

THE EXUMA FOUNDATION - MARCH 2016

63rd National Family Island & Regatta Junior Sailing



"Focusing on Our Youth"



26th - 30th April 2016

In view of the success of the Junior Sailing Programme in Exuma it has been decided to hold the National Junior Championships as a separate event from the main Regatta. This year the event will be held over the Easter weekend with teams from several other islands competing with native boats and Sunfish.

Visiting junior sailors will stay at the Foundation dormitories and be provided with transport to the venue.

The sloop pictured left is the prize winning "Termite" from Staniel Cay that has been acquired by the Exuma Sailing Club. Termite will sail in all races in her class at the Regatta 2016.

This illustration has been used as the graphic for the official 2016 tee shirt.

The Exuma Foundation offices are the headquarters of the National Family Island Regatta Committee.

FIBI BOOKS

The Family Island Book Initiative under the direction of Danielle Esposito supported by Joe Feracci continues to do extraordinary work in putting books into schools on Exuma. (Below some students at Rokers Point with part of the class library.)

All of the schools on the mainland and schools in the Exuma Cays have libraries which are restocked on a regular basis.

Although the Exuma Foundation provides help with transport and clearing Customs, etc. it is FIBI that raises the funds and provides the books.

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyIslandBookInitiative>



Members of the Exuma Sailing Club (above) at the commissioning of "Termite" held at the Peace and Plenty. We are grateful to Reg Smith (president), Dallas Knowles and Joel Morton who operate the sailing club.

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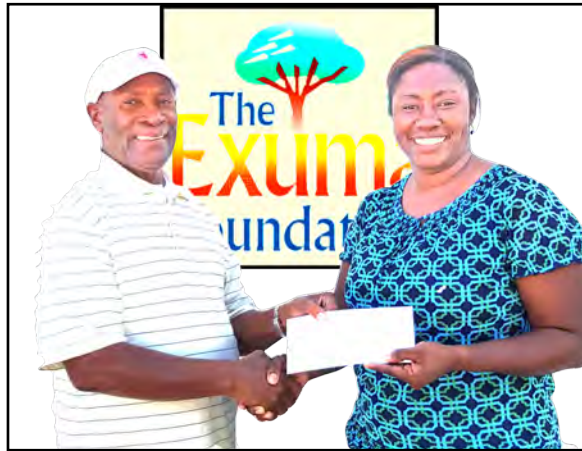


The Exuma Foundation makes grants to other local organizations which have proved to be making a definite contribution to the community.

General Manager Danny Strachan pictured here presenting cheques to Jabina Curry of Exuma Girl Guides and Magonal Morley (far right) who is chairperson of the Exuma Branch of the Bahamas Cancer Society.

An annual grant is also made to the Police Community Youth Band.

GIRL GUIDES & CANCER SOCIETY GRANTS



STARVE POVERTY INTERNATIONAL



In February Exuma Foundation trustee Ron Frazer led a team of volunteers from Starve Poverty International to Exuma. The team replaced the old asbestos roof from a small house in Rolleville. On a previous visit all the windows were replaced and other renovations made.

SPI continues to maintain the Emergency Shelter in Rolleville. On their next visit in March SPI will complete a wheelchair accessible bathroom of a young man also from Rolleville.

SPI continue to keep our school shoe bank stocked.

The Exuma Foundation and the people of Exuma are indebted to the SPI volunteers for the help they have brought to many people in need over 20 years.

BEEES & TURTLES

The original 12 bee nuclei that arrived last summer are now 20 flourishing hives. The colonies are in four locations on the island. The success of this venture is



entirely due to the work of our environmental teacher, Catherine Booker and our beekeeping consultant Ted Dennard.

Recently the young people in the Discovery Club harvested some honey and sold it at the Exuma Garden Club Fair. (3, 4 and 5) (In photo 5 a Discovery Club member is extolling the merits of Exuma Honey to a reluctant potential customer.)



(Photos 1 and 2) Students from George Town Primary School at a turtle tagging operation. The aim of such 'face to face' encounters is to make the children more aware of the significance of the wildlife around them and the need for conservation.



THE EXUMA FOUNDATION

The following is a brief summary of the projects The Foundation is presently engaged with and several initiatives that are being given consideration, We welcome your comments and ideas.

Among other functions The Education Resource Centre provides copying, and laminating facilities for the schools as well as copier repairs and in several cases copier replacements. Teachers are welcome to use the Centre's facilities. The Foundation's bus is available for field trips for local and visiting schools.

EFB provides a home for The College of The Bahamas and operates its own adult education initiatives and remedial classes through the Education Resource Centre.

EFB provides a home and support for the Ministry of Education's School for Exceptional Students. Support includes equipment and transport. Eight young people are currently enrolled who would otherwise be housebound.

Initiatives in sustainable agriculture are underway including beekeeping and the reintroduction of former staples such as breadfruit, mangoes, etc. The Foundation funds a teacher of environmental studies who works full time in the schools. School gardens are being developed in six primary schools on Exuma.

Social Outreach (Starve Poverty International) is a collaboration between a faith based group from New Jersey, local volunteers and The Foundation. The aim here is to bring help to those most in need, especially where school age children are involved. Seven complete homes have been built, many homes provided with bathrooms, roofs repaired and other emergency help provided to those in need. The Foundation operates and maintains a six unit emergency shelter in Rolleville (formerly "The Old Folks Home"). Once a month 50 families in need receive a substantial gift of basic food supplies. EFB maintains a bank of school shoes. The Foundation works closely with The Department of Social Services.

EFB provides accommodation for visiting schools, religious groups, research scientists, etc. at its 50 bed dormitories. A commercial kitchen is available.

EFB's campus auditorium is available for public meetings, seminars, etc. No charges are made to government entities or charities.

EFB operates a scholarship fund for Exumian students attending The College of The Bahamas. (More than \$500,000 has been donated to this fund since inception from the Murray DeYoung Educational Foundation.) The progress of scholars is closely monitored.

An effort is now underway to make the Foundation a dependable hurricane shelter with backup electricity, water and emergency supplies. The shelter could be operational for the 2016 season.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of establishing a children's home/refuge on the Campus. Starve Poverty International and the Department of Social Services have expressed an interest in supporting such an initiative.

The Foundation has an agreement in principal with The College of The Bahamas and the Caribbean Development Bank to establish a computer centre with the capability to connect with the College live thus providing a wide range of tertiary educational opportunities especially in banking and tourism.