



MEDIA ALERT

R.O. Jacobson Foundation to Announce \$500,000 Donation to Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Clearwater, FL (Sept. 18, 2017) – At the request of Mr. Frank Chivas, the R.O. Jacobson Foundation, Inc. will announce a \$500,000 gift to Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s (CMA) capital campaign this Tuesday, Sept. 19. As the giving arm of the late philanthropist Dick Jacobson, the R.O. Jacobson Foundation, Inc. previously donated a \$1 million grant to CMA for the current R.O. Jacobson Center for Education and Animal Care.

“The Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s mission of ‘preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation’ fits well within Dick Jacobson’s foundation’s philanthropic objectives of making the world a better place by supporting medical advancements and promoting youth education,” said local businessman and philanthropist Frank Chivas. Chivas is a CMA Board member and owner of the Baystar Restaurant Group which includes local restaurant favorites Island Way Grill, Marlin Darlin, Salt Rock Tavern, Salt Rock Grill and Rumba’s Island Bar & Grill restaurants.

CMA previously announced a major expansion of its facilities, designed to create more space for its rescued animals, guest education areas, and a parking garage. The \$500,000 grant will be designated for construction of the new CMA learning center, which will include a combination of six classrooms, wet labs and a mock surgical suite area. Each room will accommodate up to 30 students or as many as 180 students simultaneously. The learning center will be named “The R. O. Jacobson Foundation Center for Marine Life Education and Conservation.”

Additional media information:

- What: Announcement of \$500,000 R.O. Jacobson donation to Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- Where: Clearwater Marine Aquarium Spectrum Theater, 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33767
- When: Tuesday, September 19 at 2 p.m. Media should arrive by 1:30 p.m.
- For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin’s story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people’s lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

