

TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY 80TH ANNUAL MEETING



Town of Palm Beach United Way board members, volunteers, donors, and community supporters celebrated a successful campaign year at the *80th Annual Meeting* held at The Breakers Palm Beach. **Jack Scarola**, a volunteer with United Way nonprofit partner **The Lord's Place**, received this year's *Nettie Finkle Award* for outstanding volunteerism and community service.

"It has been a team effort all year," said Board Chair **Richard Rothschild**. "It's amazing to see how far we've come in 80 years. From the campaign leaders who help raise the money, to the allocation volunteers that help distribute it, and the collection drives, special funds, *Turkey Trot*, and everything in between — this is an amazing organization to be a part of."

President and CEO **Beth Walton** announced the Town of Palm Beach United Way has raised \$7,423,894 to date on a goal of \$6.9 million. The campaign led by General Campaign Chairs **Roberta and Paul Kozloff**.

The campaign is made up of three main branches: *The Business and Professional Campaign* (employee and corporate donations), led by **Carrie Bradburn**, the *Red Feather Campaign* (donations of \$1,000 to \$9,999), chaired by **Skip Aldridge**, and the *Alexis de Tocqueville Campaign* (donations of \$10,000 or more), led by Co-Chairs **Kimberly and Scott Goodwin** and **Josephine and Jason Kalisman**. The *Tocqueville Campaign* added a record 63 new donors, and to date has raised 79% of the United Way's overall campaign total.

Islanders Co-Chair **Francesca Coniglio Finck** reported on the yearly *Turkey Trot* race, which provided 6,288 meals to Palm Beach County residents in need. **Palm Beach Fire Rescue Chief Sean Baker** reported on the United Way's annual collection drives, which raised over \$43,000 combined, and thousands of school supplies, toys and food for children and families in need. Baker also reported on the United Way's *Hurricane Recovery Fund*, which distributed \$422,500 to 14 organizations, and *LA County Wildfires Fund*, which distributed \$490,000 to six organizations.

This year's Town of Palm Beach United Way Allocation Committee was Co-Chaired by **Suzanne Brenner, Carla Cove, and Diane McNeal**. Cove and McNeal presented the board-approved grant funding for the 2025-2026 season. The Town of Palm Beach United Way will be funding 71 programs at 38 nonprofit agencies in Palm Beach County that will in turn serve over

166,000 men, women and children. The Chairs also announced that the **Faulk Center for Counseling** and **FoundCare** were approved as new Town of Palm Beach United Way partner agencies.

The committee was made up of 140 volunteers who dedicated three months of their time, and collectively spent over 1,200 hours and traveled over 8,500 miles to thoroughly review and vet nonprofit partners applying for grant funding from the Town of Palm Beach United Way.

"This group serves as the eyes and ears of over 5,000 donors to ensure donations to the United Way are being invested in quality programs, producing measurable outcomes that are truly changing lives in our community," McNeal said.

Nominating Committee Chair **Bill Tiefel** reported eight new members will be joining the Board of Trustees next season: **Jay Boodheshwar, Jill Glazer, Mary Margaret Lang, Betty Levin, Nicki McDonald, Mitchell Morgan, Keith Palagye, and Jane Wilf**. All will serve a three-year term as members of the Class of 2028.

Board Secretary **Debra Vasilopoulos** announced **Jack Scarola** as the recipient of the 2025 *Nettie Finkle Award*. Scarola helped found The Lord's Place in 1980, and slept in a dumpster outside of St. Ann Catholic Church in West Palm Beach to raise money for the agency's first family campus homeless shelter in 1983. He has been involved in all aspects of the organization, from board governance and fundraising to serving meals and handing out supplies.

At the close of the *Annual Meeting*, President **Beth Walton** was surprised with a crystal and a town bench dedication in honor of her 30 years of service to the Town of Palm Beach United Way and the community.

"Beth has made an immeasurable impact on the United Way, on our town, and on our broader community, said Trustee **Natalie Emerson**, who presented the award to Walton. "She has spent three decades in service to those pockets of our community who need support and uplifting. She has also inspired and taught those who are fortunate enough to be able to give, on how to give. She is an incredible leader, mentor, friend, advocate, and so much more."

For more information call 561.655.1919 or visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org.



FIRST ROW: Bill Tiefel and Richard Rothschild; Carla Cove and Diane McNeal; Missy Agnello and Jorge Cabrera; Carrie Bradburn and Skip Aldridge; **SECOND ROW:** Debra Vasilopoulos and Jack Scarola; Josephine Kalisman, Kimberly Goodwin, Beth Walton and Natalie Emerson; Wendy Topkis and Liz Feuer; Simone Vickar and David Blue; **THIRD ROW:** Ed Pantzer, Nicki McDonald and Stephen Fiverson; Pamela McIver and Jay Boodheshwar; Fran Levy and Paulette Koch; Jim and Gaye Engel; **FOURTH ROW:** Jessica Surovek and Helene Lorentzen; Sean Baker and Francesca Coniglio Finck.

PHOTOS: CAPEHART