

Broken crayon program helps people in need

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Palm Island Resort's Rum Bay and Leverock's Restaurants are collecting used crayons in a promotional partnership with The Crayon Initiative, a nonprofit that re-manufactures used crayons to donate to children's hospitals. The crayons are sorted by color, melted down and poured into specially designed molds to give the fresh crayons an easier grip for youngsters and for artists with mobility issues.

According to thecrayoninitiative.org, 45,000 to 75,000 pounds of broken crayons are discarded in U.S. landfills. By collecting unwanted crayons from restaurants, schools and other locations — and recycling them into new ones — the program also saves landfills from waxy substances that are not biodegradable.

Organized by employees at Rum Bay and Leverock's Restaurants, the collection includes not only the crayons they hand out with children's menus, but donations of crayons from local residents. Drop boxes are visible at the hostess stands at both restaurants, says Amy Loy, events coordinator for Palm Island Resort.

“Once people hear about this nonprofit organization that takes donations of used crayons from schools, restaurants and individuals, they are eager to help.

Leverock’s Restaurant, at [7092 Placida Road, Placida](#), is a drop-off spot for area restaurants and others. Crayon pick-ups can also be arranged.

“The response from our guests and the community has been inspiring,” Ms. Loy said.

For more information, call (800) 824- 5412 or visit palmislandresort.com.