DISCOVERY LAND COMPANY, VOLUME 12



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An Outpouring for the Abacos



Members worldwide pull together for the Discovery Land Company Foundation's unprecedented hurricane-relief efforts. BY BRUCE WALLIN

Christy Nichols gets chills when she thinks back to the first week of September 2019. Hurricane Dorian had just torn through the Bahamas, striking the Abaco Islands with record 185 mph winds. News of the devastation in the Abacos, home to

Discovery's Baker's Bay Club, traveled fast-and prompted an immediate response from Discovery members worldwide. "When the hurricane hit, there was an automatic response from members to reach out and ask,

recalls Nichols, the director

'How can we help?'"

Post Hurricane Dorian CAPS Remainstation MarePossale Thanks 4

of the Discovery Land Company Foundation. "Within the first five days following the hurricane, I had thousands of credit card donations in my email inbox. It was the

most heartwarming demonstration of generosity I've ever witnessed in my life." The outpouring of

support underscored not only the generosity

Reconstruction of the Central Abaco Primary School in Marsh Harbour, on Great Abaco Island

ABACO RELIEF

Discovery FOUNDATION

of Discovery members, but also their trust in the Foundation. Founded in 2007, the organization has a proven track record of funding charities that support children and families



Mike Meldman, George Strait, and John Paul DeJoria at Strait's Abaco Relief concert in Austin. Overall, the Foundation has raised millions for the Abacos.

in need in the areas surrounding Discovery Land Company communities. That mission was vital in the wake of Hurricane Dorian-and Discovery members' responses went far beyond anything Nichols imagined. Members from every Discovery community contributed to the Foundation's Abaco Relief efforts, including a group of children who hosted a lemonade sale for the cause. Even nonmembers heeded the call: "One woman referred her mother's sewing club in a state where we don't even have a property, and the entire sewing club sent checks," Nichols says. In addition to individual donations, communities

across the Discovery portfolio hosted fundraisers for Abaco Relief. At the Troubadour Club. near Nashville, musicians Luke Bryan and Kid Rock were among the participants in a golf tournament supporting the cause. The Madison Club in La Quinta, Calif., also hosted an Abaco Relief tournament, while the Yellowstone Club put on an impromptu fundraiser. "Keith Urban played a benefit concert for Abaco," says Nichols. "That was an amazing surprise. We didn't ask him to do it-he offered." It was another country

music star who staged the biggest fundraiser for Abaco Relief. "I was in the office doing bookkeeping when somebody came in

and said, 'George Strait wants to do a concert,'" recalls Nichols. The event, held eight weeks later at Austin's ACL Live at the Moody Theater, raised \$1.5 million for Abaco Relief in one night. "The

whole event from the beginning to the end was one of the most beautiful collaborations of support, hard work, and heartfelt unity to help, inspired by the leadership and generosity of George Strait,"

Nichols says. Discovery members and teams from all regions, including the Driftwood Golf & Ranch Club, supported with time and funds.

Overall. contributions for Abaco Relief have



Left to right: Brett Hull, Cole Swindell, J. J. Dudum, Luke Bryan, Mike Meldman, and Kid Rock at the Abaco Relief Golf Tournament at Troubadour.

totaled millions. The Foundation is pouring that money into several projects granting both emergency and long-term aid to affected communities in the Abacos and beyond. Discovery leadership and the team at Baker's Bay have been helpful in sharing information about local needs and progress. "Peter Whalen, the general manager of Baker's Bay, has been in frequent communication with us, and Ed Divita has been involved since the first minutes," Nichols says.

The Foundation's first priority was funding programs that were providing food, water, shelter, generators, building

supplies, and more to displaced residents of Great Guana Cay and the surrounding islands. Many of those emergency relief efforts continue to this day. The Foundation is also funding projects that include rebuilding Central Abaco Primary School and other schools to storm-code specifications for use as community shelters, and building on-site staff housing at the hospital in Marsh Harbour, as well as additional housing for storm victims.

Ongoing efforts in Great Guana Cay include building a new public clinic, which will offer medical care to island residents. "We are ready with the funding and plans, but some of it has

been delayed by the need to obtain permits, as well as travel bans-the pandemic really slowed everything down tremendously," Nichols says. "But we've been able to achieve a lot of great things in Abaco, and we

will provide a lot more." Even with all its efforts in the Abacos. the Foundation has not lost sight of its mission to help families in all areas where Discovery operates. "One of the remarkable things that's happened is that

we've been able to run

the entire Abaco Relief

donation effort while

charities that we've

also giving to our known

supported throughout the

years," Nichols says. "As

the needs got stronger,

we got stronger." DL

COMPASSION DURING COVID

The Discovery Land Company Foundation's mission to help children and families in need took on new meaning in 2020. With the onset of the pandemicand the subsequent loss of jobs and income for people worldwide-the Foundation immediately set out to assist local families who were facing food shortages. Director Christy Nichols worked with team members at properties throughout the Discovery portfolio to identify 12 local food banks to support, including the Central Texas Food Bank, the Maui Food Bank, the Heart of the Hamptons, and Post Falls Food Bank in Idaho. Member contributions have also helped fund-and are continuing to support-food-relief efforts in California, Nevada, Tennessee, and the Bahamas.

Welcome to the **Discovery Kids' Corner!**

You can find fun at any Discovery club, and these puzzles are here to prove it. Please help us find missing items from our beach vacation. search for the hidden words in the desert, and guide us back to our campfire for an evening of s'mores and campfire songs. Don't forget to bring your imagination and creativity!





Word Search It's a warm day on the golf course at The Summit Club! Can you find and circle the 10 words or phrases in this puzzle? Look closely–words may be across, down, or diagonal!

