

Walt Disney World donates more than \$4 million to Central Florida organizations

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Sept. 29, 2017 — Sivako! In Pandora – The World of Avatar at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, that rally cry means “rise to the challenge.” Every day in Central Florida, nonprofit organizations do just that by improving the lives of countless families and their children in the community.

Today at the Orlando Museum of Art, Walt Disney World Resort honored 100 of those organizations by awarding more than \$4 million in Disney Grants. These groups extended help to those in need and provided the magical kind of support that aligns with Disney’s philanthropic approach.

“The organizations represented here this morning make better lives possible for those in our area who need it most,” said George A. Kalogridis, president of Walt Disney World Resort. “Our grants give us an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of the nonprofit organizations who help change lives each and every day.”

Through the support of Disney Grants, the signature giving program of Walt Disney World Resort, organizations throughout Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Polk counties receive donations to continue positively impacting the lives of Central Florida children and families. An array of programs and services are represented in this year’s 100 recipients, including children’s after school services, arts enrichment programs and health care centers for the uninsured.

In addition to helping organizations in Central Florida, Disney also donated \$250,000 to the Heart of Florida United Way for hurricane relief efforts to help people in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. This is on top of \$3.5 million that The Walt Disney Company already committed for this season’s hurricane relief. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria devastated parts of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other areas of the Caribbean. Disney employees and Cast Members have also been encouraged to donate to relief efforts, which will be eligible for matching gifts by the company. The funds will help the response and recovery efforts of the American Red Cross, UNICEF, Save the Children, and other nonprofits.

As part of today’s special recognition ceremony inspired by Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park, Kalogridis and Joe Rohde, portfolio creative executive for Walt Disney Imagineering, spoke to the recipients about how the work non-profits do every day aligns with one of the pillars behind Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park: a personal call to action. These organizations were selected as Disney Grant recipients because of the way they inspire Central Florida neighbors to live better lives through their personal calls to action. As the ceremony concluded, Kalogridis surprised each recipient to further explore that pillar themselves, with each organization receiving complimentary theme park tickets.

As a company with nearly 73,000 Cast Members in Central Florida, Walt Disney World Resort is committed to investing in the community in ways that directly improve the lives of Central Florida children and families. Walt Disney World Resort provided more than \$34 million of cash and in-kind donations to local organizations last year.

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About community engagement at Walt Disney World Resort:

Community outreach and service are important to the culture of Walt Disney World Resort as it continues to meet Walt Disney’s legacy to improve and enrich the lives of children and families around the world. Disney VoluntEARS at the Walt Disney World Resort donate more than 200,000 VoluntEAR hours each year as part of the company’s commitment to strengthening communities by providing hope, happiness and comfort to those who need it most.

About Disney Grant recipients:

Each year, Disney Grant recipients are selected based on their alignment with Disney’s philanthropic focus to strengthen neighborhoods, inspire children, create stronger family bonds and promote a more compassionate environment. In total, 100 organizations received Disney Grants this year, including 19 whom were application-based.

A full list of 2017 Disney Grant application-based recipients:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc.
\$50,000

Children’s Home Society of Florida
\$30,000

Christian Service Center for Central Florida
\$23,000

Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)
\$50,000

Community Vision, Inc.
\$20,000

Conductive Education Center of Orlando
\$25,000

Enzian Theater
\$20,000

Family Promise of Greater Orlando
\$10,000

Florida Leadership Venture, Inc. d/b/a ELEVATE Orlando
\$18,000

Garden Theatre, Inc.
\$10,000

Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.
\$50,000

Hebni Nutrition Consultants

\$10,000

New Image Youth Center, Inc.

\$10,000

Orange County Library System

\$50,000

Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation Inc.

\$17,400

Quest, Inc.

\$20,000

Steinway Society of Central Florida

\$16,000

The Christian Sharing Center Inc.

\$20,000

Urban Think Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000

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