

THE EXUMA FOUNDATION - FEBRUARY 2017

STARVE POVERTY JANUARY 2017 TRIP

Once again the SPI volunteers visited Exuma and brought relief to an elderly couple both with health difficulties whose house had been damaged by Hurricane Matthew. The job involved replacing the roof and internal drywall. The work was completed in seven days.



Top left: The crew, above Mr. and Mrs. Bethel.

On Saturday morning members of The Exuma Sailing Club (left) joined the volunteers to help clear the site of debris. The involvement of these young people is encouraging and speaks to the work of the Club directors.

In March SPI will return to do maintenance work on the Rolleville Emergency Shelter. The remaining unit in the complex which is unoccupied will be prepared so that it could be used immediately there is a need.



PLEASE NOTE The February newsletter is longer than usual (7 pages) and reflects the activity taking place on and around the campus.

Please forward the newsletter to anyone who might have an interest.

We are seeking partners for several new projects including the Children's Shelter, Junior Sailing and the Computer Learning Project.

As always we who work here are grateful to all of you who have made it possible. Thank you.

Danny and Chris.

SCOTIABANK DONATION

The students at the school for exceptional learners continues to be part of our lives. Here the children were visited by Stephanie Brice of Scotiabank and the new manager Tabitha Newbold who brought gifts for the school. The Bank has had a relationship with the school for many years.

The Foundation supports the school by supplying the space and equipment as well as transport home and clothes and food where needed.

There are 10 students registered.

HOSPITAL BUS



The bus is now insured, licensed and on the road. When the new hospital opened the two clinics in Steventon and Forbes Hill closed. The bus will be used as a travelling clinic and visit the outlying communities and to bring elderly and incapacitated patients in who may need regular attendance at the hospital

Photo L - R: Ron Fraser who found the vehicle for us in New Jersey and negotiated the best price, Glen Munroe - bus and ambulance driver, Danny, Chris and driver Craig Rolle.

The idea for a hospital bus was made to the Foundation by the Public Hospitals Authority the group responsible for transitioning from the old clinics.

The funding for the bus was a joint effort of the Exuma Foundation of Canada and The Exuma Foundation USA.



BTC DONATION

Our thanks to BTC for their donation to the Foundation. Local manager Sophia Hart Rolle makes the presentation to Danny Strachan.



OHIO OFFICE

The Exuma Foundation
Cornerstone
5885 Landerbrook Dr. Suite 300
Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124
Phone 440 460 0460

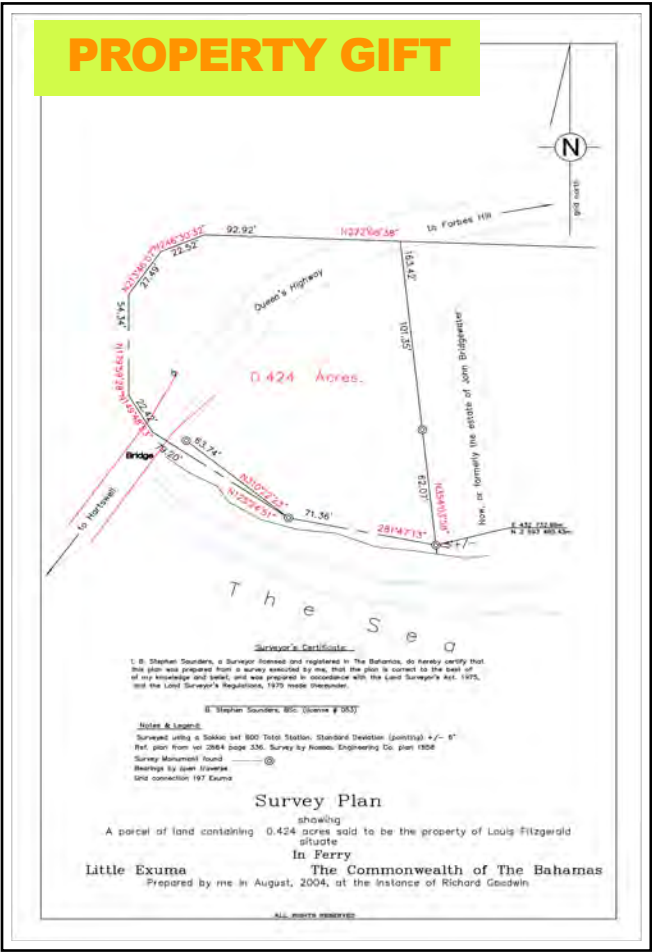
EXUMA OFFICE

The Exuma Foundation
P.O. Box Ex 29111,
George Town, Exuma, Bahamas
Phone 242 336 2790/2
exumafoundadmin@gmail.com

amazon.smile.com

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The property below has been donated to The Foundation by Nancy Murphy and Richard Godwin to whom we are grateful. As the waterfront on the western side of the lot is on Moriah Harbour Cay National Park we are suggesting that The Foundation should make it available to The Bahamas National Trust. This would be the only mainland access to the Park. A dock could be built here and perhaps a car park and park office on the Eastern side of the road.



The Sailing Club is sponsored by The Exuma Foundation and is directed by Dallas Knowles, Reg Smith and others.

These pictures are of victories in Staniel Cay and Farmers Cay Regattas against experienced competition.



Catherine and BJ in the new 'Bee Room' which has storage space and a new honey extractor. Later in February a series of lectures will be held at the campus for those interested in beekeeping. The observation hive is a useful teaching tool and gives an indication of the situation in the outdoor hives.



BACKYARD FARMS AND SCHOOL GARDENS



Better than 90% of all food consumed in The Bahamas is imported. Prior to the 1960's the reverse would have been true. One response to this is the high tech hydroponic operations seen in Nassau and the other is what used to be called subsistence farming or pothole farming, in fact, backyard farming.

Part of Catherine Booker's work with environmental education has been to establish school gardens and to support the group (mainly ladies) interested in producing food close to their homes.

The garden at the campus is a demonstration of what a food producing garden might look like.

Among the problems farmers face is the long winter drought. To help with this low tech and efficient drip irrigation systems have been established at the campus and in some of the ladies' gardens. We are grateful to Eric Beutner who supplied some of the lines and helped install the system.



Above left. L to R. Bradley Charlton, Shoneken Cargill of Project Raindrop, Althea Ferguson (farmer) Janine Rolle (BAIC) and Johnson Lewis.

Right - Bradley adjusting irrigation lines. The garden includes chickens, ducks and bees.



Tour
de *Turquoise*
RideforExuma.com

FEBRUARY 9 - 12, 2017

The Ride for Exuma event organized by The Exuma Foundation of Canada has become an annual event. Last year's fund raising helped with the purchase of the hospital bus and this year's event will contribute to the fund raising for the Children's Shelter. Thank you Canada.



Some of the young riders in the event are also members of the Sailing Club. The experienced riders coached the kids on technique and safety. R to L. star cyclists Christian Van Verdle and Curt Harnett and Howard Chang of Canada and Exuma.





GALLERY



Loco is the campus mascot and is in his (or her) mid seventies. Loco surprised his handlers recently by flying to the top of a tree and safely gliding down again.. Here with one of The Discovery Club girls.

Some readers of this newsletter may remember Loco belonging to Ed and Madeline Haxby and then spending some years at the Bonefish Lodge with Karen.

Loco is good with children and ladies but has bitten all the men who got too close.

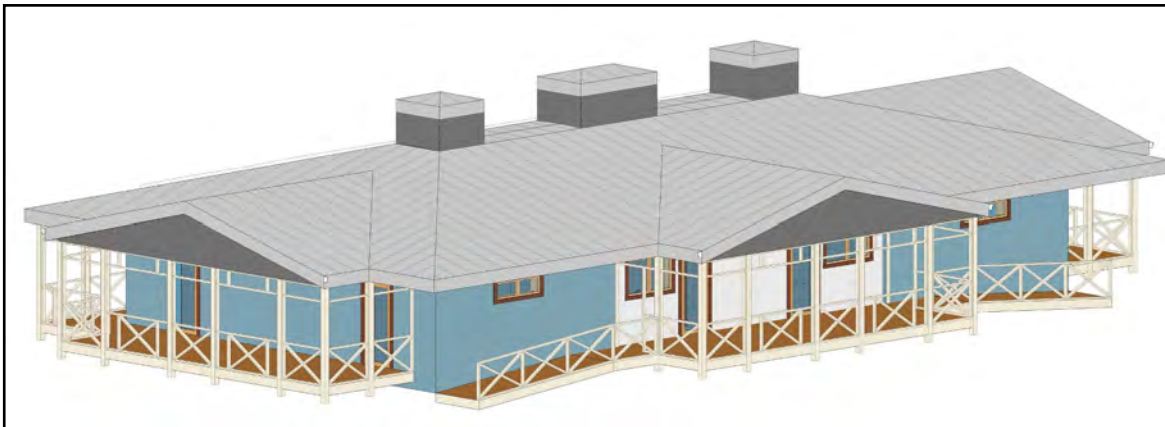
Top.. Discovery Club children with day old chicks. All the hens have names - this is Ghetto Girl.

Above. Visiting nursery school children gathering lettuce to feed the ducks.

Center left. Students from Stuart Manor Primary School planting vegetables. Five primary schools now have school gardens.

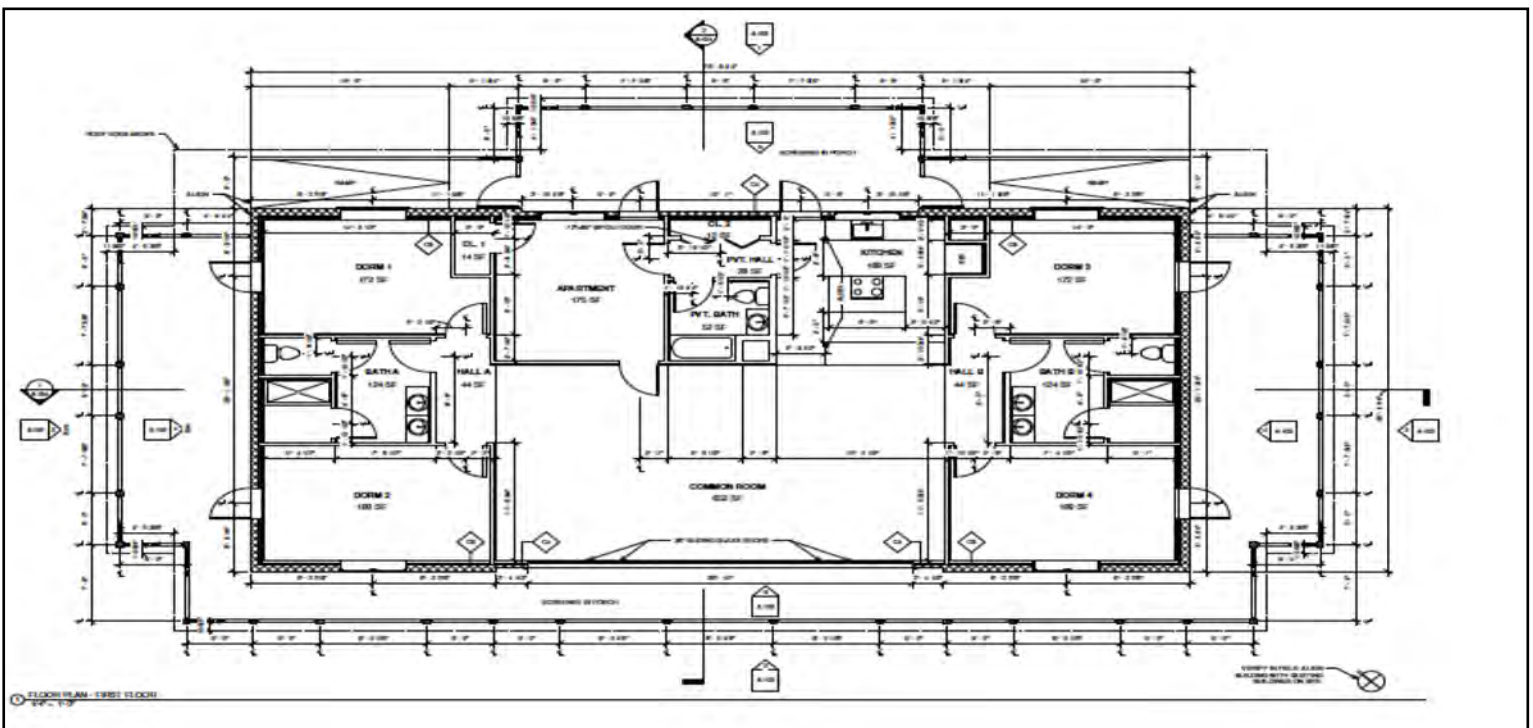
THE MARJORIE M. CARLSON CHILDREN'S SHELTER

1. The shelter will accommodate children taken into care by the state as well providing a temporary home for young people judged to be at risk by the local authority. The facility could further be used to hold the weekend counseling sessions for teenagers we used to call "slumberfests". Currently children in care are moved to Nassau.
2. The concept drawing (below) is the work of Matthew Lee. Working drawings are being prepared by the Ministry of Works' architects in Nassau.
The shelter will be built at the Hoopers Bay Campus and will incorporate extensive roof overhangs for shade and chimneys to create an internal airflow. The shelter will be set in a garden. Some labour will be provided by Starve Poverty volunteers and some will be contracted locally.
3. The entire structure will be off the grid. We have been offered a donation of the necessary solar hardware from a German manufacturer.
4. A Starve Poverty International member has promised a donation \$60,000 in matching funds. The Foundation will provide a further \$60,000. The estimated final cost will be in the region of \$250,000. We hope to begin work on the project by the beginning of May 2017.
5. The shelter will be operated by Department of Social Services personnel and will be supported by the Foundation.
6. The shelter will be named in honour of the late Marjorie M. Carlson who was a founding member and past president of The Exuma Foundation.



7. The Children's Shelter project is supported by our partners in The Exuma Foundation of Canada to whom we are grateful.

Anyone interested in this project please contact Chris at cjkettel@gmail.com



THE BAHAMAS EDUCATION PROJECT

We have outlined this project in previous newsletters. Bill Sanford visited Farmers Cay School some years ago and noted the problem for the teacher in working across several grades. Bill donated computers and connected the school to a US based learning company. This approach allows the student to proceed through the curriculum at his or her own pace and informs the teacher of progress.

The experiment had encouraging results and Bill decided to develop the experiment on the mainland.

What follows is Bill's summary of where the project stands.

The Bahamas Education Project seeks to bring modern digital technology to the primary school classrooms of Exuma. Through the addition of computers, educational software and teacher training the program delivers a personalized/ mastery based approach to learning.

Project Mission

To better prepare primary school students academically to succeed in secondary school and graduate from High School.

Vision

We envision a day when a modern and challenging educational approach will fully engage each student to stretch and broaden their academic horizons. Better preparing them for a productive life ahead.

Project Structure/Organization

The project is a Public/Private Partnership, which includes all interested and concerned stakeholders that recognize the importance of strong primary schools in developing literate, productive Bahamian citizens of tomorrow. Partners include: The Exuma Foundation; Bahamas Ministry of Education; BTC (internet providers to the Bahamas); Google Training and Technical support; CompUDopt (a U. S. non profit providing technology access and education to under-served children).

Critical Challenge

Bahamas' low secondary school graduation rate. Fewer than half of the students that enter secondary school graduate. One of the main causes being cited is below average K – 6 academic achievement levels .

Project Approach

Install in the primary schools an affordable, sustainable digital education system that provides personal computers, and educational software applications. This will better prepare the students in the core curriculum subjects of reading, language and math, as well as develop new 21st Century learning skills.

Project Status/Timeline

Current Status- 150 computers with educational software are in place at nine primary schools throughout the Exumas. Teacher training has been completed. On going technical and software support is in place. Internet service to the schools was interrupted by Hurricane Matthews, October 6,2016, and currently is inadequate and sporadic throughout the Exuma School District.

Spring 2017 plans- employ at five primary school sites computer servers as a work around to inadequate internet service.

2017/2018 Plans - add computer servers to 4 additional primary schools;add student computers to primary schools as needed. Start a pilot program at the middle/high school student level to address student remedial needs.

2018/2019 Plans - complete the Exuma primary school computer build out and establish a similar program at the Exuma School District's secondary school.

Current Organizational Need

We are seeking an additional strategic partner for our Public/Private Partnership to help facilitate the financing of the build out of the project. Currently the project is fully financed through the 2016/2017 school year. The additional partner must share our same vision and goals and be willing to take an active role in the Partnership.