

For Immediate Release
December 2, 2005

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My Key West Emergency Relief Fund Donations now exceed One Million Dollars

With two generous gifts of \$250,000 to My Key West Emergency Relief Fund at CFFK, the fund has now gathered over \$1,230,000 since its inception in Hurricane Wilma's wake only five weeks ago.

Carnival Cruise Lines and the Klaus/Murphy Foundation both announced they are donating \$250,000 to the Fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys.

Twenty-four nonprofits serving a wide range of needs in Key West and the Lower Keys have received over \$500,000 in funding from the My Key West Emergency Relief Fund thus far. The Fund was established to provide for unmet needs, including basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical assistance and childcare for residents in Key West and the Lower Keys most severely impacted by hurricane Wilma. By working with established local nonprofits, the Fund's steering committee ensures that your donation benefits those who need it most.

The following local nonprofits have received grants thus far:

Aids Help Inc	Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens
American Red Cross	PACE Center for Girls
Anchors Aweigh Club	The Salvation Army
Boys and Girls Club	Samuel's House
Domestic Abuse Shelter	Sugarloaf Women's Village
Easter Seals, Florida Keys Region	St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church
Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition	St Peter Catholic Church
Florida Keys Outreach Coalition	United Pentecostal Church of the Keys
Habitat for Humanity	Wesley House Family Services Inc
Just 4 Kids	WomanKind Inc
Metropolitan Community Church	YMCA of Key West

The need in our community continues. More than a month after Wilma struck our island chain many residents are still struggling to recover. This coupled with the beginning of the holiday season and the traditionally slow time of the tourist season has compounded the financial suffering.

The Fund will continue to award grants to local nonprofits in the coming weeks.

To submit a grant request, nonprofits should complete the grant request form which can be downloaded as a .pdf from the Community Foundation's website at <http://cffk.org>.

The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys continues to accept donations to the My Key West Emergency Relief Fund. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Please send your monetary contribution to:

My Key West Emergency Relief Fund at CFFK
P.O. Box 162, Key West, FL. 33041

If you wish to make a credit card donation please visit the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys Website at (<http://www.cffk.org/>) and click on the My Key West Emergency Relief Fund logo. Or stop by any First State Bank in Key West or the Lower Keys to make a contribution today.

The My Key West Emergency Relief Fund can only accept monetary gifts.

Absolutely NO relief funds are used for administrative expenses such as advertising, the website, printing, staff salaries or fundraising events. All administrative expenses are being donated either by the fund's organizers or by other sources. Additionally, the steering committee members are volunteering their time. Further, in granting funds to the nonprofits, the Fund specifies that every dollar benefit those in need.

The My Key West Emergency Relief Fund is a cooperative effort of the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, The Key West Chamber of Commerce, The Rodel Charitable Foundation-Florida, and Cooke Communications LLC.

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