

World's largest mega-yacht charity event set for South Florida this fall



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The world's largest gathering of mega-yachts for charity is heading back to South Florida this year.

The 28th annual Rendezvous benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of **Broward County** is set for Miami's Fisher Island from Nov. 12-14, featuring singers The Pointer Sisters headlining the Saturday night gala.

The Rendezvous has held its last few editions in the Bahamas and netted more than \$1 million annually for the Broward nonprofit, which serves 12,500 at-risk children each year.

This fall, organizers expect the event to raise at least \$1 million more, bringing the total obtained from Rendezvous weekends so far beyond \$31 million.

"As quickly as we raise the funds, they go directly to serve the kids," said Brian Quail, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of **Broward County**. The nonprofit operates with an annual budget topping \$10 million and employs more than 200 people full-time and part-time in Broward.

What draws many guests to the weekend fete is the Yacht Hop, or tour of participating boats. At least one yacht more than 200-feet long already has registered for this year event, and some 20 megayachts are expected, Quail said.

Owners donate to the fundraiser based on the length of their yachts: \$9,500 for a yacht less than 80 feet (plus four weekend tickets) up to \$22,000 for a yacht 150 feet or more (with 10 tickets.)

Individuals without a yacht can pay \$1,500 to attend the three-day fete, organizers said.

This year's festivities are slated to kick off Thursday night with the Yacht Hop, fireworks display, food, entertainment and the launch of a silent auction.

On Friday, a daytime pool-party and fashion show will be followed by a "Miami Vice Costume Ball" themed-party featuring '80s tribute band Rubix Kube. And Saturday's activities feature a daytime beach BBQ with children from the Boys & Girls Clubs and the black-tie gala dinner starring The Pointer Sisters.

The gala will induct new members into the Dream Makers Society, a select group of supporters who have helped the Broward nonprofit for at least a decade and personally donated more than \$1 million.

Inducted this year will be New Jersey auto dealers Mary Ann Kull and her late husband, Richard, who have a winter home in Broward. They are friends of South Florida auto dealers Rick and Rita Case, who founded the Rendezvous and long have contributed to the Boys & Girls Clubs of **Broward County**.

In addition to the Cases, others in the Dream Maker Society are Felix Sabates, Florence & Larry DeGeorge, Marti & Wayne Huizenga, James E. McDonnell IV and Linda & Douglas Von Allmen.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward provides after-school programs, meals and other help to at-risk families — generating about \$18 in economic impact for every \$1 it spends, or more than \$180 million in economic benefits annually, a recent study found.

The clubs let parents work longer hours or attend school to upgrade their skills, so that parents earn more than they would staying home with their children, said the report by Damooei Global Research.

In addition, youth who regularly attend the clubs are more likely to graduate from high school on time and less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as crime. They also are more likely to generate higher incomes over their lifetimes, among other economic benefits, according to the report.