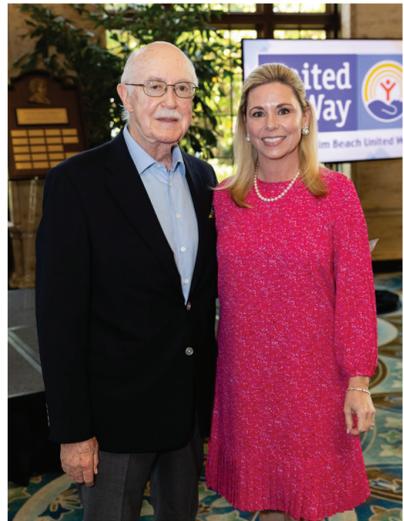




TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY

77th Annual Meeting



Town of Palm Beach United Way Board members and community supporters celebrated a successful campaign year, announced grant funding, honored volunteers, and elected a new chairman at the 77th Annual Meeting held at The Breakers Palm Beach.

Outgoing Chairman **Mary Freitas** thanked attendees for their unwavering support and commitment to the Town of Palm Beach United Way over the past year. "Your donations and your volunteer involvement have allowed the United Way to invest in life-changing programs at dozens of nonprofit agencies throughout Palm Beach County that make a difference in the lives of thousands of our less fortunate neighbors," she said to the crowd of more than 100 guests. "It has been a hard year for so many, but there's hope and promise thanks to your generosity."

General Campaign Chairman **Gail Coniglio** announced the Town of Palm Beach United Way has raised \$7,339,107 to date on a goal of \$5.4 million. She thanked Campaign Chairmen **Cara Coniglio McClure** (*The Islanders*), **Elizabeth Marshman** (*Business and Professional*), **Ann Heathwood** (*Red Feather*), **Phyllis and Bill Mack** (*Alexis de Tocqueville*), and **Nicola and Jeff Marcus** (*Alexis de Tocqueville*) for their remarkable fundraising efforts on behalf of their respective campaigns.

"We cannot thank our campaign chairmen and their volunteer committees enough for their work on behalf of the Town of Palm Beach United Way," said Gail Coniglio. "It is because of their collective efforts that we raised the necessary dollars to meet the challenges of our community and provide support to those who need it most."

Board Member and Palm Beach Fire Rescue Assistant **Chief Sean Baker** reported on the United Way's yearly school supply, toy and food drives, which collectively raised \$46,975 in addition to distributing thousands of supplies, gifts and food items. Board Vice Chairman **Christine Curtis** provided an update on the United Way's *Ukraine Refugee Fund*, which has raised more than \$2 million to support humanitarian aid efforts.

Board members voted to approve **Vita Nova** as a new partner agency of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. As a partner, the agency will be eligible to apply for future grant funding. Vita Nova helps homeless youth ages 18 to 25 who are transitioning from foster care to independent living. They help youth achieve independence by providing temporary housing and assisting with education, financial coaching, employment, and other services.

Board members also voted to approve allocating \$3,500,950 to 77 programs at 41 nonprofit agencies in Palm Beach County during the campaign cycle that runs July 1st through June 30, 2023.

"Thank you to the 93 members of the Allocation Committee who spent three months doing the hard work that is needed to ensure the Town of Palm Beach United Way's funds are used effectively and efficiently," said **Joyce Reingold**, Allocation Committee Co-Chair. "Their efforts will help fund programs that will serve

more than 300,000 men, women and children in our community."

Kathleen Waddell, a volunteer with El Sol Resource Center in Jupiter, received the *Nettie Finkle Award* for outstanding volunteerism and community service. The late Nettie Finkle dedicated 75 years to helping those less fortunate through her exceptional leadership, generosity, and integrity. The award honors an individual whose volunteer work embodies the standards set by Nettie.

Waddell has been a volunteer at El Sol since 2016. She has helped prepare meals, write grant applications, assist children with homework, teach adult English classes, oversee community events, and lead lessons on healthy eating habits.

Board members voted to accept seven new members to the Board of Trustees: **Wendy Cox, Ginny Edlavitch, Bill Mack, Michael Pucillo, Farley Rentschler, Laing Rogers and Beth Wilf**. All will serve a three-year term as members of the Class of 2025. Longtime supporter **Bill Tiefel** was elected Chairman of the 76-member Board.

"I have some big shoes to fill, and I look forward to continuing and building on the achievements of past chairmen," said Tiefel. "The Town of Palm Beach United Way is a special organization, and I am honored call myself chairman of such a terrific nonprofit."

Tiefel thanked Freitas for her three years of service as Chairmen during "unforeseen and unpredictable times." "She led the United Way through the COVID pandemic, which was no easy task, and also oversaw the United Way's support of recovery and relief efforts in the Bahamas, and now refugee aid in Ukraine," he said. "She attends every single United Way event and is first in line to volunteer to sign letters or complete any other task the United Way asks of her. She embodies the meaning of service and does it with grace and humility and compassion."

Freitas was presented with a framed caricature portraying her as a United Way superhero. "All I can say is this is an amazing organization, run by devoted staff members, with remarkable leadership, volunteers and donors from an inspiringly generous community," she said. "I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it all."

The *Annual Meeting* was graciously underwritten by **CIBC Private Wealth**. For more information call 561.655.1919.

FIRST ROW: Bill Tiefel and Mary Freitas; Chief Sean Baker and Christine Curtis; Gail Coniglio, Jeff Marcus and Cara Coniglio McClure; Missy Agnello and Atesh Chandra; **SECOND ROW:** Jay Boodheshwar and Bill Mack; Joyce Reingold and Gina Sabeau; Mayor Danielle Moore and James Borynack; Susan Wright and David Duffy; **THIRD ROW:** Elizabeth Marshman and Carla Cove; Peter Gottsegen and Felicia Taylor Gottsegen; Chad and Lisa Wilkinson; David Scaff and Steve Hall, Jr.

PHOTOS: CAPEHART

