan Higgs and Ed Swift were the leaders who dedicated themselves to fulfilling the dream. Poinciana Gardens exists today thanks to them, and approximately 25 others.



FLORIDA KEYS FOSTER ADOPTIVE ASSOCIATION: LORI STIKES
Lori Stikes has gone above and beyond in these trying times. She makes phone calls to check on families and learns of their needs, whether it be a computer, bed, resources, or someone to talk to. Her resourcefulness has deemed her an asset and a true hero to foster and adoptive parents and children.



FLORIDA KEYS HEALTHY START COALITION: COMMODORE ROSEMARY THOMAS
Each year, the Marathon Yacht Club hosts an annual Baby Shower to support local families. Last spring when families needed more assistance than ever, the Club, led by Commodore Rosemary Thomas, went above and beyond by donating essential baby items and raising over \$1,500 to support expectant and new families.



FLORIDA KEYS OUTREACH COALITION: RUTH CAHOON
Ruth Cahoon joined the COVID-19 response by volunteering to process applications for community members in financial need. Ruth was critical in assisting Spanish-speaking applicants, ensuring they understood the help they could apply for. She even learned how to navigate the new portal system. Ruth made a big difference; because of her, many community members got much-needed help!



FLORIDA KEYS SPCA: SARA HOUBEN-VAN GERNER
Sara Houben-van Gerner is a dedicated volunteer who goes above and beyond for the shelter dogs. She walks the dogs, uses her expertise as a certified trainer to help make challenging dogs more adoptable, contributes countless hours working with the Animal Behaviorist on the development of training classes, answers questions through the Behavior Helpline, and teaches training basics to youth.



FRINGE THEATER KEY WEST: JANET BENGEL
Janet Bengel first saw Fringe Theater Upstairs at Kelly's. She fell in love that night with Fringe's commitment to community and began volunteering. No task was too big or too small. When Fringe was ready to be re-imagined, Janet stepped forward and spent the next five years as Board President bringing her vision to life. Fundraiser, Friend-raiser, Organizer, Mentor, Leader extraordinaire.



GIRL SCOUTS OF TROPICAL FLORIDA: JACQUELINE NORTH
Jacqueline North has been a troop leader in the Lower Keys for 11 years. She guides and trains K-12 girls in leadership, teamwork, confidence-building, community service, and real-life skills. She served many years as the coordinator for Lower Keys and Marathon troops, and enabled communication among troops, helped facilitate multi-troop events, and managed the primary fundraising event (cook-ies!).



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CHERYL CATES (POSTHUMOUS)

FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, KIDS COME FIRST, SAMUEL'S HOUSE, AND WESLEY HOUSE

A dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and former first lady of Key West, Cheryl Cates was a relentless advocate for children and families in the Florida Keys. Her passion was clear in the years of working with numerous nonprofits, including the four who nominated her as their Unsung Hero.

For the Children's Shelter, over 1,000 children and families have been touched by her kindness and her passion made itself evident in her support of the Mayors' Ball events. She served for over 13 years as a volunteer, board member, organizer, and fundraiser for Kids Come First. She introduced the organization to every contact in her phone and received donations from friends that loved and respected her. Cheryl served on the Board of Samuel's House for over 15 years. She was gifted at bringing people together. A Board member for Wesley House as well for 10 years, she was a true asset; always willing to help and rally others to help with tremendous grace. To say Cheryl Cates will be missed is an understatement.

Don't miss a special tribute to Cheryl Cates during the event on February 5th at noon. You can view the tribute after the event at cffk.org.



**GOOD HEALTH CLINIC:
PAMELA MOLINARO**

After much planning, the clinic recently launched a mental health pilot program. Pamela Molinaro volunteers her time as a Mental Health Counselor to help patients receive the care they need. She plays a pivotal role in achieving this goal and has become a valued provider. The clinic is honored to have her on the team!



**GUIDANCE/CARE CENTER:
DR. JOHN NORRIS**

Dr. John Norris has exhibited tireless dedication to this community. He made himself fully available to staff and other residents for COVID testing and education, making endless home visits and follow-ups. He consistently raised awareness for the importance of mental health and the services the center offers, and he encouraged donations for work he provided.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**DENISON TEMPEL
FRIENDS OF THE
KEY WEST LIBRARY**

For more than 23 years, Denison Tempel has diligently volunteered to manage the book donations for the library. Daily he collects, sorts, and evaluates every

donated book for its condition and salability for the library's monthly fundraising book sales. Denison also maintains the book storage room and the inner library book sales area.

Watch for a special feature on Denison Tempel during the event on February 5th at noon. You can view the feature after the event at cffk.org.



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF KEY WEST AND LOWER
FL KEYS: RICH FIELDER**

Rich Fielder performs the detailed work of pulling together all of the closing documents for new Habitat partner families. He patiently explains the process and details and is always available to answer questions that anyone may have. He's an extremely valuable asset to the Habitat for Humanity affiliate.



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF THE MIDDLE KEYS:
VICKI STEAD**

Vicki Stead was such a blessing to Habitat's work over the past year. She was instrumental in keeping the warehouse in order and assisted with the care and inventory of items that were donated post-Hurricane Irma. Her dedication as a volunteer and love for Habitat shines through daily.



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF THE UPPER KEYS:
DAVID HELWIG**

A Board member for three years, Dave Helwig currently serves as Vice President and is also active on the Fundraising, Construction, Nominating, and Bylaws committees. He is an extremely active fundraiser and donor, and recently assisted in the revamping of affiliate policies and procedures to be in compliance with Habitat for Humanity International.



**ISLAND DOLPHIN CARE:
WENDEE MCCUE**

Wendee McCue makes an incredible contribution to the daily success of the organization. With encouragement and a welcoming smile, she greets guests, provides tours, organizes the gift shop, assists with the annual fundraising event, and always provides support to the veterans, children, and families attending therapy programs whenever needed.



**JUST OLDER YOUTH:
BETSY BASTE**

Betsy Baste schedules and facilitates all JOY Center activities, coordinates fundraising, handles administrative duties, and more. When COVID shut the Center down, Betsy immediately responded by creating a virtual JOY Center, which is a lifeline for retirees in our community. Betsy's dedication and expertise are key to helping achieve the goal of a full-time senior center in the Upper Keys.



**KEY WEST ART &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
TEO AND LORETTA CHAPA**

The organization is proud to honor Teo and Loretta Chapa. Their welcoming manner, willingness to step in where needed, and positive attitude embody the spirit of the organization. The Society appreciates the Chapas flexibility and kindness to visitors and the community when volunteering their time and energy. They're both fabulous!



**KEY WEST ART CENTER
& GALLERY: HALEY HERRIOTT**

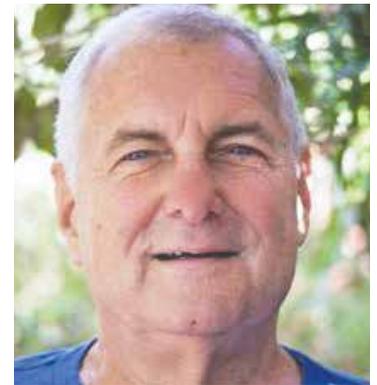
Haley Herriott is always the first to step up to any task needed. She has handled the hanging and signage for the Associate Members Show, she comes in monthly to rotate artwork, she helps with yearly art turnover, she helps with redoing the front window, and she assists with member meetings and more.



**KEY WEST COMMUNITY
SAILING CENTER:
MIKE VICKERY**

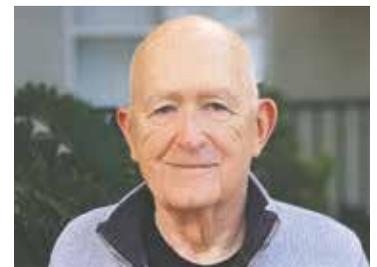
Mike Vickery is part of the dockmaster's volunteer team that meets every Saturday to maintain

the docks and upland facilities. Mike brings a great deal of expertise to the team, keeping facilities in good working order. Mike has built storage lockers for equipment, and last winter he built the Christmas Boat Parade float, which won 6th place.



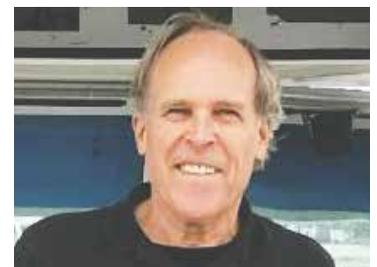
**KEY WEST GARDEN CLUB:
DAVE DECK**

Dave Deck has been volunteering at West Martello for the last five years, primarily working on the historic Fort fixtures, such as the wrought iron gates and fences, and also refinishing and rebuilding benches in the gardens. He always does a first class job, going over and above what is asked of him!



**KEY WEST IMPROMPTU
CLASSICAL CONCERTS:
LYNN WILLIAMS**

Lynn Williams has been a major donor for more than 20 years. During this time, he has sponsored the Rising Star concert each year, which spotlights the talents of a new generation of classical musicians and provides a supporting and appreciative venue for young artists at the start of their career.



**KEY WEST ORCHID SOCIETY:
FRANK SMITH**

The Society has some extraordinarily talented and knowledgeable people, including Frank Smith. He contributes to this group by handling many of the administrative tasks, including accounting and any legal issues that arise. Frank handles these activities, which allows other members to concentrate on orchids.



KEY WEST SUNRISE ROTARY: MARTY HIRSCH

Rotarian Marty Hirsch embodies the Rotary motto, "service above self," to the core. Marty serves on the board and is always volunteering without hesitation. Having a passion for education and leadership, he helped establish a club at the College of the Florida Keys for aspiring young Rotarians. Marty is always focused on community, supporting others, and helping those in need.



KEYS TO BE THE CHANGE: MARGIT BISZTRAY

Margit Bisztray single-handedly spearheads the Hunger Free Families initiative. For COVID-19 relief, Margit helped raise nearly \$15,000 for struggling families hit hard by the virus. The organization is also delivering fresh, healthy food to 29 families referred by the Monroe County School District. Margit, the assistant director, and youth leaders shop weekly and deliver food to homes.



LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI: RICHARD MALAFY

Richard Malafy is an essential partner in helping Legal Services achieve its mission of equal justice in Monroe County. For the past 2 years, he has provided free legal services to the most vulnerable residents, referred clients, provided pro bono representation in family law matters, and offered the use of his offices for hearings and client meetings.



LOWER KEYS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: JOAN WALLIN

Joan Wallin is a founding member and served as president for six years. She is a fearless advocate for voters' rights and is currently the Director of Voter Services. She has planned, scheduled, and organized numerous educational and public interest events for members and the public. Joan has worked tirelessly for many years to helping grow the League.



MARRVELOUS PET RESCUES: ANNIE JOHNSTON

Annie Johnston came to volunteer and has been helping ever since. Her love of animals, especially rescue animals, is evident in all that she does and who she is. Annie helps with administrative work and events; she loves doing transports and spending time with the rescued animals.



KEY WEST TROPICAL FOREST & BOTANICAL GARDEN: PAT BORGENS

Pat Borgens has been volunteering in all areas for several years. She is there for special events, office re-organization, and her favorite activity "digging in the dirt." During the hot summer when there are few volunteers, she removes invasive plants, trims trees and shrubs, and picks up never-ending palm fronds to maintain the Garden.



LAST STAND: DIANE BERULDSEN

Diane Beruldsen is one of the co-founders of the Stock Island Association, a group founded to give a voice to the residents of Stock Island. She fought against the abandonment by Monroe County of two roads that provided public access to the waters surrounding the Island. She is an activist who energizes her neighbors on quality of life issues.



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA-MONROE COUNTY: MARY CASANOVA

Before seeing Mary Casanova you will hear her laughter as she joyfully endeavors to take the organization to the next level! She's LVA's Ever-ready Bunny. She cannot take "no" for an answer... Whether it's writing grants or securing silent auction items for fundraisers. She's the organization's irresistible hero!



MANGROVE MIKE'S ENDEAVORS: SHERIFF RICK RAMSAY

Sheriff Rick Ramsay has led the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in providing incredible Community First Volunteers at over 100 events and at each location, providing over 70,000 hot meals, 20,000 produce boxes during the first three months of the pandemic, and food for Christmas Dinner for over 1,300 families. Without them, this would not have been possible.



MATECUMBE HISTORICAL TRUST: CLAY CROCKETT

Clay Crockett has been in the background making projects and events successful for several years with his knowledge and expertise. He is constantly undertaking additional projects while running his business, including repairing the Monument Heritage Trail plaque damaged by a vehicle and donating his time to maintain the red caboose property.



KEY WEST WRITERS GUILD: LAURA KNIGHT

A superb writer, Laura Knight has been a member for two years and Secretary since March 2020. She has faithfully attended meetings and reliably prepared the minutes and disseminated them. She has exceeded her appointed duties by scheduling Zoom meetings, sending reminder notices, updating membership rosters and email lists, and assisting other members with electronic resources.



LEADERSHIP MONROE COUNTY: LEAH STOCKTON

Leah Stockton, Area President of United Way of Collier and the Keys, has been integral to LMC's Human Services session, providing exceptional perspectives and presentation on the community impact A.L.I.C.E. report and Poverty Simulation exercise, and giving significant insight into the vulnerabilities and leadership challenges which touch on all LMC sessions.



LIVING SPRINGS COUNSELING: SYLVIA MALTZMAN

Sylvia Maltzman has volunteered for 3 years and is a helper and encourager. She is always ready to provide a prayer if asked. She is the organization's Hospitality Hostess. She keeps phone numbers and emails of constituents up to date, and each month she sends birthday, anniversary, and special life event cards out appropriate for each individual.



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB: LINNEA CUNNINGHAM

Linnea Cunningham shares her Master Gardener skills by developing a nursery which provides plants for Habitat for Humanity homes, St. Columba Butterfly Garden, Switlik Elementary Student Garden, and numerous other community groups. She has guided the club by holding many offices and shares her knowledge by presenting numerous workshops and lectures.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (COOKING WITH LOVE): MARK LENKNER AND JARRETT NYSCHICK

Jarrett Nyschick and Mark Lenkner contribute countless hours -- from unloading pallets of food, organizing volunteers, bagging groceries, shopping, cooking, and even cleaning the kitchen. There hasn't been a weekend this entire year where they haven't been there to help. They exemplify dedication and commitment. Over 32,000 meals and 5,000 bags of groceries have been provided this year.



MONROE ASSOCIATION FOR REMARKABLE CITIZENS: JUNE KLAUSING

June Klausing has helped MARC since 1997 when she donated food, T-shirts, hats, and prizes from Sloppy Joe's Bar to the Don Moore Memorial Grunt Tournament. She has donated her time, her paintings to sell in the gift shop, lightweight wheelchairs for community outings, funds to cover transportation for a client in need, and more.



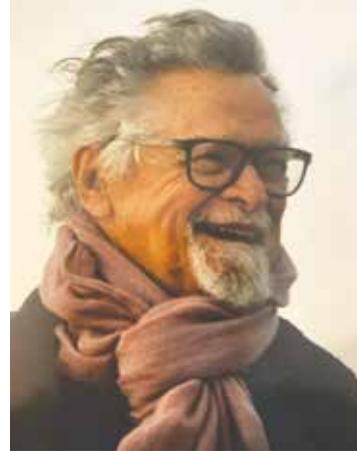
OLD ISLAND RESTORATION FOUNDATION: LINDA DOWNS AND ANGELA MAJORS

Angela Majors and Linda Downs have generously donated their time, talent and treasure to the foundation's mission and the Old-est House Museum and Gardens. Their most recent focus has been on the museum gardens and the many hours spent working on a strategic plan for the long-term financial security of the organization.



REEF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (REEF): NANCY PEREZ

A member since 1993, Nancy Perez has helped organize the Fish & Friends social and seminar series since it began in March 2009. Nancy arranges guest speakers, prepares food and drinks, and distributes flyers. She also enlists and organizes local volunteers who provide invaluable assistance. Nancy shares her passion with all whom she encounters and is a wonderful ambassador.



SAVE OUR PINES: BREWSTER CHAMBERLIN (POSTHUMOUS)

While Brewster Chamberlin was never a "beach person," he dearly loved Ft. Zachary Taylor and the Australian pines. Brewster was a member of the group of friends that picnic under the pines every Sunday. His career as an archivist and historian made him the ideal recording secretary for the organization. His well-thought-out ideas and good humor will be sorely missed.



SOUTHERNMOST VFW POST 3911: ROD DELOSTRINOS

Rod DeLostrinos, a retired 22-year U.S. Army Warrant Officer, has served as the Post Youth Activities and Education Chairperson for 7 years. His tireless efforts supervising scholarships and the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests have encouraged academics among students and provided additional monies for college. Rod also assists at most fund raisers.



MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM: CLAYTON PELKEY

Clayton Pelkey really has gone above and beyond by everyone's standards. All volunteers and interns should pay as much attention to the details surrounding the organization's work as Clayton does. He is an incredible advocate for the coral reefs and the Keys delicate ecosystem. Clayton shows up every day with an amazing attitude and an unmatched work ethic.



ONE ISLAND FAMILY – THE SOUTHERNMOST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION: AMELIA HANLEY

Amelia Hanley serves on the Board and has consistently shown initiative and enthusiasm for serving the congregation. She has generously donated her time to coordinate Sunday virtual Zoom programs, to lead the recruitment of new members, and to find community resources for the congregation.



ROTARY CLUB OF KEY LARGO: JAMES HACK (POSTHUMOUS)

Jim Hack was a quiet and kind Rotarian who looked forward to weekly meetings and was always the first volunteer to sign up. He was always present for Highway Clean Up projects and working the Gigantic Nautical Flea Market. He is dearly missed but will always be remembered for his cheerful smile, contagious chuckle and servant heart!



SISTER SEASON FUND: VALERIE EDGINGTON

Valerie Edgington has been a volunteer for many years. She always has positive energy and assists all she can with a huge smile about life. The Fund is grateful to have her be a part of our organization.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA MONROE COUNTY: WILLIAM (BILL) ANDERSON

Bill Anderson has been a volunteer for over 10 years and has coached cycling, bowling, and flag football. Bill has taken teams to State Games multiple times, coaching them to gold medals. He works tirelessly to enable all athletes to have quality equipment and a safe training environment. He is always ready to help other coaches and serve as a chaperone.



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES KEY WEST COUNCIL: KATHY RUSS

Kathy Russ has worked diligently as Treasurer to streamline accounting and to keep the Navy League in compliance with the state, Department of Agriculture, and national headquarters. She has decided to cut back in her role and will be greatly missed as treasurer; however, she has worked to bring the incoming treasurer up to speed.



RED BARN THEATRE: TANNA JONES

As a board member and volunteer, Tanna Jones is quick to jump in and help. She implements her creative ideas about fundraising and outreach. Last year, pre-COVID, she spearheaded a beautiful Great Gatsby Party where she oversaw all aspects including hand-making the elaborate decorations. She is always positive and cheerful and genuinely concerned about Red Barn's well-being.



RURAL HEALTH NETWORK OF MONROE COUNTY: VIVIAN ROBERTS

Vivian Roberts is a true team player. She has volunteered for over 5 years to various outreach programs to ensure all of Monroe County is provided healthcare. She assists with the medication assistance program and arranges transportation. She supervises an office of 20 staff members and ensures that her team, as well as the patients, always feel welcome and cared for.



SOUTHERNMOST COCONUT CASTAWAYS: JOHN AND SANDY GROUTEN

Not only are John and Sandy Grouten extremely generous with their money, they are also extremely generous with their time and support. In addition to Philanthropy with the Castaways, John is the "official" Santa Claus for Marathon. He assists in any program that benefits children and is very hands-on helping the homeless.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: KEN BAGGE

Ken Bagge stepped up to work on the physical structure of St. Paul's almost every weekday this year, including most Saturdays. In some cases, he has prevented major water damage. Certainly all of his efforts are crucial in preserving St. Paul's as an iconic landmark in the heart of the city for visitors, tourists, and parishioners.



THE STUDIOS OF KEY WEST: SHELLI CHASE

Shelli Chase has been a blessing to TSKW's bookstore for years, but her work during COVID-19 has gone above and beyond. During the months the store was closed, she checked on staff, dropped off food, and kept spirits up. Since returning, she has volunteered to keep the store sanitized and organized. Her positive attitude and infectious laugh have been essential during an otherwise difficult time.



THE SALVATION ARMY: SUZIE PUSKEDRA

Advisory Board Member Suzie Puskedra is the largest donor over the last 6 years, donating the balance of Suzie's Estates sales weekly. She volunteers many hours monthly in the Key West store, pricing and displaying art and restocking books and merchandise in the furniture room. She also volunteers with a number of other nonprofits in the community.

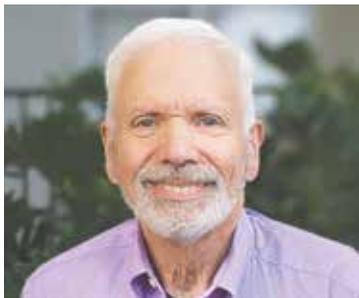


IN THE SPOTLIGHT

VIVIAN MORRISON
FLORIDA KEYS HISTORY AND DISCOVERY FOUNDATION

When Vivian Morrison first became a volunteer docent, she enjoyed meeting locals and travelers from across the globe and loved learning about Keys history and the unique ecology. Putting her immense skill set to use, Vivian began organizing volunteers, handling recruitment and retention, providing training, and managing the schedule. She's a huge asset!

Catch a special feature on Vivian Morrison during the event on February 5th at noon. You can view the feature after the event at cffk.org.



MONROE COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION (TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN): MARK FUNT

Mark Funt is a dedicated mentor who embodies the program's purpose and goals. He is a patient, compassionate, and consistent mentor, never missing a session. The focus is always on the support, encouragement and growth of his mentee. As a result, his student has gained self-confidence, is doing well in school, and is eagerly exploring career pathways thanks to Mark's guidance.



THE WAYPOINT FOUNDATION: CHRISTINE MORGAN

Chris Morgan provided valuable leadership and assistance with the SmileMaker Tooth Fairy Exhibition held at the Key Largo Library in February 2020. She designed an art project for children to illustrate the importance of brushing their teeth, even using toothbrushes for paint brushes. So creative and hardworking, the Foundation is proud she's on the team!



UNITED WAY OF COLLIER AND THE KEYS: MIKE FORSTER

Mike Forster is an Unsung Hero not just for United Way but for the entire community. During times of need, Mike and his team of volunteers step up to feed residents from Key West to Key Largo. He has provided thousands of hot meals and food boxes, making it his mission to ensure no one in our community goes hungry.



UPPER KEYS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: ROBERT STUART

Robert Stuart is a giving person who has donated over \$49,000 to date for a memorial garden at the Chamber. The donations have funded nine flag poles and flags representing the military branches, sheriffs, first responders, purple heart recipients, and military POWs. He has also donated money for the Chamber to fund food banks, the Salvation Army, and children's groups.



ZONTA CLUB OF KEY WEST: BONNIE HELMS

As President, Bonnie Helms led the Club in an extremely difficult year. All meetings were done virtually and the ABC fundraiser was challenged by the loss of a partner organization and done virtually. Bonnie kept the Club focused on its mission and on nonprofits in need. Through her outreach, the Club made donations to Womankind and Samuel's House.



THE BASILICA SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA: CHRISTINA MATTHEESSEN

An active volunteer for over a decade, Christina Mattheessen has selflessly provided the school hundreds of hours of service. For ten years, she has ensured that every student's birthday is acknowledged by providing each child a gift certificate to her dessert shop. She's a true unsung hero, always giving of her time, talent, and treasure without recognition.



TROPIC CINEMA: BENJAMIN EGNATZ

Benjamin Egnatz joined the Board in 2011 and has supported several projects the Tropic has produced, including annual series like the Southern Circuit Filmmakers and 4 Nights 4 Justice. He has a crucial role in helping program first-run and repertory films. Due to Benjamin's big ideas, the Tropic is now part of the Sundance Film Festival 2021.



UNITY OF THE KEYS SPIRITUAL CENTER: NANCY CALLIHAN

Nancy Callihan blesses the Unity community with her organization and people skills. Her retirement to the Keys has not slowed her enthusiasm to celebrate people and be a light in other's lives. Scheduling, making personal calls, writing letters, and creating handcrafted awards is all part of Nancy's work as Volunteer Coordinator, overseeing the many volunteers who contribute their time and talents.



UPPER KEYS HUMANE SOCIETY: K. SHYLON MARTIN AND LISA SLAYDON

Shylon Martin and Lisa Slaydon dedicate so much of their time! They are superheroes when it comes to getting donations for silent auctions. Both ladies help with every event, always going above and beyond to make sure the event is spectacular. The Society is deeply in their debt and grateful they are board members.



CFFK: IN PARADISE FOR GOOD

The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys is celebrating a milestone – 25 years of connecting people, resources, and needs through philanthropy.

Working together with generous donors, we're meeting community needs, including:

- providing food and housing assistance;
- assisting in times of disaster, including relief from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery following disasters like Hurricane Irma;
- supporting health care services for those in need;
- protecting the environment;
- preserving the unique cultural heritage;
- promoting educational opportunities through scholarships and programs, and so much more.

Want to help provide food for the hungry? Interested in preserving our coral reefs? Whatever your interest, you can join our efforts! Partner with us by making a gift to CFFK to our 25th Anniversary Fund to help us continue to respond to community needs and build a fund to strengthen our work over the next 25 years. Learn more at cffk.org/25. You can also create your own personalized fund and start making grants to your favorite nonprofits. If you don't want to write a check now, name your fund in your will or make a gift from your IRA or life insurance. All donations to CFFK are tax deductible as allowed by law.

JOIN US IN BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS... IN PARADISE FOR GOOD.

FIND OUT HOW AT CFFK.ORG OR CALL 305.292.1502.

We're shining a spotlight on our **UNsung HEROES**



JOIN THE PARTY!

Friday February 5th
@ noon

Livestreamed on Facebook and at cffk.org

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

A FREE, VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

\$30 million in community grants and program services since 1996

Manages **156** charitable funds

\$3.5 million+ in disaster relief funding

Nationally accredited since **2006**

Trained **500+** nonprofit leaders through Leadership Success Academy board training

25 years of experience
Your trusted resource for philanthropy

Recognized **1,400** volunteers through *Unsung Heroes*

DONATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS, A 501(C)(3) CHARITY, ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

300 SOUTHARD ST., SUITE 201 | KEY WEST, FL 33040
305-292-1502 | CFFK.ORG

Published by the Keys Weekly Newspapers | 305.743.0844 | keysweekly.com



LOWER KEYS MEDICAL CENTER

KEY WEST - FLORIDA

UNsung HEROES is sponsored by