

# The Symphonia Receives \$20,000 Matching Gift On Its 20th Anniversary from Virginia and Harvey Kimmel

In celebration of The Symphonia's 20th Anniversary, long-time supporters Virginia and Harvey Kimmel have announced a matching gift of up to \$20,000 to benefit the orchestra.

The gift is a beautiful example of "neighborly love" from the Kimmels, a Delray couple, to the Boca Raton-based Symphonia orchestra.



The Kimmels are passionate about supporting cultural arts and

education programs and have been among The Symphonia's most significant benefactors over the past decade. Their support over the years has helped fund a number of The Symphonia initiatives, including the 'Strings and Self Esteem' Outreach Program, which provides music lessons to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.

The Kimmels' generous gift will support The Symphonia's upcoming programming and community outreach activities. "It would be so gratifying if the community could help meet, or even exceed, this match," said Virginia.

"We could not be more grateful to the Kimmels for their incredible generosity," said Annabel Russell, Executive Director of The Symphonia. "This gift will ensure that we will conclude our 20th season on a very high note!"

Donations to The Symphonia can be made online at [thesymphonia.org](http://thesymphonia.org). For more information on giving and donor benefits at all levels, contact Annabel Russell at (561) 376-3848.

*About The Symphonia.* The Symphonia, recognized as the region's premier chamber orchestra, provides high-quality classical music for the enjoyment and benefit of the South Florida community. Founded in 2004, The Symphonia's performances and educational outreach programs feature nationally and internationally acclaimed conductors and soloists, enhancing the cultural lives of area residents, with special emphasis on its younger citizens. Follow on Instagram @TheSymphonia and on Facebook @SymphoniaBoca. More at [thesymphonia.org](http://thesymphonia.org).

# JARC Florida's 39th Gala Raises \$1.1 Million To Support Adults with Special Needs

JARC Florida, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that provides programs and services to educate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, hosted its 39th Annual Gala on March 9th at the Boca West Country Club. The event was attended by nearly 400 guests and raised \$1,128,747 to benefit the organization's life-changing programs and services, including the Dr. Allen & Annette Stone Adult Day Training Program, The Selma & Irving Eitenberg Foundation Community Works and ADAPT (Adults Aging in Place Together).

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2025 Lynne & Howard Halpern Champions for Special Needs Award to Billi and Bernie Marcus (of blessed memory). The award was presented by last year's honoree, Toby Cooperman, alongside Lynne and Howard Halpern. Accepting the award on behalf of the Marcus family were Billi Marcus and her son, Michael Morris.

Craig Shapiro received the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding dedication to

JARC's Sports Talk program, where he serves alongside past honoree Jerry Kransdorf. Shapiro is a familiar face at JARC events, consistently showing up to support clients and most recently chaperoning the Sports Talk group on a memorable trip to a spring training baseball game in Jupiter. The award was presented by Fallon Gechter, JARC's Director of Philanthropy and Community Relations.

The gala was chaired by Carin and Scott Friedman and Cecilia and Jonathan Greenhut, with Lynne Halpern serving as honorary chair. Beloved entertainer Sam Simon returned as master of ceremonies, keeping the energy high throughout the event. Guests also enjoyed a silent auction chaired by Ronni Sommer and Bettina Kaplan, along with a raffle generously sponsored by Elizabeth and Peter Levine.

"The JARC Gala is a heartfelt celebration of our clients, their families, dedicated staff, generous donors, volunteers and the community partners who make our mission possible," said Jeffrey Zirulnick, Chief Executive Officer of JARC Florida. "This year's event was a tremendous success,

not only because of the record-breaking funds raised but also because of the momentum we're building toward the opening of our new Caryn J. Clayman Life Skills Center."

*About JARC Florida.* The non-sectarian organization based in Boca Raton provides programs and services to educate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Its vision is to remove barriers to independence so that each person with intellectual and developmental disabilities is better able to reach his or her potential. JARC currently operates ten group homes in the Boca Raton and Delray Beach area for adults with developmental disabilities. JARC offers apartment living for those who do not require 24-hour supervision as well as vocational training in the Mel & Elaine Stein Living and Learning Center. The organization was created in the mid-1980s in response to the needs of families with adult children with developmental disabilities. Learn more at <http://jarcfl.org>.

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