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BAHAMAS FEEDING NETWORK NEWSLETTER

May
2021

Royal Caribbean Donates \$1.5M in Food

Three years after Royal Caribbean's president and CEO first saw the impact of a feeding program operating out of a crowded cottage in Nassau and vowed to lend support, the cruise line delivered its most generous gift yet – nearly \$1.5 million of food, which includes 647,000 pounds of meat as well as a container of dry food items.

"This is unbelievable, the most amazing gift ever," said Philip Smith, Bahamas Feeding Network (BFN) executive director, actually fighting back tears.

Smith was looking at eight refrigerated containers stacked at Arawak Port, each packed with meat, poultry, seafood and one packed with dry items. It was the first of three shipments expected and followed last year's donation of \$400,000 plus 5,000 turkeys for the

holidays.

"I am speechless," Smith said. "There are no words to express what this means and how many people it will help feed especially knowing that they have had no revenue in the last year because of the pandemic."

After that year of suspension of sailing, the cruise line announced it would resume operations in June and in a novel move, would begin voyages of some of its ships in Nassau, creating homeporting opportunities for The Bahamas. The first of those ships will sail from Nassau on

June 12.

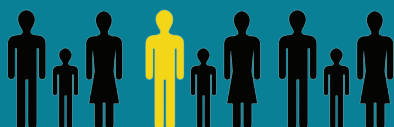
Royal Caribbean International President and CEO Michael Bayley has said publicly many times that Nassau was the cruise line's first destination over 50 years ago and remains its number one

port of call today,



bringing more than one million guests a year to Nassau.

1 in 8
live below the
poverty line



70 Volunteers = **134,400** Volunteer Hours

That close affiliation has created bonds between Royal Caribbean and a number of entities in The Bahamas, including the Bahamas Chambers of Commerce and Employers Confederation, the National Training Agency, LJM Maritime Academy, Music Makers and Fox Hill Original



saw the work of Bahamas Feeding Network volunteers pouring their hearts and energy into preparing, packing and

Congos Junkanoo groups, the Berry Islands Community Centre, the National Food Security Task Force and schools in Grand Bahama and throughout the islands.

But no alliance and no commitment has run deeper than that to the Bahamas Feeding Network.

“We took a team from Royal Caribbean to Moseff house in Fox Hill where we first

distributing hot meals,” said Russell Benford, Vice President, Government Relations, Americas. “We were blown away by what we saw and we have continued to be impressed. We are happy to help in any way we can and are determined to find a way to ramp up that assistance at this time, knowing the need had increased over the last year.”

“We believe in ‘Just Give’ and ‘Just Love’ and Royal Caribbean has been giving and giving and giving, even during challenging times and we cannot express,” said Smith, “how much we in The Bahamas appreciate and love them.”



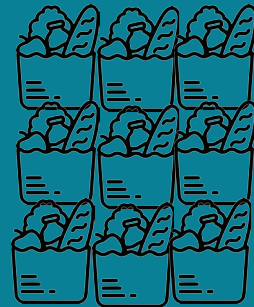
552,000

Fed during Covid-19 pandemic



138,000

Food parcels given



*Yielding
6,900,000
Meals*

Super Value Chief Pledges \$100,000

The nation's leader and chief of the country's largest food chain came together in a rare and possibly unprecedented show of informal unity to pledge support for the Bahamas Feeding Network, the volunteer organization that has provided more than one million hot meals to those in need.

The two men, Dr. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister, and Rupert Roberts, Jr., Super Value Chairman, toured the former Island Seafood warehouse, which converted into a massive distribution centre for the Feeding Network.

“We at Super Value are proud to donate the sum of \$100,000 cash to the Bahamas Feeding Network,” said Roberts. “Philip (Smith) came to see me about two years ago and the commitment we made then was to watch and see what work they did. Today, I am happy to report that we have observed the Bahamas Feeding Network and applaud their efforts which have been almost beyond imagination. Week after week, month after month, they have kept up the good fight, battling this all-too-real plight of hunger in The Bahamas. We are proud to do our part and to make it possible for others to do their part through donations at check-out.”



The Most Honourable Dr. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister; Rupert Roberts, Jr., Chairman of Super Value & Patron BFN & Philip Smith, Executive Director of BFN

In addition to the donation, Roberts announced that all 13 stores throughout Nassau, including Super Value and Quality Supermarkets, would be equipped to accept donations at the time of check-out.

The Bahamas Feeding Network is also working on a sustainable feeding effort, including the introduction of community farming in the northeastern district of New

ALIV Makes Donation to BFN

When Philip Smith learned the Bahamas Feeding Network would be tasked with feeding thousands more, which now included 17 Family Islands and one-third of New Providence, he was very pleased to learn of Aliv's donation.

"Aliv's donation is a testament to the fact that as we give in the way that we should, God shall supply all our needs," he said

"I cannot begin to express how greatly appreciated this donation by ALIV is." "Aliv built this easy to use crowdfunding website for the sole purpose of moving local charity fundraising into the digital age", said Kendrick Delaney, Senior Aliv Business Developer. "This gift \$31,600 was raised through our subscriber plan purchases and other donations raised on TogetherBahamas.com. Similar to

GoFundMe, our site accepts Visa or Mastercard donations from all around the world but is securely hosted in The Bahamas. Aliv stands with the Bahamas Feeding Network and the tremendous amount of work they do for our communities. If you are wanting to help, even if you cannot give monies, sharing a link to their online campaign on your social media goes a long way in helping to reach potential donors around the world."

Along with its donation, ALIV re-started the BFN payment portal, allowing



Robyn Russell of Aliv, Philip Smith, executive director BFN & Kendika Campbell-Moss of Aliv

donors to contribute online by going to TogetherBahamas.com and clicking on Bahamas Feeding Network.



Since appointment to the National Food Distribution Task Force in April 2020, the Bahamas Feeding Network has assumed responsibility for 17 of the nearly 30 inhabited islands.

- Acklins
- Berry Islands
- Bimini
- Cat Island
- Crooked Island
- Exuma & the Cays
- Inagua
- Long Cay
- Long Island
- Mayaguana
- Mangrove Cay
- Rum Cay
- San Salvador
- Central / North/South Andros



Philip Smith, Executive Director BFN; Patricia Minnis, Chairman Super Value Food Store

Providence that includes the areas of Fox Hill and Kemp Road.

According to Smith, BFN, with the assistance of Super Value, will reach out to the Retail Grocers Association to make the effort industry-wide. AML Foods has long supported the Feeding Network, partnering with it for the Feed 5000 Program every holiday season.

'Help Feed' Drive



Super Value President Debra Symonette presents a check for \$12,000 to Bahamas Feeding Network Executive Director Philip Smith. Funds were raised through change donated at the cash register at Super Value stores throughout New Providence as part of an ongoing partnership between Super Value and the Feeding Network.



OUR DONATION TODAY CAN HELP FEED THOUSANDS

Super Value in its commitment of \$100,000 to the Bahamas Feeding Network and help ease the pain of hunger in The Bahamas.

Donation will provide food parcels, every two weeks, to thousands of families whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Our donation at a cashier today! Amount is too large or too small.

Arawak Port Continues Support

President & CFO of Arawak Port Development Limited (APD) Dion Bethell (right) presents a cheque to Philip Smith, executive director of the Bahamas Feeding Network during a visit to APD's office.

"We at Arawak Port Development Limited would like to give you a small token of our appreciation for the good work that you are doing in the community with the Bahamas Feeding Network and encourage you and your team to continue," said Bethell.

"As a non-profit organization, all of the

resources we use come from donations, be it monetary, in-kind or time," said Smith.

"It's truly amazing that we've garnered the backing of



organizations like Arawak Port Development and so many others, who see the benefit of the work we do in the community.



Your donation goes a long way!

Reach out to us today!

Tel: 242.676.2676

www.bahamasfeedingnetwork.org

info@bahamasfeedingnetwork.org

HUNGER HURTS, TOGETHER WE CAN WIPE IT OUT

Founded in 2013 by philanthropist and retired businessman H.E. Frank Crothers, the Bahamas Feeding Network has provided more than one million hot meals. As many as 70 volunteers began by prepping, cooking and packaging hot meals from Moseff House, a small cottage in Fox Hill, donated by the Davis family. When the pandemic forced the temporary end of large gatherings, BFN switched its operations to packing parcels of groceries and later refined that to distribution through its membership of approximately 110 churches, soup kitchens and feeding centers.

Rotary Old Fort, Super Value & BFN Provide Support to H4H



Through a partnership between Rotary Old Fort and Super Value along with a monetary donation from the Bahamas Feeding Network, Hands for Hunger received food vouchers for distribution to 100 families during a presentation at Super Value's Head Office.

The funds were raised through an in-store Super Value stamp drive launched by the Rotary Club of Old Fort which encouraged patrons to donate their stamps at the end of a grocery store visit at the Super Value Mackey Street, Westridge and Winton locations and Quality Supermarkets Cable Beach. For each stamp donated, Super Value matched it doubling its dollar value. Speaking to the partnerships that made the donation possible was Rotary Old Fort president.

"I am happy to say that during the month of January, we were able to collect over \$4,700 worth of stamps including the match from Super Value," said Odette Carey.

From one member of the National Food Distribution Task Force to another, BFN's decision to donate to Hands for Hunger was crystal clear.

"This donation was jumpstarted by an in-store campaign where persons were asked to donate funds at the register. Through the end of 2020, \$12,000 was raised with an additional \$2,000 raised in January which we decided to give to this initiative that Rotary Club of Old Fort was spearheading."