

## St. Croix Foundation for Community Development

### THE CARE FUND

*As an operating Foundation, we are hard at work with our sleeves rolled up to assist with coordinated and collaborative local recovery efforts. Through the incredible gifts that our CARE Fund has received from those near and far, the Foundation is hard at work on a steady and strategic recovery. Here are just a few of the successes and collaborations to date:*



- **Facilitating the shipment and distribution of hundreds of thousands of pounds of food, water, clothing, baby supplies and medical supplies**
- **Sponsoring the shipment and security of over 117,847 pounds of critical relief supplies**
- **Convening nonprofit and public sector partners** including FEMA, Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD), Red Cross, Danish Emergency Management Agency, and many others to facilitate holistic and collaborative community-wide recovery efforts
- **Providing office space, free of charge, to nonprofit organizations displaced by Hurricane Maria** including the Boys and Girls Club and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council so that they can continue providing critical services for our community. We have also afforded countless nonprofit partners the use of our conference room as they strive to get back to work!
- **Building a network of national funders and grassroots philanthropists to support the Virgin Islands and generate resources to help our territory rebuild**, such as the Southeastern Council of Foundations, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, REV!VE USVI, and the VI Bar Association to name just a few.
- Training 50 volunteers to conduct disaster recovery needs assessments with a goal of surveying 2,500 residents to assess the impact of Irma and Maria and help connect individuals who have critical needs to organizations that may be able to help. **Approximately 1 out of every 3 residents who have completed a Needs Assessment Survey have received a referral for critical supplies or services to help them recover!** The data will also more broadly inform the community-wide dialogue about next steps in the recovery process.
- Launching the *Nonprofit Damage and Needs Assessment Survey* to help assess the impact of the storm on St. Croix's nonprofits and determine what resources are necessary to get critical organizations fully operational as they strive to assist our community. **Approximately 60% of the nonprofit organizations and projects which completed the Nonprofit Damages and Needs Assessment Survey received resources or services provided by the St. Croix Foundation to help their organization get back to work serving our community.**



Join us! Together with you, we are committed to relief, recovery, and resiliency now and for the long-haul. Your support will help us continue our immediate and front-line relief efforts while also launching intermediate and long-term recovery and preparedness strategies so that our island community rebuilds stronger than ever.



# The CARE Fund: *Resiliency in Action!*



## March, 2018 Impact Report

Since just days after Hurricane Maria's devastating landfall on St. Croix, St. Croix Foundation has been on the ground leveraging partnerships and philanthropic resources to help our island community recover. In the weeks and months immediately following the disaster, the Foundation focused on coordinating and facilitating front-line relief efforts that supported residents and the crucial nonprofit organizations who serve them. Through collaboration designed to maximize the impact of limited resources, the Foundation's front-line relief efforts focused on assessing and meeting critical, sometimes life-saving, needs.

### The First 100 Days

The Foundation's first report, submitted approximately two and a half months after the disaster, highlighted the launch of our most immediate strategies including **facilitating the shipment and distribution of hundreds of thousands of pounds of food, water, clothing, baby supplies and medical supplies and sponsoring the shipment and security of over 117,847 pounds of critical relief supplies.** At right, Haley Cutler, the Foundation's Disaster Recovery Coordinator, celebrates supplies with some of our youngest.



Thanks to early contributions to the CARE Fund from generous supporters like you, the Foundation's work during the immediate relief stage continued through the first 100 days after the disaster and included:

### Needs Assessment Survey

St. Croix Foundation completed our Needs Assessment Survey with 1,046 individuals and households impacted by the disaster. **As a product of this initiative, we processed 353 referrals for 273 individuals resulting in eligible residents becoming registered for public assistance,** receiving critical supplies for health and wellbeing including replacements for durable medical equipment that had been damaged by the storm, food, household and baby supplies, tarps, solar lights and more. The data will also more broadly inform the community-wide dialogue about next steps in the recovery process.



*Residents in some of the most heavily impacted neighborhoods receive critical assistance through our Unmet Needs Survey.*



### Life-Saving & Changing Equipment

Because of the contributions we received, St. Croix Foundation was able to distribute **17 electric generators, collectively worth over \$10,000, for families still living without power more than 90 days after the storm.** The recipients of generators distributed by the Foundation were individuals with medical conditions that are exacerbated by the absence of electricity or which require electricity to manage—such as those on oxygen or those whom need electricity to operate a hospital bed. Other recipients included families with low-incomes and other conditions necessitating electricity for the welfare of young children and seniors.

### Strategic Grantmaking

In the fall of 2017, St. Croix Foundation provided a grant to the St. Croix Farmers in Action's Crucian Coconut Festival to serve as a positive, educational community gathering for all ages where local food security and resiliency could be embraced and local culture celebrated in the aftermath of the disaster. **FEMA was able to leverage this opportunity to share information with residents about rebuilding stronger homes and, in cooperation with the University of the Virgin Islands, three educational workshops focused on agricultural sustainability were held** ranging from the nutritional value of the coconut to intercropping using the coconut palm; and three cooking demonstrations introduced how the coconut can be used in meals, drinks and desserts. **In total, the Coconut Cup Festival reached over 1300 participants.**

### Nonprofit Supports

Stabilizing nonprofit organizations on St. Croix that provide critical social and cultural services to individuals, families, and our community quickly became one of the most important functions for the Foundation. Thanks to your early gift to the CARE Fund, the Foundation **provided office space, free of charge, to nonprofit organizations displaced by Hurricane Maria including the Boys and Girls Club and the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council.** This contribution of free rent, worth \$3,375 over four and a half months, enabled these crucial providers to continue serving our community at a critical time in the relief and recovery process.

In addition, St. Croix Foundation fulfilled its fundamental role as a convener and brought together our nonprofit and public sector partners including FEMA, Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD), Red Cross, Danish Emergency Management Agency, and many others to facilitate collaborative community-wide relief efforts.



## Long Term Resiliency

At the St. Croix Foundation, we understand that recovering from a catastrophic natural disaster is a marathon, not a sprint. We have our sleeves rolled up for the long road ahead and are now shifting our focus to strategies centered on long term recovery and resiliency. The Foundation's current long-term recovery work, supported by your generosity to the CARE Fund, includes holistic programming as follows:

### Broadening Funding Opportunities for Nonprofits

Outside of the CARE Grant, St. Croix Foundation is busy connecting our nonprofit partners with real resources that will help restore operations and even expand services. **In the past two months, the Foundation has secured \$272,000 in grant funding from philanthropic partners for nonprofit organizations** on St. Croix including Lutheran Social Services, Women's Coalition of St. Croix, Red Cross, St. Croix Montessori, and Boys and Girls Club.

### The CARE Grant

In February of 2018, St. Croix Foundation launched the CARE Grant, which will provide strategic grants to St. Croix based nonprofit organizations and charitable initiatives that offer programs and direct services targeting the most vulnerable and underserved populations affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Foundation will be awarding grants for projects that will support nonprofit organizations as they strive to return their operations to pre-hurricane conditions. Funding priority will be given to organizations focusing on impacting (1) development of services and/or programs, (2) capacity building to allow expansion of existing services, and (3) reconstruction of facilities necessary for conducting programs that directly relate to the needs of hurricane victims or recovery. **In its first round, the CARE Grant aims to award over \$250,000. This grant would not be possible without your partnership and we are eager to report on the multiple impacts of these grants in our community!**



*St. Croix Montessori School is a very special community school that does not turn away children (60% are on scholarship). St. Croix Foundation helped them to raise over \$25,000 to conduct repairs needed to reopen and even expand their services with an interactive playground. Serving some of our most vulnerable children, St. Croix Montessori was able to reopen their school before our local public schools and serves as a model of resiliency.*

### Nonprofit Disaster Recovery and Capacity Survey

As a follow up to the initial nonprofit damages assessment to assess the long-term impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on St. Croix's vital nonprofit sector. The data gathered will inform strategic investments and grants geared towards ensuring that nonprofit organizations are able to rise to the level of increased demand and need in our community post-disaster.

### St. Croix Long-Term Recovery Group

St. Croix Foundation is now the fiscal sponsor and close partner of the St. Croix Long-Term Recovery Group, a coalition of civic, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations who will leverage volunteers and philanthropic resources to conduct disaster case management, provide resources to address critical unmet needs experienced by individuals after all public assistance has been exhausted, and help rebuild people's homes who will otherwise slip through the cracks. This critical group's sound financial management and ability to apply for grants under the Foundation's nonprofit umbrella will be invaluable to long term rebuilding efforts and allows the Foundation to remain on-the-ground and collect data to identify and help address emerging needs.

## **Architectural Study**

Rebuilding efforts must be *sustainable*, and to do this, the Foundation is convening a team of local building experts including architects, engineers, and general contractors to assess factors which lead to life threatening structural failures such as roofs that were lost or walls which collapsed during the storm. In collaboration with other stakeholders, this team will make recommendations to policymakers inform updates to building codes and a community education campaign geared towards helping residents rebuild sustainably and strategically.

## **Equity and Resiliency: Moving Forward**

Having sought for many years to bring greater awareness to the needs and vulnerabilities of the U.S. Caribbean, the hurricanes, while devastating, have opened windows of opportunities and new partnerships that were seemingly inaccessible to us prior. Today, as we move into the intermediate and long-term phases of our hurricane recovery efforts we are focusing attention and resources on equity and sustainability and data.

**Now more than ever, your support of the CARE Fund is making an impact on the lives of those who call St. Croix home. We're in this together, and in partnership with you, we will help our community recover, rebuild, and thrive.**

**Together We Can (and do!) Make a Difference.**

To support St. Croix Foundation for Community Development and sustainable, resilient rebuilding, please contact the Foundation directly.

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