

Abaco Strong

Enabling Rebuilding of Sustainable Communities in Abaco

Overview

On September 1st, 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a slow moving category 5 storm, wreaked unimaginable devastation in Abaco. Dorian is regarded as the worst hurricane in the history of the Bahamas.

Countless NGOs, emergency teams, and individuals reached out during the immediate aftermath of the unprecedented storm. Abaco Strong was formed by leaders in the community for the purpose of coordinating long term rebuilding efforts.

Our Mission is to enable the building of prosperous, sustainable, and environmentally responsible communities. We are working closely with community leaders to understand the needs of families and individuals impacted by Hurricane Dorian, and to help them to move forward and rebuild their lives.



Home Repair Program

It is estimated that 90% of the homes in Treasure Cay were destroyed or uninhabitable after the hurricane. In February 2020, Abaco Strong was able to bring a team of experienced carpenters and tradesmen to make several of the resident's homes inhabitable again.

The COVID19 pandemic temporarily delayed our home repair initiative, however, we have resumed the program and are working with local contractors in Abaco to repair the homes of Bahamian resident's in the Treasure Cay Township.

The applicants homes are in various states of disrepair, and the projects have included roof repair, mold remediation, drywall, electric, plumbing, windows and door replacement, and more. Priority is given to elderly residents, single parents, and families with small children. Our goal is to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the residents of Treasure Cay.

We would like thank *Global Giving* and the many private donors who contribute funding for this important program.



Abaco Strong is a 501(c)(3) organization,
EIN # 84-4453228

For more information, contact:
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or visit our website:
<https://abacostrong.org>

Community Garden



Food security continues to be a critical issue since Hurricane Dorian struck in 2019, and Abaco meets the criteria to be defined as a food desert with limited access to fresh, nutrient dense food. Hydroponic and Aquaponic Gardening Systems offer sustainable and resilient solutions to the current climate.

Abaco Strong will be constructing an Aquaponic Community Garden in Treasure Cay that will act as a demonstration garden while providing organic vegetables for participating community members. The aquaponic system consists of a 410 Gallon Fish Tank, and 34 Aquaponics Grow Rafts that hold 600 plants.

Abaco Strong is partnering with *The Blue Atlas Project*, to build the aquaponic garden facility, and to enlist and train members of the community to participate and manage the facility.

Sleep Soundly Abaco

Many of our residents had been sleeping on the floor since Hurricane Dorian struck, and we recognize the importance of a good nights sleep to well-being and productivity. In November of 2020, ninety bed frames and mattresses, along with pillows, sheets and blankets were distributed to residents in Treasure Cay and the surrounding communities.

In phase II of this project in February of 2021, Abaco Strong acquired and distributed 230 mattresses and bed frames to residents in Northern and Central Abaco, including Treasure Cay, Crown Haven, Grand Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Spring City, Murphy Town, Blackwood, Fire Road, Marsh Harbour, Central Pines, Dundas Town, Sandy Point, Coopers Town and Moores Island.

Many thanks to The Lyford Cay Foundation, TCCF, The Rotary Club of The Bahamas, Bahamas Ferries, and City Furniture who have made this program possible. We can all sleep a bit better tonight knowing that our friends in Abaco now have a clean and comfortable place to sleep.



Beach Restoration and Sustainability

Following the receding of floodwaters from Hurricane Dorian, the area surrounding the Treasure Cay Public Beach area suffered severe erosion leaving a series of sink holes that contain standing water. If not remediated, this can leave the area susceptible to even greater erosion in the event of another catastrophic sequence.



Sink Holes Created by Hurricane Dorian at Treasure Cay Public Beach

The sink holes retain standing water creating a health and safety hazard for the residents of Northern Abaco.

Abaco Strong is working with Local and National Government Authorities to repair the damage and to restore the area for public use.

Abaco Youth Baseball/Softball

The families in Abaco have been through a lot in the past two years, and opportunities have become little to none for the children of the island. As the dust began to settle from the hurricane and the pandemic, the members of the community in Central Abaco took it upon themselves to create something special for our youth. With only 4 gloves, 2 bats, a bucket of baseballs, and hearts filled with passion, the Abaco Youth Baseball League was created. The program has grown exponentially with over 130 children, ages 4 - 14, participating in practices on Saturday mornings at the Murphy Town Softball field. Practices will soon begin in Coopers Town, and we have plans of expanding the program throughout Abaco.

Lessons learned through team sports, such as the value of team work and discipline, will help the Youth of Abaco to develop lifelong skills that will prepare them to face challenges as they grow into responsible adults.



On the heels of a natural disaster and a worldwide pandemic, the league faces many challenges. All of the structures, (bleachers, fence, backstop, dugouts, bathrooms, and concession stand) at the field were destroyed during Hurricane Dorian's wrath. We have been fortunate to receive donations of practice uniforms and some equipment to jump-start the program. However, in order to give each child an equal opportunity to learn the game and improve their skills, much more is needed.

With the help of The Rotary Club Bahamas, The Lyford Cay Foundation, Global Giving, and many individual donors, we are providing scholarships and equipment, as well as working to restore the facilities and ensure the continued success of the program.



Troy Feaste, Founder and President of The Abaco Youth Baseball/Softball League working with one of our future baseball superstars

Paint the Town

Bahamian Residents are painting the town in Treasure Cay! A huge thank you to Behr Paint Company for their generous donation of 100 gallons of exterior paint and painting supplies. The resident of Treasure Cay entered their names for a random drawing to receive such lovely Caribbean colors as Paradise Sky, Rise and Shine, and Guava Jelly.



Check out the colorful results!

Backyard Farms

In response to the urgent need for lowering food imports and household food bills in these economically hard times, the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources has embarked on a 'Backyard Farming Program' for householders in The Bahamas. Abaco Strong is supporting this government program by providing shovels, seeds, soil enhance-ments, and educational materials for those families participating. We hope to start a composting program soon.

Community Clean Up



Abaco Strong sponsored a series of four clean up days in conjunction with Treasure Cay Township local government. Our amazing volunteers mowed, weeded and trimmed around the main road, and removed over 50 loads of debris. Volunteers also provided sandwiches and refreshments to keep our workers happy and hydrated. Thanks to all who pitched in, Treasure Cay is looking good.



Christmas in Abaco

Even COVID 19 cant stop Christmas from coming! Presents were distributed along with homemade cookies and treats prepared by the ladies of Treasure Cay. "The Big Man Himself" made a special visit on Christmas Morning to the children in Treasure Cay and the surrounding communities bringing big smiles all around.



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