



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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New \$50k matching gift from Susan and Dom Telesco helps bolster Town of Palm Beach United Way's Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund

A combined \$50k challenge grant from Bill and Norma Tiefel and Richard and Barbara Rothschild has been met

For Immediate Release – October 4, 2022

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way needs help meeting a new matching gift to assist with hurricane relief efforts along Florida's Gulf Coast. Longtime donors Susan and Dom Telesco are offering to match donations to the United Way's Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

Previous donations to the fund have already been met by a combined \$50,000 challenge gift from Palm Beachers Bill and Norma Tiefel and Richard and Barbara Rothschild. With the help of the matching gift from the Tiefels and Rothschilds, the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund, created on September 29, has raised just over \$100,000.

"It was a painfully devastating storm," said Susan and Dom Telesco. "Entire communities were decimated, and hundreds of individuals and families now find themselves homeless and in need of emergency aid. It could have happened here, and we're so grateful it didn't, but now we want to do our part to help with recovery efforts for our west coast neighbors. We hope this challenge gift will encourage others to do the same."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way is distributing funds to aid organizations on the ground in the hardest hit areas of the Gulf Coast, including Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties. To date, Global Empower Mission and World Central Kitchen have both been sent \$25,000 each to help with relief efforts.

"We greatly appreciate the support of the Palm Beach community," said Michael Capponi, President of Global Empowerment Mission. "Our team is on the ground in Collier and Lee counties and has seen firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian. These funds will go a long way to help our work on the Gulf Coast."

Global Empowerment Mission has already helped 13,000 families with food, water, tarps, and other supplies. The agency has established three distribution hubs and is working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to help support local shelters.

World Central Kitchen's relief team is spread out across the Gulf Coast and has distributed over 150,000 sandwiches and hot meals to residents in need. The organization has secured kitchens, food trucks and restaurant partners to help with its relief efforts, and is distributing meals with vehicles, seaplanes, helicopters, and an amphibious vehicle.

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