



NEWSLETTER

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Hurricane Dorian Relief Efforts

Hurricane Dorian was an unprecedented disaster for The Bahamas, and although Exuma was not directly impacted, our island has received hundreds of displaced Abaconians and Grand Bahamians looking for a new start. We applaud the different groups in our community that have stepped up to provide food, clothing, counseling, housing, school supplies, and jobs for evacuees in the immediate weeks after the storm.

The Exuma Foundation has kept its response focused on providing longer term housing for families and providing lunches for evacuee students. Thanks to several generous donors, we will be able to cover the cost of nearly 2000 lunches for 50 displaced students on the island at George Town Primary and LN Coakley High Schools. *Continued on page 4.*



EDUCATION

First Math and Reading Summer Camp a success!

A new approach to helping students “catch up” in school was introduced this July through a 5-week summer camp. The camp’s mission was to provide remedial help in math and reading to the campers in an entertaining and fun environment. A combination of proven literacy techniques and personalized online learning for numeracy was led by Exuma Learning with Technology teacher, Mrs. Crystal Ferguson. Twenty students participated ranging from grades two to five. Mrs. Ferguson was supported by an assistant and four interns greatly increasing the student to teacher ratio. All campers were assessed at the beginning to set individual goals for learning, and were encouraged throughout the program with weekly achievement prizes. As a result, many students clearly gained confidence and became engaged in their own learning process. Each day time spent on reading and math skills was complemented by fun activities in arts, crafts and gardening.

The biggest improvements were seen in numeracy, with students learning satisfactorily at least 5 new skills and as many as 10 over the 5-week program. As a result of daily reading and sight word



games and lessons, 50% of the students who were reading below their grade level improved to the next grade level. By the end of the program, each student had been exposed to more than 1000 sight words.

Special thanks to Peter and Analia Whitehead, Smitty's Convenience Store and Aliv for their generous support of this program.

Reading and Math Summer Camp Team: (LEFT TO RIGHT) Makayla Sands (intern), Kazmyn Smith (intern), Crystal Ferguson (lead teacher), D'Andra Miller (teaching assistant), Nakiesha Rolle (intern), and Brittny Williams

ENVIRONMENT

GROW Exuma Summer Work/Study

For the third year in a row, our GROW Exuma program sponsored a group of high school students and recent high school graduates to participate in our summer work/study program. During the month of July, the participants learned about permaculture and developed their own solution-based project contributing to the knowledge of sustainable practices on the island. This year students completed projects on food waste, climate change awareness, improvement of organic matter content in soil, and the use of compost tea as a natural fertilizer.



MacZee Nixon, Karla Farquarson, Wynter Curtis, and Shamar Rolle participated in the GROW Exuma summer work/study program.

Conch research update

In August, the conch research team, led by Dr. Megan Davis and Laura Issac of Florida Atlantic University/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, completed the first phase of conch restoration studies in Moriah Harbour Cay National Park. The project included an internship for Carlton "CJ" Taylor for the summer thanks to support from the Richard Schneider Trust. The team visited the research site routinely throughout the summer to monitor the conch and their habitat in a large enclosure. The results of this work were recently presented at the GCFI Conference in the Dominican Republic. Special thanks to Dive Exuma for their assistance!



BACK ROW: Gabriel Delgado (Florida Fish & Wildlife), Teddy Clarke (Fisheries Officer), Laura Issac (FAU), Basil Minns (local conservationist), Ivan Ferguson (Island Administrator), Jonathan Robinson (Dive Exuma), FRONT ROW: Tamara and Mya Robinson (Dive Exuma), Megan Davis (HBOI), Carlton Taylor II (intern), Phoenix Robinson (volunteer), and Catherine Booker (Exuma Found).



LEFT: Daniel Sawyer, Treyvine Neymour, and CJ Taylor with Beech Hill Farm volunteers. RIGHT: Rock climbing in Acadia National Park.

Exuma to Maine Study Trip

A group of three GROW Exuma apprentices were given a special travel opportunity to visit Maine this summer through support from the Sow My Dream Project. The one-week study trip led by Catherine Booker, Exuma Foundation Educator and Program Manager, was focused on exploring “green enterprise” opportunities in the context of sustainable farming, fishing, and national parks. The group stayed at the College of The Atlantic (COA) on Mt. Desert Island, where they were able to experience daily farm-to-table meals and live in a solar powered and waste-free dormitory. Activities included visits and volunteer experiences at COA’s Beech Hill and Peggy Rockefeller Farms, climbing and hiking in Acadia National Park, and tours of the University of Maine’s Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research and the Schoodic Institute. Everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July celebrations in Bar Harbor, and the hospitality of Friends of Exuma in sailing and boating activities around the coastal waters and small islands of Maine. To hear more about their adventures, [watch their own presentation here!](#) (PW: maine) Many thanks to the Spindrift Foundation and our hosts in Maine for making this trip unforgettable!

In the News...

The Exuma Foundation has recently closed the GoFundMe campaign that was set up to aid the workers left without pay after the ill-fated Fyre Festival in 2017. The campaign was successful in raising over \$78,000, primarily due to the popularity of the Netflix documentary about the now infamous event, *FYRE: The Greatest Party that Never Happened*. The Exuma Foundation has been working with a local committee including members of the Exuma Chamber of Commerce and local church leaders to identify and manage distribution of funds to workers before the holidays. The committee was informed of the outstanding payments to workers by Fyre Festival organizers who felt compelled to contribute and promote the fundraiser. With both US and Bahamian non-profit organizations, the Exuma Foundation was glad to assist in this effort. The local committee is committed to distributing 100% of the funds raised by the GoFundMe campaign to the workers who are owed.

Exuma Foundation for the locals



Created January 22, 2019 | Community & Neighbors

2019 Community Campus Report

The Exuma Foundation campus is used extensively by the local community for a variety of gatherings and purposes. Below is a snapshot of the groups that have benefited from access to our facilities in 2019.

Ministry of Tourism Bahamahost training

Ministry of Education

- professional development workshops
- principal meetings
- competitions
- BJC and BGCSE exams

Water and Sewerage Corporation training

Royal Bahamas Police recruitment exams

Administrators Office

- Heads of Department meetings
- Emergency Planning trainings

Customs Department training

Airport Authority training and exams

National Training Agency job readiness training

Ministry of Health food handlers certification

National Training Agency job readiness training

Bahamas Development Bank interviews

Bahamas National Trust Discovery Club

Exuma Petals Club for Girls

Girl Guides

School field trips

Exuma Garden Club meetings and fair

National Family Island Regatta committee

Exuma Cares/Exuma Disaster Relief Fund

Family Island Book Initiative Book Fair

Church, Mothers and Fathers Day receptions

Wedding receptions

Baby showers

Christmas parties

Sip and Paint evening

Leap Ahead Learning graduation

Exuma Christian Academy job readiness training

Bahamas Telecommunication Company seminar



Hurricane Dorian Relief continued.

The need for affordable, long-term housing is critical. We are working with The Sandals Foundation to complete renovations of the 6-unit Rolleville Shelter, and are pursuing government approval to move forward with the conversion of the unused medical clinics to apartments. We sincerely thank the donors who supported these efforts thus far. If you would like to contribute or would like more information, please contact us directly or [through our website](#).

OUR TEAM

Danny Strachan Acting Managing Director

Catherine Booker Program Manager & Educator

Shequita Clarke Operations Assistant

Vincent Burnside Repairs & Maintenance Manager

We welcome visitors to our campus! Please feel free to stop by to say hello or [schedule a tour](#) which includes our nature trail and backyard farm with GROW Exuma. You can contact us anytime!

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