



Photo by Gary Lickle

TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY
BAHAMAS RECOVERY FUND

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2020

Hurricane Dorian was the strongest hurricane on record to strike the Bahamas and is regarded as the worst natural disaster in the country's history. The slow, monstrous Category 5 storm made landfall at Elbow Cay during Labor Day weekend 2019 and battered the Abaco Islands in the northern Bahamas for 24 hours straight. Dozens of communities suffered catastrophic damage, with most structures leveled or swept to sea, and thousands of residents left homeless and without power, water and basic supplies.

In collaboration with the Town of Palm Beach, the Town of Palm Beach United Way started a Bahamas Recovery Fund in early September to support long-term recovery efforts in the Bahamas. The fund collected a total of \$689,000 from more than 250 donors.

A Bahamas Recovery Fund Committee was formed to review funding requests and decide how best to distribute the donations. The committee distributed the entirety of the fund to six organizations. Those organizations are using the grants to rebuild docks, houses, community centers, shelters and water systems in Man-O-War Cay, Treasure Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Hope Town, Coopers Town, Cedar Harbor, Wood Cay, Mount Hope, Fox Town and Crown Haven.

In this report you will find details on the rebuilding and recovery efforts by each grant recipient — efforts that would not have been possible without the generosity and compassion of so many remarkable contributors.



SUPPORTERS

The Town of Palm Beach United Way thanks these generous donors for helping provide aid and bring hope to our Bahamian neighbors.

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*3 Anonymous Donors

SPECIAL THANKS

to the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties for partnering with the Town of Palm Beach United Way to provide an additional \$206,000 in funding for two of our Bahamas Recovery Fund grant recipients.

BAHAMAS RECOVERY FUND COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS

Keith Beaty
Jay Boodheshwar

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gail Coniglio
Gary Lickle
Bill Paty
Matthew Smith
Cynthia Sulzberger

BY THE NUMBERS

Total Raised

\$689,000

Little Abaco

\$171,000

Man-O-War Cay

\$125,000

Coopers Town

\$115,000

Green Turtle Cay

\$100,000

Hope Town

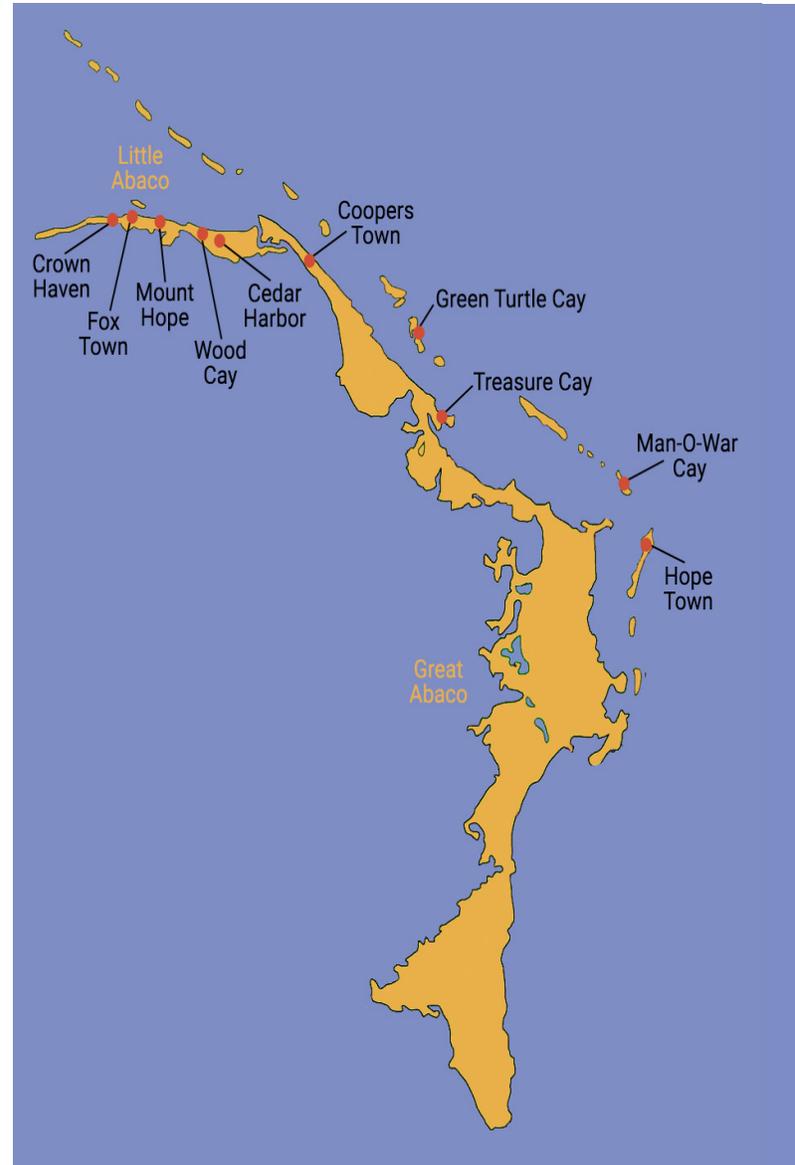
\$90,000

Treasure Cay

\$88,000

ABACO ISLANDS

The Abaco Islands are in the northern Bahamas, about 180 miles from the South Florida coast. They comprise of the main islands of Great Abaco and Little Abaco, along with smaller barrier cays. Hurricane Dorian knocked out power, water, telecommunications and sewage services on the Abacos, and killed at least 60 people.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

In total, the Town of Palm Beach United Way received 34 project proposals from 12 organizations requesting more than \$10 million in funding.

NORTHERN ABACOS RELIEF AND REBUILD

Grant: \$171,000

Project: To repair 153 homes with minor and major damage in five settlements in the Northern Abacos. Work includes replacing and/or repairing roofs, drywall, doors and windows.

Area: The project will benefit families in the villages of Cedar Harbor, Wood Cay, Mount Hope, Fox Town and Crown Haven. The settlements are located far away from major cities, have little tourism and few second home buyers. Residents are primarily working people who provide the majority of seafood to the rest of the Abacos, and serve as guides to larger resort towns.

“ As dedicated fishermen and service workers, these local Bahamians are hard-working, God-fearing and compassionate individuals. This impact will allow the local residents to remain in their homes and continue to build their lives in these communities.

~ Marie Reny, Northern Abacos Relief and Rebuild ”



The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties contributed a **\$171,000** matching grant to Northern Abacos Relief and Rebuild to fully fund the **\$342,000** project.

MAN-O-WAR RELIEF FUND

Grant: \$125,000

Project: To rebuild the public dock in Man-O-War Cay. Funding covers materials and labor.

Area: Man-O-War Cay is a small, narrow island about 2.5 miles long in the Abaco region of the Bahamas. The island is famous for its boating and fishing industries.

“ This close-knit island community has had quite a lot of experience recovering from many past hurricanes but Dorian was a totally different animal. The full committee cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your help to rebuild our little island. We will forever be grateful.

~ Michael Albury, Man-O-War Relief Fund ”



GRANT RECIPIENTS

EAGLES WINGS' FOUNDATION

Grant: \$115,000

Project: To restore the Library/Computer Lab/Command Center in Coopers Town. Work includes purchasing new computers, televisions, radios, a satellite dish, a generator and a sink and mini-stove. It also includes installing a water storage system and mold remediation.

Area: Coopers Town is the most populated city of the northern Abacos. The library/command center in Coopers Town serves as a multi-functional resource center and an Emergency Operations Center for the entire North District of Abaco. It is now also serving as a temporary school for about 50 students.

“ This funding will make a huge difference. It will allow the center to become a technology hub where children and adults gather to learn and grow. It will also provide a central location for emergency personnel to operate from.

~ Scott Lewis, Eagles Wings' Foundation ”



GREEN TURTLE CAY FOUNDATION

Grant: \$100,000

Project: To repair the water system in Green Turtle Cay.

Area: Green Turtle Cay is a small out-island approximately 3 miles long and home to about 500 full-time Bahamian Residents. The cay has several hotels and resorts and is known for its beaches, lobstering and tourism. Green Turtle Cay has a diverse population and harmonious atmosphere that is representative of the Bahamian culture. Many locals work in the tourism industry and are described as laid back, friendly and hospitable.

“ The Green Turtle Cay Foundation and the residents of the Cay are eternally grateful. There are not enough words to describe the heartfelt gratitude from everybody on the island. Palm Beach United Way is a hero in all respects.

~ Patrick C. Koenig, Director of Green Turtle Cay Foundation ”



GRANT RECIPIENTS

HOPE TOWN UNITED

Grant: \$90,000

Project: To construct one temporary dock and three public docks in Hope Town. Funding covers materials and labor.

Area: Hope Town is a small settlement on Elbow Cay, one of the most prominent cays in the Abaco region and where Hurricane Dorian first made landfall. Tourism is an important part of the economy.

“ As Hope Town is only accessible by boat, rebuilding the three central public docks is important as residents, volunteers, skilled labor support and second homeowners return to Hope Town to begin the rebuilding process. The new docks are essential to the community and to economic revitalization on the island.

~ Matt Winslow, Chairman of Hope Town United ”



The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties contributed an additional \$35,000 to Hope Town United to fully fund the \$125,000 project.

TREASURE CAY RECOVERY PROJECT

Grant: \$88,000

Project: To restore and improve the community center in Treasure Cay. Work includes a new generator, roof repair, door and window replacement and labor.

Area: Treasure Cay is a parcel of land on the northernmost section of Great Abaco Island. It has a population of about 1,200. The community center is a central gathering spot and distribution site for food, water and other supplies. It also serves as a hurricane shelter and provides showers and sleeping areas.

“ The community center is a place where local Bahamians and Haitians can go to get all the basic necessities one needs to stay alive. By helping us with funding this effort you are giving people hope, you are giving them some dignity, and you are helping to give them their lives back.

~ Shawn M. Fay, Sr., Treasure Cay Community Foundation ”





Town of Palm Beach United Way

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