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CORAL GABLES

Anne Morgan's exhibit is now at the Coral Gables Museum

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From his childhood, Miles Morgan remembers his great aunt, Anne Morgan, as Crazy Aunt Anne.

On Sept. 10, Miles was at the Coral Gables Museum for an exhibit of photographs documenting the work of his aunt, the daughter of the wealthy financier John Pierpont Morgan, and her American Committee for Devastated

France, a volunteer civilian relief organization that Morgan founded with her friend Anne Murray Dike.

"She was considered Crazy Aunt Anne in my family because she was so difficult to handle," said Miles, 86. "She did incredible things."

Anne Morgan's War: American Women Rebuilding France 1917-1924 showcases photographs of Morgan and other female volunteers during WWI.

In 1917, Anne Morgan

gave up her comfortable life in the United States and went to France to assist during World War I. She gathered other women volunteers and moved to the French region of Picardy, a rural area that had been heavily impacted by the war. Morgan also hired photographers who documented the circumstances.

Those images, photographs and films of devastated French towns and families were published in U.S. newspapers; some were



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Photography exhibits of Anne Morgan have been presented in New York, Denver and Chicago.

sold as sets; and films were shown in theaters throughout the United States.

Morgan's pictures have

been displayed at museums in New York, Denver, Chicago — and now Miami, where they will be exhibited

through Nov. 28.

"Her name is on streets [in France]," said Miles Morgan. "Her name is on clinics. Visiting Nurse Organization in Paris really was started by this group of ladies."

As the director of the Coral Gables Museum, Christine Rupp, 58, sees the exhibit as a celebration of the Franco-American relationship and its history.

"I think that the exhibit has many things to teach our visitors: the power of volunteerism, the devastation of war, how although we might like to think that we've evolved, war still rages on," Rupp said.

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