

THE EXUMA FOUNDATION - MAY 2018

MOVING FORWARD At their March meeting the trustees of the Exuma Foundation USA accepted the resignation of Paul LeFevre as president following his move away from Exuma. Trustees thanked Paul for his dedicated service over the years. He will remain as treasurer of the US Foundation. Harry Carlson was elected president and so continues the work started some twenty years ago by his late wife, Marjorie. Harry takes over at a time of change for the Foundation and where there is a need for someone with knowledge of Exuma and who can provide steady leadership as we transition. Chris Kettel will retire as president of the Bahamian Foundation effective 31st August of this year. The Board have contracted with Robert Stitch to become CEO (see brief bio below) effective September 1st 2018. Danny Strachan will remain as facilities manager.



Rob Stitch is the son in law of Paul and Betty Smith (Smitty's) and currently the principal of St. Andrew's International School in Nassau. Rob was previously the Senior Vice Principal and Educational Consultant for the English Schools Foundation in Hong Kong and has wide experience in administration and education both in The Bahamas and abroad. We are fortunate to have found someone with his background and proven ability.

The trustees of the US and Bahamian Boards welcome Rob Stitch to The Exuma Foundation and wish him well in growing our institution into the future. If you are in Exuma after the end of August please visit the Campus and introduce yourself to Rob.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS The University has begun the process of reestablishing a presence on Exuma. Jenny Kettel is acting as a volunteer coordinator until other arrangements are made.

The University is cooperating with the Foundation and The Ministry of Education to develop the Computer Learning Project initiated by Bill Sanford. A case is being made for the appointment of a full time teacher to manage the project.

THANK YOU I wish to thank everyone who has been involved with The Exuma Foundation from inception and those who worked with me before that to establish the Exuma Education Resource Centre. I particularly remember Basil Minns and the late Bob Hyde whose discussions with Stan Benjamin started what was later to become the Exuma Foundation and to District Education Officer Jackson McIntosh who had the idea for a Resource Centre and took the necessary steps to make it happen. My thanks also to John and Heidi Rabel who created the campus of today from a few dilapidated buildings and together with Mary Tiedeman developed the two levels and the landscaping.

Exuma will always owe a debt of gratitude to Marge Carlson who recognized the possibilities and worked tirelessly with others to establish the Exuma Foundation USA and helped to facilitate the generous gift of the campus by Stan Benjamin and his family.

I believe we are set to carry this experiment in education and community development to another level. I wish everyone well.

Chris Kettel

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In May students and staff from the Exuma School for Exceptional Learners situated on our campus made a trip to a Special Olympics event held in Nassau. They had previously made a successful trip to a meet on Eleuthera.

Our thanks to Chester Cooper, MP for Exuma, for his contribution which underwrote the team's travelling costs.



GOLD MEDALLIST SOFTBALL THROW

Fourteen year old Precious Ching. Precious has been with us since she was five.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



"Grow Exuma" student Bromontae Rolle picking tomatoes in the shade house at the high school.

Below: Students at Stuart Manor Primary School harvesting carrots from the school garden.



Discovery Club members with origami sharks they have made as a club activity.



Above. Catherine Booker continues to operate a thriving National Trust Discovery Club as well as her work in all the schools. Field trips during which children are brought into contact with their environment and introduced to the idea of stewardship are ongoing.

These Primary School children are discovering Moriah Harbour Cay National Park and why it is important to them.

Below young people harvesting honey. Catherine's work has drawn international attention. There may be a cottage industry in the future involving selling our bees as they are free of parasites and disease and work hard.





Here Ron Frazer of Starve Poverty International makes a donation of \$30,000 to the fund. Additionally SPI organized the team who designed and completed the roof in nine days - from dawn into the night by floodlight. Exuma continues to be indebted to this group of dedicated people who have brought help and hope to many. Thank you.

Above. This is the full team with the Shelter roof near completion. Because of the span the roof structure had to be redesigned and trusses built on the site and manhandled up to the roof. All this with very little time. Vince Urbank, Paul Bush and Ron Coleand were the engineers who solved the design problem and the team supplied the manpower.

Work on the facility is now halted until we have an understanding with the Department of Social Services that they will be responsible for the staffing and operation.

Fund raising to complete the final stages of construction continues.

Anyone interested in the final push please contact us.

On their November visit the SPI team will carry out renovations on the Rolleville Emergency Shelter. The shelter is owned by government and operated by The Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Social Services.

THE EXUMA SAILING CLUB



The Exuma Sailing Club led by Dallas Knowles continues to be a success with an active membership of thirty young people.

The team have participated in all the local events on Exuma as well as the National Regatta and Regattas on Eleuthera and Long Island

Left. The Club has acquired a number of Optimist Prams which will be used to introduce younger children to sailing. The prams are safe and easy to maintain. This is the storage area near the Navy Base.

The Exuma Sailing Club has been supported by the Exuma Foundation ever since its inception three years ago. The Foundation has helped with the purchase of boats and ongoing repairs,



Above: The team at prize giving at the National Regatta.

Left: Scholarship and One Bahamas at Barreterre,

One Bahamas was donated by the late Sir Durwood Knowles who was an Olympic gold medallist in the 1964 games and a past Commodore of the National Family Island Regatta.

The names "Scholarship" and "One Bahamas" emphasize the broader aims of the Club.

