



Annual Report 2020



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 was a year of raw emotions, a time when life in general was overwhelming. Adrenaline was high and we jumped into opportunities where we could help with recovery. We connected with our trusted partners and formed new partnerships with relief organisations. We were incredibly grateful and so encouraged that our donors stood with us, believed in our efforts and continued to support the organisation. Our beautiful island had been devastated, but we were committed to helping where we could, never questioning that it was more important than ever to keep FRIENDS going strong. Between hurricane impacts and COVID-19, 2020 was all about resiliency and embracing challenges. I am proud of how we have adapted, all the while keeping our determination to rebuild The Learning Centre as a cornerstone of a future sustainable Abaco.



I hope all of you who have been graciously supportive are also proud, because we couldn't have done it without you.

With gratitude,

Cha Boyce

MISSION

Preserving the environment of Abaco, The Bahamas through education, conservation, and research facilitation.

VISION

We are an island community that is living sustainably and proud to be stewards of our rich biodiversity.



YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

Programs and Progress



339 Students Reached
60% new enrollment including Abaco, New Providence & Eleuthera



40 Student Engagements
Virtual Presentations and Summer Camps, and one pre-COVID field trip



8 Active Programs
5 programs were new or adapted for virtual learning



1300+ Trees Planted
Community partnership with Sustainable Lifestyle and Dept. of Agriculture



1700lbs Plastic Collected
Bottled water was common during immediate relief and recovery. Program facilitated by 4ocean.



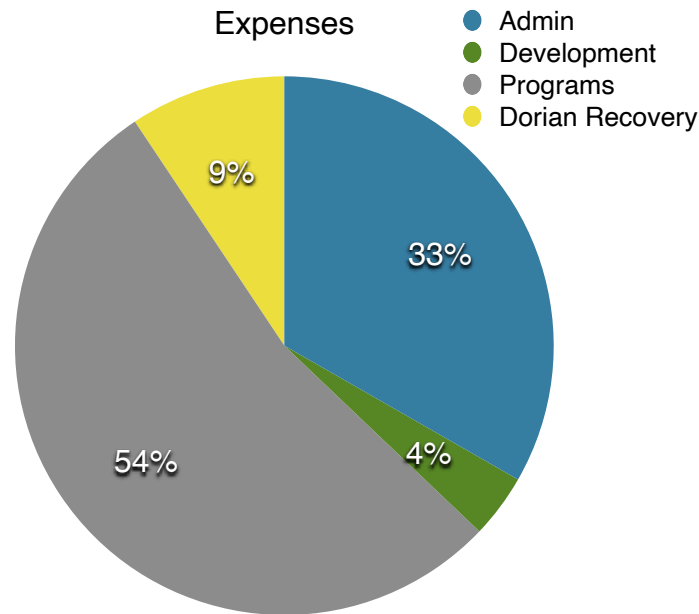
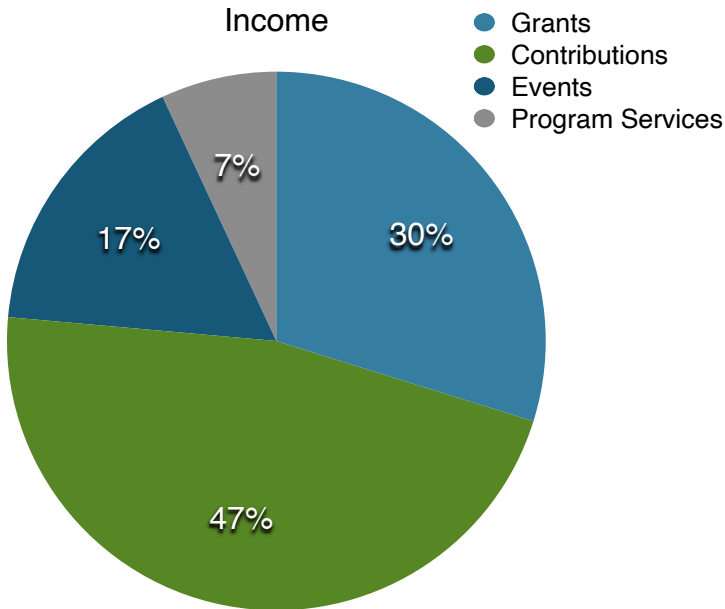
6 New Partners
Working towards relief and recovery in Abaco

"I want to be a zoologist. I received more information on animals and how to take care of them from the camp"

"Great work adapting to a new delivery model! Super helpful to have materials in advance. Well-designed lessons. Awesome activities. Prompted lots of good conversation at dinner :)"

"Love it, love you, thanks for all your efforts and creativity."

FINANCES



NOTES:

- Typical annual budget is about \$400,000. 2020 was less due to Dorian and COVID-related delays and changes
- Dorian insurance payout goes directly to repair and rebuild
- Rebuild income: \$348,105 in grants and direct contributions, \$169,974.14 from events

INCOME	2020 Actual
Contributions	\$ 473,564.08
Grants	\$ 304,424.95
Events	
Reef Ball	\$ 169,974.14
Music Festival	\$ 0.00
Other Events	\$ 0.00
Merchandise	\$ 0.00
Program Services	\$ 45,474.72
Rentals	\$ 0.00
Kenyon Center	
Accommodations	\$ 25,396.84
Donations	\$ 500.00
Other*	\$ 0.00
Interest from the CD	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 1,747.29
In Kind	\$ 0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,021,082.02
EXPENSE	
Education Center	
Salaries (Admin)	\$ 35,626.50
National Insurance	\$ 9,409.52
Rent	\$ 0.00
Utilities: BPL	\$ 1,796.14
Utilities: Communications	\$ 2,015.19
Utilities: Other	\$ 180.00
Advertising & Marketing	\$ 2,990.89
Other Expenses	\$ 0.00
Postage (newsletters)	\$ 0.00
Printing and Duplication	\$ 0.00
Office Operation	\$ 8,838.78
Program Supplies	\$ 0.00
Office Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 7,373.28
Fuel	\$ 400.26
Other Equ. Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Accounting & Legal Services	\$ 11,441.80
Bank Charges	\$ 8,344.09
Duty and taxes	\$ 0.00
VAT expenses	\$ 0.00
Meetings/Conferences	\$ 1,364.92
Travel	\$ 2,000.28
Insurance: Vehicle	\$ 845.60
Insurance: General	\$ 8,679.48
Miscellaneous Exp.	\$ 2,683.60
Dorian Recovery	\$ 25,285.46
Total Education Center Expenses	\$ 129,275.79
Environmental Education	\$ 52,188.33
Marine Resources	\$ 16,803.89
Terrestrial Resources	\$ 6,746.09
Development	\$ 42,503.42
The Kenyon Centre	\$ 13,186.58
Sustainability	\$ 9,321.86
Total Programs	\$ 140,750.17
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 270,025.96
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ 751,056.06
Dorian Insurance Payout	\$ 276,284.42
NET INCOME	\$ 1,027,340.48

COMING BACK FROM DORIAN

2020 was spent cleaning up, repairing remaining facilities, and planning recovery in response to the loss of our Education Centre during Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. We were able to recover a few supplies from our storage trailer and set up a temporary office in the Kenyon Centre lab (subsequent onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that much of our operations were home-based). Solar equipment was replaced and power was restored to our campus. Samaritan's Purse facilitated repairs to the roof of the Kenyon Centre.



An important site for community education and environmental awareness, the FRIENDS Education Centre was destroyed in Hurricane Dorian.

We have partnered with Homebound to facilitate the planning and construction of our new Learning Centre. Their holistic construction services and specialized oversight provide the assurance we need to make sure your donations are spent efficiently. Their Bahamas-based team of engineers and project managers has supported and guided our journey through developing a building and site plan and meeting FRIENDS' goals for sustainability.



REBUILD CAMPAIGN

The Details:

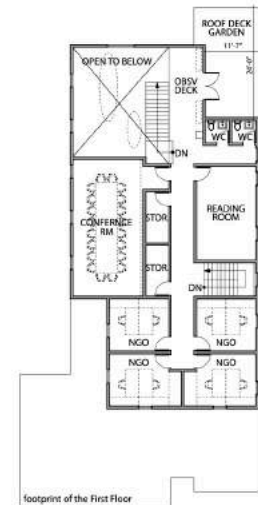
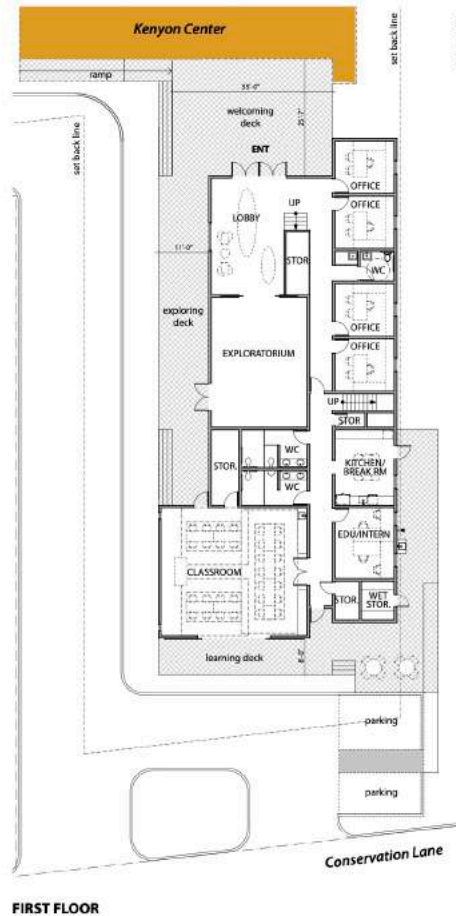
- Estimated cost to completion - \$1,700,000
- Funding already secured - \$800,000 (individual donors, foundations, grants)
- Proposed completion timeline - Summer 2022. Primarily funding dependent.
- Homebound project management, track record for success, services offered at zero margin.
- High building standard equipped for use as a command centre for relief organizations and enable site usage as a shelter if necessary.

Building for Resilience:

- Elevated foundation and site grading to account for flooding
- Integrated Concrete Form (ICF) construction for insulation and storm protection
- Water catchment and storage
- Solar integration
- Space available for storm relief/response

Planning for the Future:

- Multiple program areas
- Expanded office space for FRIENDS and partner NGOs
- Designated meeting room
- Exploratorium to share discoveries and inspire environmental ambassadorship



FLOOR AREA

First Floor	: 4,528 SF
Second Floor	: 2,288 SF
Total	: 6,816 SF

LINK lab

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Name the Building	\$500,000	FRIENDS Offices x 5	\$25,000
Classroom	\$250,000	NGO Offices x 4	\$25,000
Classroom outdoor area	\$50,000	Kitchen/Staff Room	\$100,000
Exploratorium	\$250,000	Bathrooms x 4	\$25,000
Exploratorium Den	\$50,000	Storage Rooms x 2	\$5,000
Founders Lobby and whale skeleton exhibit	\$250,000	Conference Room	\$125,000
Exploring Deck	\$15,000	Learning Deck	\$15,000

Please [join this journey](#) by helping us rebuild and bring back this important institution that will cultivate environmental education and conservation for the preservation of Abaco.

FRIENDS is both a registered Bahamian Charity and a US 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



Contact: Cha Boyce, Executive Director
cha@friendsoftheenvironment.org
 242-801-0235



"I wanted to thank you for great experiences at Friends of the Environment. I never really appreciated it until now when I don't have it. THANK YOU!"
- John P. reflecting on the impacts of Dorian

Cleaning up Mermaid Reef

While the island was still reeling from the impacts of Hurricane Dorian, a similar yet silent situation was happening underwater. Mermaid Reef, and many of our important nearshore habitats were inundated with debris. This debris was physically damaging coral and underwater plants, leeching toxins, and causing further disruption with each subsequent winter storm. Eco Blue Projects, Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation, Dive Guana, volunteers and local students joined FRIENDS to clean up Mermaid Reef in January. What an amazing feeling to be able to clear the reef of debris and make it a healthy habitat once again! *"I'm grateful to be able to have helped in our small way...I'm inspired by all the people that live here and their attitude towards rebuilding and continuing. They're very resilient and hopeful and happy, even though when you look around there's still so much left."* - Josh Hanes, Eco Blue Project



Our first (and only) field trip of 2020

After so many months of displacement it was amazing to be back home; sharing my passion for Abaco's environment with students once again. Despite all the havoc Dorian wreaked on our island, it was inspiring to see these mangroves in all of their resilient glory. In spite all the challenges students were overcoming, they were enthused to be outdoors on a field trip; it was like a well deserved treat for them. Their teacher, Mrs. Been, expressed how happy she was that FRIENDS was still around being an ever-present educational resource before and after Dorian!
- Lyndeisha Curry, Education Officer

STORIES



After Dorian, FRIENDS seized opportunities to help with recovery efforts, including assisting relief groups with challenging logistics. Just six months after Dorian devastated Abaco, Lianna and I were invited to attend the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Conference in Puerto Rico. We networked and participated in a panel discussion to share our Dorian stories about the damage to the environment, including the coral reefs and mangroves, the fresh water lens, and the massive amounts of debris. Being given the platform to share these stories led to further opportunities for FRIENDS to help with relief and recovery efforts. We are grateful for the partnership of the CGI Action Network who leverage their resources and experiences to support The Bahamas as we continue to rebuild.

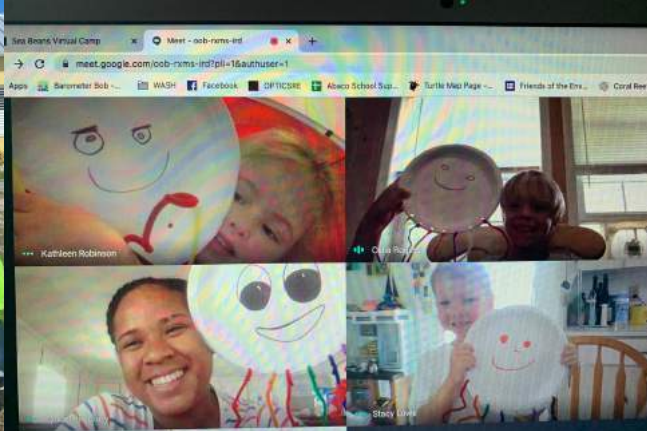
- Cha Boyce, Executive Director



After the disaster of Hurricane Dorian, many were searching for a lifeline of hope. At FRIENDS, our hope came from seeing children return to the island. We all faced many challenges over a short period of time between Dorian and the onset of COVID, but our inspiration was rooted in the resilience of our students to adapt to all the changes they were faced with. It was worrisome for me as an educator to transform our hands-on approach in environmental education to virtual outreach. However, I quickly realized that the enthusiasm and eagerness of students about their environment is ever-present, and they gave me hope for what's to come in the future for FRIENDS. Although our plans are constantly changing with the world around us, our mission remains the same in any circumstance. We are so thankful for the unwavering support of our teachers, parents, and students!

- Lianna Burrows, Outreach Coordinator







Get Involved

Support our Programs

Partner with us

Follow us on social media:
@friendsoftheenvironment

Support through third party products and services:
RedBubble, 1% for the Planet,
and AmazonSmile (Friends of the Environment, Inc.)



IN RECOGNITION

GRANTS AND PROJECT PARTNERS

A special thank you to funders and collaborators who were part of active programs in 2020.

4ocean	Eco Blue Projects	Perry Institute for Marine Science
Bahamas Department of Agriculture	Engineered Electric Services	Samaritan's Purse
Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation	Global Giving	Sustainable Lifestyle
Bahamas National Trust	Hope Town Zero Waste	The Nature Conservancy - Bahamas Country Program
BEP Foundation	IDEA Relief	UNDP GEF SGP
Bonefish and Tarpon Trust	MANG	UNDP Jamaica
Center for Disaster Philanthropy	Moore Bahamas Foundation	Water Mission
Devereaux Ocean Foundation	Ocean Conservancy	YachtAid Global

FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Thank you to the many foundations and individual donors who supported our work in 2020. In respect of our donors we will not be placing their names here without permission. For future reports we will be seeking your permission to be recognized.



Thank You!

