



## Hurricane Joaquin Disaster Relief Committee Meeting October 15, 2015 –Update

### 1. Fundraising

#### a. Crowd Funding Site

- i. As of this morning, almost at \$30k with 149 donors, still lots of potential with 20 days left
- ii. Actual goal is \$75k
- iii. Please continue to share the link with your friends and family: Go to [www.Indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com) and then in the top right corner search Rotary Bahamas

#### b. Telethon

- i. Significant progress has been made
- ii. Atlantis will be the venue, recently held successful telethon to benefit Cancer Society
- iii. Date of October 27<sup>th</sup> is tentative, pending confirmation of entertainment and talent available
- iv. Corporate Challenge; encourage employee donations and company match program

#### c. Ole Skool Reggae Night: was held on October 8<sup>th</sup>

- i. Organized by East Nassau
- ii. Bambu generously donated the use of their premises and service of their staff
- iii. \$3,600 was raised and \$610 was pledged

#### d. Donations

- i. \$95,849, (one donor of \$25k)
- ii. District 6930 has agreed to receive US Tax deductible donations on behalf of RCOB. A large potential donor is in the works as a result. Please contact AG Karen for wire instructions for interested donors.
- iii. Grand Bahama (GBI) Rotary Clubs are raising money and will be sending part funds donated to their District 5013c to RCOB Disaster Fund when advised. Their team is involved in the RCOB Disaster Relief planning and logistics meetings.

## 2. Public Image

- a. CP Shaun appeared on Chrissy Love show on Tuesday
- b. Press release pending for \$25k donation received from Lyford Cay resident

## 3. Donations of Goods/Services

- a. Focus should continue to be on cash donations for the following reasons:
  1. to meet urgent unmet needs, such as fuel for planes and boats to not only deliver urgent humanitarian aid, but also human resources such as doctors, and just this morning, we agreed to fly some counsellors down to the affected islands
  2. to maintain some money in reserve to help with the medium and long term rebuilding of the communities and economies.
  3. to have the ability to buy locally, to support our economy, as assessments are completed and actual targeted needs are identified

So, people in our Bahamaland are encouraged to open their hearts and their wallets and give generously. Donations can be made through any of the 9 Rotary Clubs, InnerWheel Club or the 5 Rotaract Clubs or any of their members. There are also locations strategically placed around the island for cheques made payable to RCOB. They include Bahamas Realty, East Bay; Town Centre Mall Information Booth and the Family Medical Centre on Blake Road.

- b. Persons preferring to give goods and supplies won't be turned away. Rotaract SENC President Leah Lowe has coordinated with various Rotarians & Rotaractors to establish the following drop-off sites, see below (NOTE: Clothing donations are strongly discouraged based on recent feedback)
- c. Rotary has solidified its partnership with Trans Island Airways (TIA) by agreeing to financially assist with aviation expenses related to humanitarian flights of both supplies and human resources. \$7,500 previously given for fuel to Odyssey airport will be applied to fuel invoices of TIA.
- d. A team of 6 volunteer psychologists went on TIA to San Salvador and Long Island today to provide crisis counselling to both adults and children. These flights will continue on a weekly basis rotating amongst the various islands as needed.
- e. Rotary donated towards the cost of safe & efficacious Mosquito fogging.
- f. Lorene's has agreed to donate whatever uniforms are in their inventory to provide for the displaced kids that will attend the Anglican schools in Nassau (St. John's and St. Anne's). Depending on need and inventory available, further partners might be needed.

## 4. Needs Assessment:

- a. CP Shaun was on Long Island for 3 days, see trip report attached.
- b. CP Shaun was on Crooked Island yesterday, trip report pending
- c. CP Bruce visited various islands, see trip report attached
- d. Rotarian Fr. James is in San Salvador from Tuesday – Thursday of this week, trip report to be provided

5. NEMA: After much deliberation by various stakeholders, including Rotary, a partnership has developed with NEMA to strengthen their efforts to “provide transparent and responsible relief to those specifically affected by Hurricane Joaquin and to support NEMA in its efforts to support other qualified and authorized relief efforts.” The support will be in terms of accountability and human resources. This will enable much needed coordination in the relief efforts. See attached presentation which outlines the various partners and the 7 key parameters of the partnership.
6. Volunteers:
  - a. PAG Murray Forde (RC East Nassau) has agreed to coordinate volunteers. If interested, please complete the attached Excel spreadsheet
  - b. Volunteers will need to pay their airfare and be asked to pay a donation for room and board. This will be determined based on the locations.
  - c. Expected accommodation for volunteers will either be tents or dormitory-style shelter at Church halls etc.
  - d. Tim the Tool Van has already volunteered to travel South
7. Focus for Rotary rebuilding efforts will be schools and livelihoods
  - a. Quotes are being sought for cranes to move boats from inland back into the water
  - b. A donation of a large truck is being sought to assist in the removal of debris and other clean-up efforts as well as transportation of supplies
  - c. Assistance will be provided to repair an R.O. plant and water tanks from the Freeport Emergency water plant will be delivered.
  - d. Shelterbox will be contacted to acquire only tents as opposed to the usual package, as per NEMA’s request.
  - e. GBI Rotary will send tarps and possibly water filtration systems (i.e. Brita)
  - f. PRID Barry and his wife Esther have “adopted” the Mangrove Bush Primary School. See attached email for details on assistance being sought. Volunteers should contact PAG Murray.

## **Ongoing Item Donation Drop Offs**

We are equipped to accept packaged donations of water, non-perishables, baby food and items, pet feed and items, toiletries, sanitary and cleaning supplies, battery operated flashlights and radios plus their batteries, non-electric portable stoves, etc. at the following locations and times.

*It is important to note that these items are going to be stockpiled until teams can be assembled to all islands to set up proper distribution. If there are things that persons/groups would like to be immediately sent, it's best to deal directly with another reputable group. Item Donations is, at this moment, a secondary focus in our efforts.*

### Small packaged items:

- Automall's Executive Motors Showroom (Shirley Street, just before Haitian Embassy) Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm
- Prescription Centre Pharmacy (Rosetta Street, opposite Starbucks) Monday-Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm
- The Signman (Shirley Street, after Doctors Hospital on right) Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm

### Small or Large Items:

- Bahamas Bus & Truck Sales Showroom (Montrose Avenue) Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
- New Providence Community Center (Blake Road) Monday-Friday 7:00am-9:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm

### Palletized Items:

- BWA Warehouse (Gladstone Road) Monday-Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (For large donations, arrangements can be made for off hours)