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NEWS

SOUTH MIAMI

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Connecting Communities

Villagers continue contributions for restoration at Tropical Audubon's Doc Thomas House

TO MIAMI COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

The Villagers have added to their ongoing support for restoration of Tropical Audubon Society's historic Doc Thomas House. Another \$6,000 was presented, bringing The Villagers' contributions for the current project to \$31,500. The most recent phase of the restoration finished work on the front porch and gutters. Along with previous projects, including replacement of cypress siding and a roof, an estimated 60 percent of the house's total restoration is complete.

Located on Sunset Drive, just east of South Miami, the 1932 structure was the home of popular local pharmacist Arden Hayes "Doc" Thomas and currently serves as the headquarters for Tropical Audubon Society (TAS). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is named a Florida and Miami-Dade Heritage site. The home was the first residential commission of renowned local architect Robert Fitch Smith and is an example of Florida wood-frame vernacular style with Arts and Craft features within.

"The Villagers are a critical partner of TAS," said TAS Board Member and Historian Daniel Jones. "We always appreciate support from The Villagers as we continue the long and winding road of fully restoring the Doc Thomas House."

ABOUT THE VILLAGERS INC.

Miami-Dade County's oldest historic preservation organization, The Villagers, was founded in 1966, completing their first goal of saving Coral Gables' iconic



Pictured from L-R: Villagers VP, Kelley Schild, Tropical Audubon Society Board Member Daniel Jones, and President Jose Barros, DDS, with Villagers President Susan Medina on the porch of the Doc Thomas House during the check presentation.

Douglas Entrance. The not-for-profit all-volunteer group has grown to identify and award more than 200 grants to endangered sites and organizations.

Through educating, advocating, fundraising, restoration, and documentation The Villagers work to preserve the

cultural and architectural heritage of local historic sites and neighborhoods. For more details about projects funded, fundraising events, scholarships, membership opportunities, and the full scope of The Villagers' legacy, visit www.thevillagersinc.org.

ABOUT THE TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

For more information about the important work to conserve and protect South Florida ecosystems, visit the Tropical Audubon Society website at <http://www.tropicalaudubon.org/>.