



A.B.S.A.R.

Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue

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"So that others may live"



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ABSAR's Barbuda Hurricane Relief Fund Summary

In the early hours of September 6th, 2017, Category 5 Hurricane Irma moved over the island of Barbuda with winds exceeding 155kts. Over 95% of the structures on the island were destroyed or damaged. One fatality was reported and overall property damage has been estimated to have been between US\$150-300 million. After initial emergency response operations were conducted, a mandatory evacuation was ordered a few days later in anticipation of approaching Category 4 Hurricane Jose.

ABSAR was one of the first responders in Barbuda after the storm. The following day we delivered a large supply of food, water, toiletries, medical supplies and emergency personnel to the island. We also assisted with the evacuation of residents by transporting them to family members or shelters in neighboring Antigua. Since all communications on the island were destroyed, ABSAR immediately began sourcing satellite telephones, vhf radios and communication equipment to reestablish emergency communications on the island.



Widespread devastation in Codrington

Thanks to you, our supporters, financial donations began coming in on Day One after the storm. In total, EC\$582,122.91 (US\$218,023.56) was donated to our Barbuda Hurricane Relief Fund. A special thanks to several of you who held fundraisers, hundreds more contributed to our hurricane relief fund. A Blu-Med emergency tent was acquired which was allocated to the International Federation of Red Cross to be used as their temporary headquarters in Codrington. A huge thanks to the Jumby Bay Fund and Mill Reef Fund for this new acquisition.

We also sponsored a number of boat trips taking residents and teams of cleaners back to their homes to assess the damage and clean up the remnants of their homes. We are still working on improving communications on the island and will be sending a team of volunteers over in the next couple of weeks to reestablish marine vhf communications. The remaining funds have been distributed to the various projects which we have highlighted on the following page.

A huge thanks to all of you who supported our efforts, both financially as well as by donating your time and services. Through your help and contributions, we made a significant impact on many peoples lives. We could never have done it without you!

Julie Esty - ABSAR Hurricane Fund Coordinator

ABSAR's Barbuda Projects



ABSAR's new tent which is currently being used by the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross in Codrington. This will be on stand-by for future emergencies and can be used for special events to help generate income for our organization. It is stored in its own trailer and can be redeployed within hours.



Daphne Desuza, the owner of the famous Sweet-Ds ice cream shop, is in the final stages of her rebuild. In the hopes of giving the children of Barbuda a sense of normalcy after the storm, this was one of ABSAR's first projects. After months of hard work, she is now open for business once again.



The first day of school for student Noah Greaux. Island Academy sponsored 5 Barbudan students for the entire year last year. Four have chosen to return to Barbuda. ABSAR's sponsorship is enabling Noah to stay.



The Best Value Supermarket in Codrington suffered a great deal of damage. With the upper level destroyed, owner Juray John is busy rebuilding his lower-level shop and is hoping to be open for business again within the next month or two.



With the exception of a few animals, local farmer, Shiraz Hopkins lost everything during the storm. ABSAR continues to help him to rebuild his coops and his irrigation system, clear his land and purchase new animals. He's also helping to coordinate assistance to other local farmers who also are in need of significant rebuilding.



Retired couple, Joe and Rose Brooks were in their home during the storm. When the eye went overhead, they had to evacuate due to extensive roof damage. We were able to rebuild their roof for them and Rose has just recently been able to return to her newly renovated home.