



**LYFORD  
CAY  
FOUNDATIONS**  
DREAM. PLAN. SUCCEED.

# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT  
**RESILIENCE**





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## ABOUT US

**W**ith over 50 years of service, Lyford Cay Foundations has invested more than \$50 million in communities throughout The Bahamas through our FOCUS, Scholarships, Cutillas Scholars and Grants programmes. Each programme is aimed at providing learning opportunities for Bahamian children, young adults, families, and communities who will benefit the most.

Lyford Cay Foundations, comprised of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. and The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, believe that increasing edu-

cational attainment across the country is key to the development of a prosperous, healthy and peaceful Bahamas.

***“Thank you!”***

Our work is made possible only by our generous donors. Every gift made goes toward transforming the lives of Bahamians.

We cannot thank you enough for your belief in our vision and mission, and for trusting us with your donations. •

### OUR MISSION

**Investing in learning opportunities for Bahamian children, families, young adults, and communities who will benefit from them the most.**

### OUR VISION

**Every Bahamian is empowered to reach his or her full potential.**



**BASIL P. GOULANDRIS**  
Chairman, Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc.



**TIM UNWIN**  
Chairman, The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation

**We are truly inspired by the commitment and support of our donors and partners who galvanized together to support the Bahamian community during this unprecedented time.**

We were also coming off the heels of Hurricane Dorian, which caused devastating losses to Abaco and Grand Bahama. Lyford Cay Foundations played a significant role in supporting the rebuild of the Central Abaco Primary School, other educational projects, and immediate relief efforts. The swift call to action was due to the kindness of our donors and the exemplary contribution of a \$5 million dollar donation from the Loretta Rogers Family.

Our COVID-19 relief efforts were also a testament to resilience, solidarity, and cooperation. We raised \$1.7 million dollars, which went towards food assistance through nine community organizations, six of whom were Zone leaders for the National Food Distribution Task Force. Consequently, tens of thousands of food parcels and food vouchers were distributed to families and

communities in need throughout New Providence and the Family Islands. While the true impact of COVID-19 remains to be seen beyond its immediate effect, the process of recovery will require ongoing support from our beneficiaries and partners.

Even as we pivoted in response to COVID-19, we remain committed to our vision, that every Bahamian is empowered to reach his or her full potential through our core programming and we will reflect on those successes in this report. The heartfelt dedication of our supporters, partners and beneficiaries deserves celebration. It is our collective action and commitment that helps transform the lives of the people we serve and make our work possible. Furthermore, through your support, we are reminded of one of our core values, that generosity makes the world more wonderful. •



**The events of the past year have both challenged and motivated us. As a Foundation, we met those challenges head-on, thanks to you, our donors, who showed your commitment, generosity and resolve.**

As the Executive Director, I can only express the deepest respect for those whose vision saw a need for Lyford Cay Foundations. We also thank the many volunteers who have given their time generously over the years and the donors who continue to give unstintingly, understanding that an educated population will determine the future of The Bahamas.

Truly, you are making a difference in The Bahamas. And that difference was ever so evident in 2020–2021. Starting with the additional \$5 million raised post-Dorian to assist with urgent needs in Abaco and Grand Bahama following the most devastating hurricane in Bahamian history, you helped to rebuild the Central Abaco Primary

School, put learning devices into students' hands, refurbished and re-supplied a school library in Grand Bahama, and more.

The FOCUS programme, which begins preparing promising students for college from the time they complete Grade 4 and assists with continuing teacher training, has shown tangible results. In 2020, some 84% of our FOCUS students were accepted to continue their education after high school. Our Lyford Cay Foundations Scholars in colleges and universities abroad continued to thrive, notwithstanding the difficulties of 2020. We are grateful that, through our donors, we were able to provide extra assistance to fill in the financial gap of those who were impacted by Hurricane Dorian and studying abroad through the Student Financial Assistance Grants. We say congratulations to our 2020 scholar graduates, and we wish them success as they make their mark.

We remain mindful that education is a marathon, not a sprint, and, while the Foundations have strong support, the need to continue funding and supporting Scholarships, FOCUS, and Grants is greater than ever in a financially-challenged environment.

Finally, I say thank you to my predecessor, Felicity Humblestone, who guided the organization through 2020. I also thank the staff of the Foundations, including our FOCUS staff, for their valiant efforts over 2020. •

**NICOLA VIRGILL-ROLLE**

Executive Director, Lyford Cay Foundations



# FOCUS



**F**OCUS is an out-of-school-time, tuition-free enrichment programme that provides college readiness and access support to public school students of demonstrated need and potential.

*Students begin the programme the summer after Grade 4, with the goal of becoming the first in their family to achieve post-secondary education.*

*FOCUS provides a unique professional development opportunity for teachers in training. Students are taught by intern teachers, the majority of whom are current education majors at the University of The Bahamas.*

TOTAL INVESTED

**\$360,849**

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

**213**

# 2020:

## Focusing from a Distance

**T**he FOCUS programme continues to grow and adapt to meet the holistic needs of the students to improve college readiness and access for Bahamian youth. This was never more important than in 2020 when COVID-19 disrupted learning across The Bahamas and the world.

Because of generous support, FOCUS was able to continue to provide learning support and enrichment to vulnerable students in order to significantly reduce and prevent learning loss by pivoting the delivery model to virtual learning, providing devices, and food vouchers, and having wellness calls and check-ins to support the students and their families during this challenging pandemic.

Under the theme ***FOCUSing from a Distance***, grade 6–9 FOCUS students participated in a 3-week virtual summer learning programme that developed 21st century skills and competencies, inclusive of collaboration, effective communication, technology literacy, and creative thinking skills that the customary Summer Slam would offer. Grade 8–9 students also conducted volunteer services virtually by earning rice via Freerice.com, a vocabulary enrichment game offered through the United Nations World Food Programme in which 10 grains of rice are donated to families in need for every question that is answered correctly. Students earned more than 10,000 grains of rice.

***FOCUS SLAM Saturdays*** also ran virtually, starting in October, for 17 Saturdays and included enrichment activities, such as virtual field trips, math, language, and alternation of science and social studies learning interventions, following curriculum guidelines set by the Ministry of Education.

Students in grades 10–12 took part in the final stage of FOCUS, ***On Course To College*** (OCTC), through a virtual summer seminar that helped them foster independence and develop a sense of community activism by engaging with four components: college and career; life skills; health and wellness; and civic and community awareness.

FOCUS provided an academic boost for its students during a time when formal/day-to-day learning activities ceased and then became virtual. When schools re-opened in the latter half of the year, the immediate goal was to help students understand how to navigate the online platform being utilized by the Ministry of Education, and to continue to provide technological support via electronic devices and MiFi access. Overall, the FOCUS programme provided immeasurable learning and social support to students through one of the most difficult times in the history of The Bahamas—and, indeed, the world.

## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

### *FOCUSing from a Distance*

#### Grades 6/7 daily challenge prompts:

- Design a t-shirt for your cohort year;
- Plant a seed and keep a plant diary of its growth;
- Be a teacher for the day: record yourself teaching your parents or siblings a topic you have learned this year in school;
- Create a card game you will teach your peers when we return to FOCUS;
- Create a new ASAR chant for FOCUS and make a video of you singing the chant for others to hear;
- And using things purchased with your meal voucher, create a meal with your parents or someone older than you. Write down the steps you took and take a picture.

#### Grades 8/9 vision board prompts:

- What social goals do you want to accomplish post-COVID-19?
- What are some school-related goals you want to set before the reopening of school?
- How do you plan to achieve these goals?



Delivery to Kharter  
Rahming, Class of 2026



Prepared packages for  
the FOCUS students.

### On-Course-To-College Programme Goals:

- Achieve 100% high school graduation and/or students' direct enrollment into college, technical/vocational school, or a structured gap year placement.
- Develop students' academic and soft skills, self-efficacy, and resilience to foster student success through tertiary education.
- Foster youth voice, identity development, and community belonging.

### On-Course-To-College Virtual Summer Seminar 2020 Components:

#### College and Career:

- Understanding types of colleges and choosing majors.
- Determining career interest.
- Assessing the local economy and impact of COVID-19.
- Preparing for the job market.

#### Life Skills:

- Financial responsibility and budgeting.
- Meal preparation and cooking.
- Time management.

#### Health & Wellness:

- Daily fitness activities.
- Mindfulness and de-stressing.
- Developing healthy coping strategies.

#### Civic and Community Awareness:

- Understanding the importance of giving back.
- Exploring civic and service organizations and their impact.
- Perform one random act of kindness per day.
- Community clean-up.

# 10,000

grains of rice earned by grade 8 and 9 students through the United Nations World Food Programme virtual platform [Freerice.com](https://freerice.com).

# 84%

of the 2020 FOCUS graduating class were accepted into a post-secondary programme.

# 100%

of FOCUS students trained in Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom, Kahoot, Canva, Padlet, and Quizziz, which enabled them to utilize IT skills for academic and social purposes in a COVID-19 era.

## FOCUS SUMMER SLAM STUDENT REFLECTIONS:

"The best thing about virtual summer was that we could still connect and learn even though we weren't together physically. I learned how to make slides, and how to set smart goals. Thank you so much for making FOCUS possible."

– FOCUS Student, Class of 2025

"Thank you for making my summer fun. I learned that everything happens for a reason, you can have fun if you try, and that anything is possible."

– FOCUS Student, Class of 2024



*Deshon Smith, Class of 2025,  
receiving his device.*



*Roneka Dieuveuille, Class of 2026,  
receiving her virtual summer items.*

## FOCUS SUMMER SLAM STUDENT REFLECTIONS:

"I enjoyed all of the challenges we were assigned this virtual summer, and my favorite part was seeing all of my FOCUS family virtually, because I missed them a lot. Thank you so much for giving us a chance to be great."

– FOCUS Student, Class of 2027

"The challenges gave me something to look forward to every week. Thank you for assisting us in our efforts to learn. FOCUS has had such a positive impact on my life and education."

– FOCUS Student, Class of 2027

# FOCUS Sponsors

04 • FOCUS / Overview

## May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

Sustaining the motivations of a generous and private couple who made The Bahamas one of their home bases during their lifetime of giving, the May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust is built on the values of humility and dignity.

To that end, the Trust funds programmes that support foster youth, elders, adults and transitioning youth with disabilities, and veteran and military families in 14 western states in the U.S.A., as well as British Columbia and other geographic areas the Smiths called home during their lifetimes—including The Bahamas, where since 2011, they have supported the FOCUS programme in bringing college readiness and access to public school students.

“What I really love about FOCUS is that, from its inception, it was based on such sound learning practices, and that they have adapted it over the years to work in what may be a very different setting from where the models were initially developed,” says Amy Freeman, Director of Programmes at the May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust.

That resilience and innovation in adjusting to meet the evolving needs of their students came in handy during the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted educational models across the world, noted Ms. Freeman.

“I feel like FOCUS really rose to the occasion of the pandemic,” she says. “They stepped up, providing equipment, connectivity, and even resources for the families, so that kids could still participate in online learning. FOCUS understands that learning doesn’t happen in a vacuum, it happens in the larger context of life.”

“I’m excited that Lyford Cay Foundations is still committed to the FOCUS programme despite all the transitions of the pandemic,” she adds. “It’s like watering seeds to help them grow—FOCUS helps these kids to grow and develop their visions for what a future looks like.” •



## GrahamThompson

A leading law firm in The Bahamas, public service and community outreach have been distinctions of the GrahamThompson identity since the inception of the firm’s seventy-year existence. With education being an area where the firm has placed greatest emphasis, it’s no surprise that GrahamThompson has been an enthusiastic donor to the FOCUS programme, which uses education to change the lives of a targeted group of public school students.

“The firm genuinely believes that there’s nothing more transformative than an education and the opportunity to broaden your mind, and it is such a special privilege for GrahamThompson to be able to continue to support such a transformative programme as FOCUS,” says Managing Partner Judy Whitehead.

As a board member of Lyford Cay Foundations, Mrs. Whitehead has seen the life-changing impact of learning opportunities for Bahamians in post-secondary education, and she applauds the FOCUS programme for its bold initiative in providing an exciting early learning environment for its students to ignite that path to post-secondary learning—no matter what hurdles come their way.

“The COVID-19 pandemic brought sudden, sweeping and simply unprecedented change for everyone,” she says. “Not only did FOCUS manage to find a way to stay the course as far as the delivery of its programme, albeit in a virtual setting, but it also found ways to actively support FOCUS participants and their families in particularly vulnerable situations due to COVID-19, all while innovating how they delivered without losing their signature energy and enthusiasm.”

“Transformative is certainly an appropriate word as far as what the programme has meant for participants, and in 2020, we saw that the programme is also resilient, responsive, and agile,” she adds. “This affirms for us at GrahamThompson how important this programme is for the individual educational journeys of participants and their families.” •



## FIRST FOCUS GRADUATE LAVANO SANDS

REFLECTS ON PERSEVERING  
THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

*“I always put my  
best foot forward.”*

**L**AVANO SANDS clearly remembers when the (then) FOCUS Programme Director Felicity Humblestone visited his primary school to encourage fourth-graders like him to apply to a special tuition-free enrichment programme that would put him on the path to college.

“I was so excited when I got in,” says Lavano. “I got up early, and I remember coming off the bus and the interns were singing—I was just so happy to be part of something positive.”

“I never knew what to expect out of a FOCUS day, and I never wanted to miss FOCUS because I felt like I’d always miss an opportunity to learn something new,” he adds. “That was a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

That experience continued for eight years, providing Lavano and his cohort with a fun and engaged learning environment to become the first graduating class of FOCUS. During this time, his FOCUS teachers helped to direct his interests in chemistry and crime by connecting him with a forensic pathologist at a local hospital, who helped him to understand the opportunities for specialization in the field and how to meet national needs.



## 2020 REFLECTIONS

"I would describe the impact of FOCUS as phenomenal, because at my age I have seen and done things that many people haven't, and learned so much through various opportunities and experiences. Thank you so much."

– Toriano Burrows, Class of 2020

## 2020 REFLECTIONS

"FOCUS believed that we could be something in life. The programme invested so much in us; that within itself is enough to inspire me to believe that if complete strangers were willing to do all of that for me then I do have potential for greatness."

– Mandria Brown, Class of 2020

Having earned a scholarship in the Public School Scholars Programme from the Ministry of Education, Lavano embarked on a career in forensics by beginning his studies in chemistry at Central State University in Ohio in the Fall of 2019. Quickly adjusting to the new culture, people, and even climate challenges that studying abroad can bring, he ended his first semester with a strong 4.0 G.P.A.

"Without FOCUS, I wouldn't have had the advantage to succeed," he says. "Being accepted into college and going abroad showed me that the programme was working. I wasn't nervous at all, I felt so prepared."

But what Lavano—or anybody—couldn't have prepared for was a pandemic that greatly disrupted world systems in 2020, especially education. A hands-on learner in a field that requires lab work, Lavano found online learning isolating, hectic, and challenging, even when he returned to Nassau between March to September to be close to his family during this uncertain time.

The biggest loss has been suspension of extracurricular activities that made campus life so fulfilling—most notably, the track and field team, which Lavano remarkably joined without the prerequisite of an athletic scholarship.

"It means a lot to be on a college track team," he says. "The commitment is very serious, but I love it, because they work together. Sports is my stress reliever, and without it, remote learning put a strain on my brain. My mental health fluctuated greatly."

Nevertheless, Lavano finished with a G.P.A. at the end of his first academic year that put him on the Dean's List, then returned to Ohio in the Fall to continue his trajectory to graduate in 2023 with his degree in chemistry. If nothing else, the pandemic showed him the value of perseverance.

"I feel like wherever I go, I carry this FOCUS experience with me, and all of its lessons," he says. "What I learned is that no matter how much I faced or complained, I always put my best foot forward. Even though I didn't progress as much as I wanted to, there was still progress. I will find a way to succeed." •



## 2020 REFLECTION

“There aren’t many programmes out there to help pave a future for young people like me. FOCUS consistently encouraged me and my fellow peers to achieve our goals no matter the obstacles we faced. To the many teachers, administrators, and donors who opened these doors for us: Thank you!”

– Joaquen Augustin, Class of 2020

## FOCUS CLASS OF 2020: Overcoming Obstacles to Finish Strong

As the second ever cohort to graduate from the FOCUS programme, the Class of 2020 faced its fair share of bumps in the road along their eight years in a programme that challenged them to fully lean into their education, but the COVID-19 pandemic may have been their biggest hurdle yet. Disrupting in-person learning and postponing national examinations in the home stretch of their educational journey, the lockdowns and suspension of public gatherings also made it impossible to celebrate their hard-earned achievement of graduating from high school in a traditional way. Nevertheless, they persevered, finding ways to mark the occasion despite restrictions and ready to make their impact on The Bahamas: Forward, Onward to College, Upward to Success! •



### 2020 REFLECTIONS:

"I would personally like to say thank you to the teachers, volunteers, administrators and donors for making the eight years I've spent in the FOCUS programme the best. It was a great opportunity that gave me the chance to learn so many new things."

– Torranique Evans, Class of 2020

"Each person affiliated with the FOCUS programme has had a big hand in paving the way for my future. It is only because of FOCUS that I have such big dreams."

– Sincere Braynen, Class of 2020





# Cutillas Scholars



**C**utillas Scholars is a pilot programme named in honour of our late chairman, Manuel Cutillas. It has two active cohorts that enable students to move toward becoming the first in their families to complete post-secondary education.

*The programme is open to all 11th grade public school students throughout The Bahamas. Cutillas Scholars receive academic resources and guidance as well as full scholarships to study at The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) or the University of The Bahamas.*

**TOTAL INVESTED**  
**\$46,599**

**TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED**  
**11**

# 2020:

## First in Their Families

In 2020, our Cutillas' students, representing both cohorts were enrolled in post-secondary education. The first scholar to graduate, with a certificate from BTVI, a Grand Bahama student, is now pursuing her Associate's degree in Electronic Engineering, while three other scholars will graduate with certificates from BTVI in Information Technology Management, Office Assistant, and

Electronics & Cable Installation. Of those three, two will immediately go on to pursue their Associate's degrees and one is seeking full-time employment. Of the four scholars enrolled at the University of The Bahamas, one is pursuing an Associate's degree in Culinary Arts while three are pursuing their Bachelor's degrees in BioChemistry, Business Management and Accounting. •



## CUTILLAS SCHOLAR 2018

# TALIYAH WILLIAMS

BTVI Grand Bahama,  
Associate's Degree in Electronics  
& Cable Installation

***“I wanted to be the  
first one in my family  
to go to college...”***

**W**hen **TALIYAH WILLIAMS** decided to be the first in her family to attend college, she couldn't foresee that her educational journey after graduating from Jack Hayward Senior High School in 2018 in Grand Bahama would coincide with one of the worst natural disasters ever experienced in The Bahamas, followed by a pandemic that would disrupt learning in institutions around the world.

Luckily, as a Cutillas Scholar, Taliyah not only received a scholarship to support her studies at the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, but also resources and guidance via mentorship, creating a critical support system for the motivated student to reach her goal of receiving academic certification in Electronics and Cable Installation.

“Receiving the Cutillas Scholarship made me realize that whatever you want in life, you could get it,” says Taliyah, who registered for



**2** University of  
The Bahamas  
NEW PROVIDENCE

**2** University of  
The Bahamas  
GRAND BAHAMA

**2** BTVI  
GRAND BAHAMA

**4** BTVI  
NEW PROVIDENCE

*Unenrolled transferring from UB to BTVI, New Providence: 1*

the programme on the day of its deadline after a period of contemplation and bolstered by encouragement from her parents, grandmother, and science teacher.

“I wasn’t expecting to actually get it, but I wanted to give it a try because I wanted to be the first one in my family to go to college,” she says. “Then when I actually got the call, I was excited just to start my journey.”

With a talent for math and science classes, as well as a keen interest in the inner workings of computers, phones and other electronics, Taliyah has excelled in all of her classes at the institution, including electronics assembly, AC/DC, and analogs. Enjoying more hands-on work, she is specializing in cabling and connections, even through major disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID affected my learning greatly because we had to work on a computer with simula-

tion instead of attending class in-person, and that’s kind of harder for me,” says Taliyah. “The hands-on training helps me to see and feel what I am learning in theory.”

Like her peers in the programme, she has also been unable to secure an internship to gain the invaluable on-the-job experience that most BTVI students experience. But with the encouragement from her parents, as well as her Cutillas mentor Patrice Francis, Taliyah plans to pursue her Certificate and then Associate’s Degree in the field, allowing her to seek employment and eventually invest in her own business doing what she loves.

“It was awesome to have help,” says Taliyah. “Not just financially, but to have someone in your corner that just helps talk to you and keep you motivated to do what you love to do.” •



# Extraordinary and Community Grants



**A**s one of the few grant-making organizations in the country, we invest in initiatives that support community building through transformative learning opportunities for those most in need—but in an unprecedented year like 2020, we expanded our reach to contribute to emergency food relief operations.

*We provide financial support to Bahamian non-profits who offer traditional and diverse learning experiences in the arts, sports, environmental awareness, health-related issues, and economic and human resource development.*

TOTAL INVESTED  
**\$6.3million**

BAHAMIAN NGOS ASSISTED  
**16**

# 2020:

## EXTRAORDINARY GRANTS IN AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

### Pandemic Food Assistance

**T**hough remaining committed to its core mission of providing education opportunities to help all Bahamians reach their full potential, Lyford Cay Foundations identified in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic that Bahamian families—still reeling from Hurricane Dorian and largely employed in a tourism-dependent economy that halted during worldwide lockdowns—would require help for the most basic of needs: food.

“The Board of Directors and donors of Lyford Cay Foundations remain extremely concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on The Bahamas,” said Chairman of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc., Basil Goulandris. “We are deeply committed to supporting Bahamians and their families during this crisis.”

“Our board and donors are very concerned, and will continue to raise funds from the Canadian community for this urgent need,” added Chairman of The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, Tim Unwin. “We remain ever hopeful for a bright future for The Bahamas.”

In May, its concerned board and generous donors granted \$275,000 to various local feeding organizations to support them during a remarkable spike in demand for food assistance.

By August, with a large number of Bahamians unemployed and some 35,000 households supported with food aid, Lyford Cay Founda-

tions drew upon their 50+ years of experience and knowledge in providing community grants for education throughout The Bahamas to make an additional commitment of \$1,500,000 to continue supporting the emergency food relief operations of Bahamian NGOs as they addressed the immense feeding needs of Bahamians.

This extraordinary grant, disbursed in monthly sums throughout the final six months of 2020 to nine (9) Bahamian NGOs—The Salvation Army Bahamas, The Bahamas Red Cross Society, The Bahamas Feeding Network, Lend a Hand Bahamas, Hands for Hunger, IDEA Relief, the One Eleuthera Foundation, Family Help & Support Foundation Limited and New Providence Community Centre—assisted these organizations in providing food parcels, vouchers, and hot meals across the archipelago.

Six of these NGOs were also Zone Leaders in the National Food Distribution Taskforce, an emergency food assistance programme that brought together the Bahamian government and local NGOs to help feed Bahamians during their greatest hour of need. While the Bahamian government committed to providing 85% of the emergency funds during the first phase of this programme, the participating NGOs were tasked with providing the remaining 15%, which translated into roughly \$2.2 million—a task that these donations from Lyford Cay Foundations helped them to meet. •

## THE SALVATION ARMY BAHAMAS

Total Grant: \$508,000

*A partnership for 'doing the most good' in emergency response.*

For almost ninety years, The Salvation Army Bahamas has provided a range of social services as well as employment and educational opportunities to address the needs of Bahamians. But in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic reached the shores of The Bahamas, the organization noticed an immediate and urgent increase in registration for their food programme.

“Originally we took applications in person in our office, but so many people started coming that the police had to organize the line to facilitate social distancing,” explains Salvation Army Bahamas Divisional Commander Major Clarence Ingram.

With requests for food assistance jumping from tens to thousands a week, so too did the need for donations to support the immediate growth of their food programme. Luckily, Lyford Cay Foundations stepped up with an initial \$150,000 donation in May and June combined to support its reach—and, as the pandemic lingered and needs grew, so did their support, reaching just over half a million dollars by the end of the year.

Moving the application process for food assistance online to facilitate the influx of requests, The Salvation Army Bahamas was able to expand its food voucher programme, which ensured that hundreds of families a week could purchase groceries of their own choosing from the supermarket—or, if unable to



make the trip, a food parcel. Many also received hygiene kits and, if needed, a second voucher for medicinal supplies or other essentials from the charitable organization.

“It’s a challenge to help everybody but we are doing the best we can,” says Major Ingram. “What happens in disasters is that the situation on the ground is constantly changing and when you think you’ve got a handle on it, you find a new need.”

“Throughout it all, our partnership with Lyford Cay Foundations has been very beneficial for



us and enabled us to do a whole lot more than we could have possibly done without it,” he adds.

Ensuring that support goes exactly where it will do the most good was a motivating force for donors, who leapt at the chance to help those facing uncertain futures, especially with an organization well-versed in providing immediate emergency relief, says Honorary Board Member of The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, Catharina Birchall.

“The real brilliance of The Salvation Army is their logistics—they’re an international organization with very deep relationships with wholesalers and other aid organizations, so they’re able to pull things together quickly to help communities,” she says.

“They’re extremely competent and capable and we have always appreciated that, so we have always had donors interested in helping out. That’s why we have always partnered with them, especially in these times.” •



## BAHAMAS FEEDING NETWORK

Total Grant: \$177,000

Prior to the pandemic, the Bahamas Feeding Network—a non-profit group of organizations that banded together in 2013 to collect and distribute food to under-served areas in The Bahamas—cooked 6,000 meals weekly and distributed them, through their partner agencies, to homeless and needy communities across The Bahamas. They also dispensed food parcels using items donated by wholesalers, such as Bahamas Food Serv-

ices. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, as their efforts tripled and they became the Zone Leader for emergency national food distribution in the Northeast New Providence and for eight southern Family Islands, they changed their model to focus primarily on packing and delivering thousands of food parcels per week. By year end, they distributed more than half a million food parcels. •



*“I’d like to say thank you very much. I praise Lyford Cay Foundations for their support in helping us meet the needs of thousands of Bahamians. We appreciate it and we are so happy to have this partnership.”*

**PHILIP SMITH**

*Executive Director, Bahamas Feeding Network*



## ONE ELEUTHERA FOUNDATION

Total Grant: \$54,000

A non-profit development organization that identifies and supports projects to build an equitable economy and sustainability on the island of Eleuthera, the One Eleuthera Foundation undertakes projects that focus on five key areas: education, health and wellness, economic development, heritage and culture, and the environment. However, in June 2020, the organization collaborated with the National Food Distribution Task Force and the

Harbour Island Food Bank, taking on the immense task of distributing food assistance through the Eleuthera Feeding Initiative. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, food vouchers were dispensed to thousands of island residents across Eleuthera. The vouchers were redeemed at local vendors, which not only allowed families to meet their individual dietary needs, but also helped to keep the local economy afloat. •

*“With Eleuthera suffering from the drastic decline in tourism, many residents found themselves out of work and in dire need of help. We’re very appreciative for the grants from the Lyford Cay Foundation, which allowed us to quickly mobilize and reach the most vulnerable within our communities while supporting local food stores and restaurants engaged in the feeding programme.”*

**SHAUN INGRAHAM**

President & CEO  
One Eleuthera Foundation



## IDEA RELIEF

Total Grant: \$135,000

IDEA Relief, an NGO providing Immediate Disaster and Emergency Assistance on the Abaco islands, formed in 2019 in response to the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Dorian to facilitate medical support, search and rescue, and evacuation operations for Abaco residents immediately after the storm, as well as to build long-term disaster preparations for future hurricane seasons. Little did they

know, however, that as one of the local NGOs active on the Abaco islands, they would be called upon to lend immediate emergency assistance by way of national food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting thousands of Abaconians a week via twenty-four distribution centers across the mainland and cays. •



*“We’re trying to make sure people here are not going hungry and are also able to rebuild and recover. Providing them with food assistance really helped them to put their money where their greatest needs are, like repairing their house. I’m so grateful that our goals are aligned with Lyford Cay Foundations to help out with disaster relief in this country.”*

**WILL TOMLINSON**

President and Co-Founder, IDEA Relief



## HANDS FOR HUNGER

Total Grant: \$128,000

**H**ands for Hunger, a humanitarian organization on a mission to eliminate hunger and food waste in order to achieve national food security, was well-poised to tackle the increasing need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as 2020 saw the halt of the tourism industry and the closure of many hotels whose donations greatly contributed to their food rescue and distribution efforts, Hands for Hunger adapted

its operations to meet mounting requests for food assistance by launching a food voucher programme through the digital wallet application Kanoo. The organization then switched gears as they became the Zone Leader for emergency national food distribution in Western New Providence, partnering with Showman E-Bistro to deliver food parcels to thousands of families per week. •

*“Because this pandemic has presented us with new challenges, we always appreciate when our donors step up in a major way for us. Donations like those from Lyford Cay Foundations go a long way in helping us to assist so many more people in a sustained state of food insecurity.”*

### AARONE SARGENT

Multimedia Manager, Hands for Hunger



## LEND A HAND BAHAMAS

Total Grant: \$258,000

**L**end a Hand Bahamas, a community development organization that offers artistic, educational, and entrepreneurial programming to socio-economic disadvantaged Bahamians in the Grant's Town area of Nassau, greatly shifted its efforts early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially providing weekly food support in the Adelaide, Grant's Town, Gamber, and Mt. Pleasant communities, they then ramped up their operations to meet the needs

of residents in the most densely populated area of the country as the emergency national food distribution Zone Leader for the city of Nassau. Besides dispensing food parcels, the organization also looked for creative ways to address the needs of this community with local community partners and donors, such as purchasing a hundred pigs from local farmers with no outlet to sell them in order to make and share home-cooked meals. •

*"The reality is that the needs are so much greater than what we could ever ask for. It's organizations like Lyford Cay Foundations that come in during a critical time to help us address these needs and maximize support for our communities. It's a tremendous help."*

### LUCAS METROPULOS

Chairman of the Board, Lend a Hand Bahamas



## THE BAHAMAS RED CROSS SOCIETY

Total Grant: \$265,000

Offering disaster and emergency preparedness as well as providing food, clothing, and other assistance to needy communities, The Bahamas Red Cross Society works to preserve human dignity and alleviate suffering wherever it is found. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they served as the Zone

Leader for emergency food distribution efforts in Southeastern New Providence as well as the Northern Family Islands and Grand Bahama, packing and dispensing food parcels to families severely affected by the pandemic. •

*“We believe that the fight against hunger is a collaborative effort and no individual in our beloved country should experience hunger. We are grateful to have a thoughtful and compassionate partner in Lyford Cay Foundations to allow us to further continue our mission of feeding the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly those impacted by COVID-19.”*

**SEAN BRENNEN**

Director General, The Bahamas Red Cross



## REBUILDING AND RESTORING: Construction Continues for Central Abaco Primary School

As every Bahamian adjusted to “the new normal” during the early months of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many were already still reeling from the catastrophe of Hurricane Dorian, which had made landfall the year before and largely decimated communities on Grand Bahama and the Abacos.

Contending with lockdown restrictions and exposure risks, rebuilding nevertheless progressed on the Central Abaco Primary School (CAPS) project, thanks to a generous donation from Lyford Cay Foundations, a critical partner in this collective endeavor to restore normalcy for the children of Abaco.

Prior to its destruction during this Category 5 hurricane, the school served 800 children in the central Abaco community, making it an educational priority as identified by The Bahamas Government’s Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA).

Lyford Cay Foundations joined half a dozen private donors to support the dedicated work of various NGOs under the management and coordination of Global Emergency, Relief, Recovery, and Reconstruction (GER3), utilizing almost CAD\$4 million out of the CAD\$5 million in 2020 donations given by many generous donors—especially the Loretta Rogers Family—who recognized the urgent needs of The Bahamas following the worst hurricane in Bahamian history.



According to Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. Chairman, Basil Goulandris, the Abaco school project not only reflected commitment, but demonstrated innovation.

“We were able to sponsor a cash-for-work programme through which local Abaco crews were mobilized alongside international partners to complete the sanitations of the primary school, stabilize and repair the roof, install new drywall throughout and make other improvements which benefited students and the whole community,” says Mr. Goulandris.

Though the project faced major setbacks and obstacles during the pandemic, the facility was improved to the point of providing a safe and secure hurricane shelter—first utilized during Hurricane Isaias in 2020.

While the building renovations were underway, Lyford Cay Foundations partnered with The Bahamas Ministry of Education to supply and distribute over \$78,000 worth of laptops, to ensure that students could continue to learn.



According to The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation Chairman, Tim Unwin, this supported the second goal of their unprecedented response to the natural disaster: to help students continue their education with as little disruption as possible.

“The hurricane took such an emotional toll on those who were impacted and our hearts went out to the families, especially with young children whose lives were totally upended,” says Mr. Unwin. “That is why, in addition to assisting in funding the rebuilding of the Central Abaco Primary School, we wanted to provide tools for students to continue their education.”

Rebuilding this greatly improved and innovative facility will continue in 2021 toward supporting in-person learning for its student body once more. ●



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

# ANDRON SPENCE

Lyford Cay Foundations  
Community Grant Supports LJM  
Maritime Academy Rising Star

*“This is very  
personal for me”*

**A**NDRON SPENCE found his sea legs at a very young age. With a grandfather who was captain of his own mail boat, Andron spent the earliest years of his life accompanying this patriarch of a large and extended family on his frequent routes between Nassau and Andros, where Andron spent his childhood years.

Relocating to Grand Bahama later on, Andron carried that formative experience well into his studies at Sunland Baptist Academy, poring over his Geography subjects in particular. He knew by the 10th grade that he would join the maritime field just like his grandfather, but wondered how he could afford the post-secondary education necessary to join the ranks—let alone the prohibitive cost of relocating abroad to pursue those studies.

Luckily, a world-class maritime institution in The Bahamas, the LJM Maritime Academy (LJMMA), could offer him both, thanks to a special grant from Lyford Cay Foundations that supported three years of academic studies for one deserving student at the academy.



TOTAL INVESTED

**\$30,000**



“For the average Bahamian, school fees are steep, even if it’s the more affordable option of staying close to home, so I am so grateful for this scholarship for taking a big burden off my family,” says Andron.

“Out of all my cousins, I’m the only one in the maritime field like my grandfather, so this is very personal for me,” he adds. “My family, they’re really betting on me to finish school.”

Situated on Maritime Cay, which used to house Coral World, the LJMMA provides the perfect environment for three-year diploma studies in Nautical Science or Marine Engineering, as well as shorter certification, personal development, and STCW courses. They are also currently developing a Bachelor’s degree in the maritime field.

Barely a decade into its existence, the institution has attracted students from around the world, prepared Bahamian students to excel in various institutions and seafaring environments abroad, and is well-positioned to support the projected growth of the maritime industry in The Bahamas.

Through hands-on classes using state-of-the-art simulators and machines, supplemented with theoretical classes on a range of maritime-related subjects, such as environmental law and tourism and recreation management, all in a disciplined environment that mirrors the expectations of a professional crew, LJMMA prepares their students to

become industry leaders in a global maritime field, says President of LJMMA, Dr. Brendamae Cleare—no matter their financial circumstances.

“We don’t turn away students when they have needs—we welcome them and hope that we can find them a scholarship,” says Dr. Cleare. “It hasn’t been easy—there were times when the institution itself didn’t have funding. But we believe in our mission and where this institution can go, and we ask people out there to assist.”

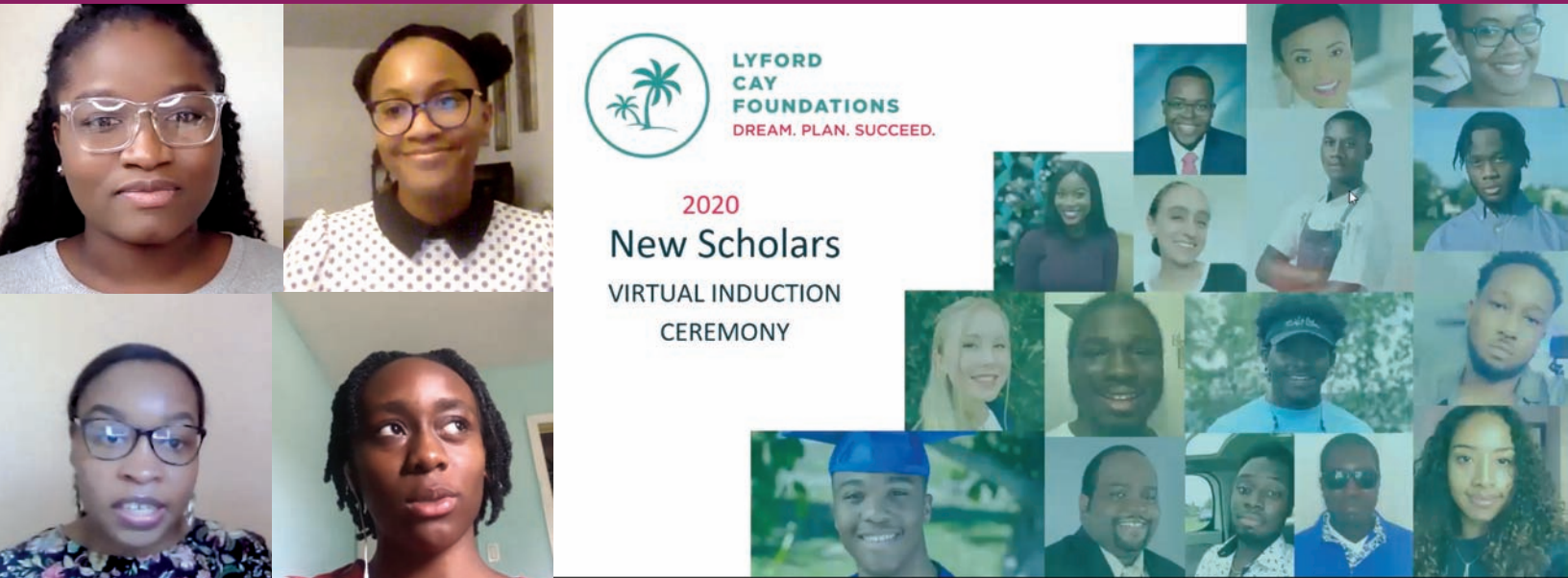
“This grant from Lyford Cay Foundations has been so rewarding because it’s helped at least one deserving student to have an opportunity,” she adds. “He is excelling in his academic work, he is passionate about this field, and he is a real success story. I know he will be an ambassador for the institution.”

As Andron wraps up his three years of studies “on land” at the Academy, he is preparing for his year at sea, which will help him to sit his final BMA Maritime Exam and earn his title of Third Officer. The wide ocean awaits—but Andron plans to follow in the wake of the man who inspired it all.

“My end goal is to go through all the ranks and become Captain, get my master’s license, and to have a mail boat just like my grandfather,” he says. “I’ll be able to sail internationally, but I always want to stay close to home.” •



# Scholarships



Since the 1980s, Lyford Cay Foundations has been providing partial scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and technical and vocational studies outside of The Bahamas in fields that will directly impact the country. Scholarships are highly competitive and coveted.

*Emphasis is placed on first-generation college students and criteria weigh financial need, academic merit, field of study, reputation of institution, career goal, availability of programme in The Bahamas, financial capacity, and personal qualities.*

TOTAL INVESTED  
**\$729,080**

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED  
**54**

## A VIRTUAL WELCOME

### New Scholars Reception Celebrates Accomplishments and Perseverance Amidst a Time of Uncertainty

Each August, Lyford Cay Foundations holds an intimate and celebratory reception welcoming new scholars into the fold and sharing advice and resources that they can utilize as they embark on their academic journeys. Hindered by lockdown restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lyford Cay Foundations hosted a “New Scholars Virtual Induction Ceremony” in an online Zoom webinar, joined by the new scholars, current scholars, donors, board members, screening committee members, as well as former and current members of the professional team.

After a slideshow introducing all sixteen new scholars, their areas of study and professional goals, former Executive Director of Lyford Cay Foundations, Felicity Humblestone, made opening remarks on what she shared was her “most favorite day” in the professional office.

“During a year of turmoil for the world as we battle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are grateful to be celebrating all of you as bright lights for the future of The Bahamas,” she said. “You’ve proven yourselves to be the top candidates in a very competitive process where hundreds applied. We are honored to be part of your journey to higher education and success and we welcome you into our Lyford Cay Foundations Scholar family.”

“In any year, pursuing higher education has its challenges—those challenges are amplified in this unprecedented year for the world, in particular, for education,” she added before

welcoming a panel of four current Lyford Cay Foundations Scholars—Khai Adderley, Michael Bowleg, Markia Bowe, and Rhema Mills—who shared responses to the questions: “What does it mean to be a Lyford Cay Foundations Scholar?” and “How would you recommend adjusting to college life in COVID-19 conditions?”

In closing, Chairman of Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc., Basil Goulondris, shared warm congratulations and reminded the sixteen new scholars to set their goals, listen to their hearts, and follow their dreams as ambassadors of The Bahamas.

“We are all extremely proud of your accomplishments,” he said. “You all have had long and challenging roads, yet, through perseverance, you’re all now well-prepared for the next chapter in your lives.”

“As your individual journeys continue, remember now that you are all Lyford Cay Foundations Scholars. There’s no holding you back. We are so excited for you and your achievements to come. You are our most distinguished ambassadors, so please make The Bahamas proud. I know you will.” •

#### 2020 KEY HIGHLIGHT:

# 75%

**First Generation  
College Student**

07 • SCHOLARSHIPS / 2020 New Scholars



**MARTIN LUTHER ALBURY**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
*Engineering (Chemical)*  
Dalhousie University  
Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation



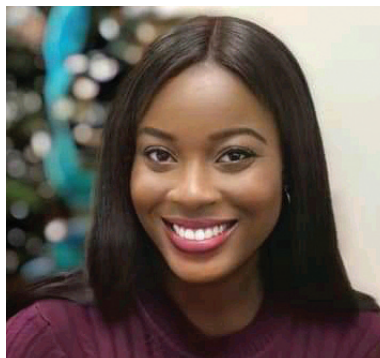
**AVRIEL CARTWRIGHT**  
GRADUATE  
*Applied Mathematics*  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Lyford Cay Foundation



**KEVIN CARTWRIGHT**  
GRADUATE  
*Education*  
University of Ottawa  
Thomson Leadership & Innovation Award



**MACKENZIE DAM**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
*Exercise Science*  
Florida Southern College  
Abaco Scholarship Fund



**VALERIE DEROSIN**  
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL  
*Aviation Technology*  
Fanshawe College  
T. K. Foundation



**KRISTOPH DEVEAUX**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
*Jazz Performance*  
McGill University  
Edward S. Rogers Memorial Scholarship



**VANESSA HALEY-BENJAMIN**  
GRADUATE  
*Biological Sciences*  
University of Auckland  
Fiona Albek Scholarship for the Environment



**PIERRE HEPBURN**  
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL  
*National Resources Environmental Technology*  
Nova Scotia Community College  
T. K. Foundation



**TREVOR JOHNSON**  
GRADUATE  
*Crisis, Disaster, & Emergency Management*  
North Dakota State University  
Lyford Cay Foundation



**JOSHUA KING**  
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL  
*Radiologic Science*  
Midwestern State University  
Harold W. Siebens Technical Scholarship



**KENARO MALCOLM**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
*Marine Environmental Technology*  
College of the Florida Keys  
Bahamas Billfish Championship Award



**BRITTNEI MCKENZIE**  
UNDERGRADUATE  
*Pre-Veterinary Medicine*  
St George's University  
The Peter N. Thomson Family Award



**ERNEST MILLER JR.**  
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL  
*Avionics Maintenance*  
Fanshawe College  
Harold W. Siebens Technical Scholarship



**LETITIA PRATT**  
GRADUATE  
*Writing*  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Harry C. Moore Memorial Scholarship in the Arts



**VALENTINO RAHMING**  
GRADUATE  
*Second Language Education*  
Pennsylvania State University  
Estelle Siebens Excellence Award



**HAZEN ROLLE**  
TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL  
*Culinary Arts Management*  
University of West London  
Lyford Cay Foundation

## 2020 KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

**16**  
New  
Awards  
Given in  
2020

**25%**  
Family  
Island  
Students  
in 2020

**19%**  
Public  
School  
Students  
in 2020

## PERSEVERENCE PERSONIFIED:

### Life for Lyford Cay Foundations Scholars in the Time of COVID

Dr. Andrea Culmer



#### Dr. Andrea Culmer ('05)

##### BAHAMAS ALL-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

For Dr. Andrea Culmer (2005), each hospital and clinic workday in 2020 was unpredictable, but held the same ritual at its end: disinfecting her clothes, car, phone, watch, and ID badge, and removing the outer layer of her attire inside at the entry door to keep her household free from the coronavirus.

"We must constantly protect ourselves and take precautions as though everyone has

COVID-19," she says. "It can be tiring, even frustrating sometimes, because it is overwhelming. Everyone is stretched and burnt out."

Practicing and learning medicine in the midst of a pandemic is not what Dr. Culmer expected to encounter in her career when she embarked on her medical path in 2005 as the first Family Island resident to receive the prestigious Bahamas All-Merit Scholarship. Fascinated by chemistry, this Eleutheran from Savannah Sound went first to Quebec to earn her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at McGill University, and then completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) Degree from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and The Bahamas.

"Receiving the All-Merit Scholarship was a major steppingstone in my career," Dr. Culmer recalls. "I was enlightened about how much work we have to do in order to advance and grow our country."

When the pandemic broke out, Dr. Culmer was wrapping up a two-year posting at Sandilands Rehabilitation Center in General Psychiatry in order to begin her Family Medicine Residency Programme — which she kicked off with an

eight-week rotation in Accident and Emergency at Princess Margaret Hospital during the height of COVID infections. Spending time learning in several areas at the hospital, Dr. Culmer endured another two weeks on the COVID team.

“I describe it as literally drowning on land. Sometimes there’s nothing you can do,” she remembers. “That was heartbreaking, having to call people and say that their family member was not going to make it.”

Since 2018, Dr. Culmer has also been the Treasurer of The Bahamas Doctors Union, advocating for adequate pay and sufficient staffing to improve working conditions for medical staff in the public sector, which she believes will lead to overall improved patient outcomes.

Strengthening her skills, patience, and adaptability, Dr. Culmer’s residency and union experience have nonetheless confirmed her personal goal to build a private practice in Family Medicine with a specialization in Psychiatry and improve her communities at home in Eleuthera.

“From a young age, I understood that health-care was important, based on the relationship I had with the island doctor,” she says. “To me, doing a five-year psychiatry programme didn’t make sense—I figured the best way to reach people would be through family medicine,

**N. Charles Hamilton**



which develops close relationships with the community. Health literacy is my goal.” •

### **N. Charles Hamilton ‘08** **CLCF ROYAL BANK SCHOLARSHIP**

**N** Charles Hamilton (2008) is working at the nexus of climate change, public health, and communications.

Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Dorian, and with a strong desire to tackle climate change head on in the country, Charles currently serves as National Project Coordinator at the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP). In this role, he is responsible for day-to-day man-

agement, coordination, supervision, and implementation of The Bahamas' Third National Communication (TNC) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

But as COVID-19 reached the shores of The Bahamas, Charles was also able to lend his expertise in shaping and communicating policy in the public sector to the National COVID-19 Taskforce.

"It's all about risk communication, allaying the fears of people, and it's up to public health practitioners to find out how to best address that," he explains. "My approach is to listen first. I don't try to make people feel ashamed, I try to figure out the source of their fear or concern and go from there, and I've been able to help people grow awareness that way."

Receiving an RBC Scholarship from The Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation, Charles began his studies in the field of Biochemistry at the University of Guelph with the intention of continuing on to medical school. However, while there, he discovered a gift for communicating complicated scientific processes through writing—and a newfound love for student politics.

Then, through his roles as a Health Promotion and Communication Consultant with the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and a Communication and Community Engagement Consultant with NHI Bahamas, Charles decided to solidify

his move into the public health arena, by completing a Double Master's Degree in Public Health with the Europubhealth+ programme.

"You cannot think about climate change without thinking about public health, or vice versa," says Charles. "2020 brought into focus how health crises, economic crises, and environmental crises are one hundred percent related."

Besides fully recovering from a terrible case of COVID-19 himself, Charles considers his greatest success in 2020 being selected as one of four youth speakers from around the world (joining Ghana, Malaysia, and France) to provide an intervention during the opening segment of the High-Level Debate Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

"It's a privilege to be able to speak at this high level and I hope that I make Bahamians proud and push for more spaces to be made for people from The Bahamas to participate like this," says Charles. "In a time when the future seems fragile and unclear, it's up to us to be leveraging our minds and collective knowledge to help build a better Bahamas and a better world." •

## Cory Nixon ('13)

### LCF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Just seven days after he joined the crew of a cruise ship as a Third Engineer Officer, Cory Nixon (2013) found himself at sea when cruise lines stopped operations globally and

Cory Nixon



were required to quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Joining the ship's crew member repatriation team, he worked night shifts to get thousands of passengers back home to their families. But Cory himself would stay afloat as the pandemic stretched on, spending a total of 218 days on board four different ships.

"At first, I didn't know how to feel as I witnessed the industry abruptly shut down and thousands of people immediately furloughed, and I was uncertain of what would happen tomorrow, far away from home and with no more income," says Cory. "But being flexible enough to deal with uncertainty comes with life at sea."

As his deck counterpart was relieved of his duties, Cory stepped up and gained a great deal of confidence in all aspects of his engineering profession, and turned to his lifelong love of learning to prepare for what seemed like an uncertain future.

Cory knew from a young age that he wanted to work on the water, and through guidance from his father—Craig Nixon—a factory engineer who loved boating, as well as mentorship under Craig Doring, who trained him to handle himself at sea, Cory decided to focus on marine engineering.

Receiving a Lyford Cay Foundations Undergraduate Scholarship to earn his Bachelor of Science in Marine Operations with a concentration in Engineering at the State University of New York Maritime College, Cory also received an unlimited vessel tonnage license for Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch at the institution.

Since earning numerous certifications to advance his knowledge and position in his field—including engine resource management, environmental awareness, and high voltage management—Cory once again put all of his effort into upgrading his officer's license, studying at Warsash Maritime Academy in the UK in preparation for the Scottish Qualifications

Anniska Johnson



Society's 2nd Engineer written examinations. He finished 2020 as the first ever Bahamian 2nd Engineer (Unlimited Tonnage) registered under the Bahamian Maritime Authority—and still has his eye set on the horizon.

"The year of 2020 was the most uncertain year of my career thus far—however, it ended with the best possible outcome, and now I'm embarking on a new chapter in my career as I now have the opportunity of moving into management," says Cory.

"The cruise ship industry has been around for more than one hundred years, inspiring passionate clients and taking them on amazing excursions," he adds. "As long as people want

to travel, and ships can carry them, they will cruise. I'm certain that the industry will bounce back." •

### **Anniska Johnson ('09)** **LCF GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

When the first quarantine to restrict the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus shut down her school, C.I. Gibson Language and Literature teacher Anniska Johnson (2009) made a series of quick decisions that would assist her students—most of them were preparing for BGCSE examinations—and their parents to prepare for online instruction.

“My colleagues wondered why I was reacting like I did, but I would rather be safe than sorry,” Anniska recalls. “I didn’t know what was going to happen, but I knew one thing for sure—the expectations placed on me as a teacher would not change.”

Originally intending to go into the field of Law, Anniska began her academic career at the University of St. Augustine. While there, she reconsidered her path and the impact she wanted to make upon The Bahamas, and instead earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Language Arts.

For many years, she tutored children. She found a high demand for one-on-one assistance to address literacy issues in children. So, after pursuing her Masters in Reading from Lincoln University with support from a Lyford Cay Foundations Graduate Scholarship, Anniska earned her reading specialist certification and opened The Literacy Center 242 to offer one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions to improve literacy. She also became a mentor in the Lyford Cay Foundations Cutillas Scholars programme.

“Literacy is so much more than just learning to read,” says Anniska. “The whole job of The Literacy Center is to help people develop as adults, as humans who can contribute to society and have a voice.”

“Books teach children empathy and connection, and that’s missing in their lives,” she adds. “If they picked up a book first, maybe they would never have picked up a gun.”

Always looking for ways to make reading and writing strategies engaging, Anniska’s teaching style is innovative and flexible—qualities that helped her adjust to “the new normal” in her field. In fact, because she had tried out online platforms before the pandemic, The Literacy Center was able to partner with stay-at-home parents to build custom curriculums for their children.

In contrast—and despite the success of her BGCSE students all passing their exams—Anniska experienced great frustration as a teacher, finding a lack of support and vision for public school education during this critical time. But no matter what the future holds, she will always put her students first.

“The thing that kept me going were the students,” she says. “I knew that what was happening to them wasn’t fair, none of us brought this upon ourselves, and we had little support. As a teacher, I teach from the perspective of the future—and they are the future. I couldn’t drop the ball.” •



# FIFTY YEARS, IMMEASURABLE IMPACT

## Lyford Cay Foundations Documentary Celebrates a Milestone



**A** black and white reel opens on the Bahamian landscape and a narrator sets the scene: “The year was 1969 when three friends—Williams Robbins, Robert Blum, and Thomas Evans, who were members of the Lyford Cay Club—embarked on a journey of philanthropy that would help shape the lives of Bahamians for decades to come.”

So begins the history of Lyford Cay Foundations. But this documentary that aired on Giving Tuesday to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Lyford Cay Foundations didn’t measure the organization’s growth in years, but rather in impact. Over the following six-

teen minutes, viewers heard from multiple scholars whose lives had been changed through the Foundations’ generous support—and how they then, in turn, had returned home to The Bahamas to continue the critical work of nation-building.



“We felt the best way to tell the story of Lyford Cay Foundations was to let it unfold through the stories and lives of scholars just like me,” says Lonise Carey (’96), the Managing Partner of Island Destination Services, which produced the documentary with support from Helium Creative and Bass Man Studios.

A Lyford Cay Foundations Scholar herself, Lonise was honored and excited to work with the organization that had supported her own studies abroad to earn a Bachelor’s in Business Administration Degree in Marketing from Howard University. Going on to earn her Master’s Degree in Hotel Administration from the University of Nevada, Lonise then returned home and co-founded Island Destination Services, which has designed and managed the logistics for some of the most outstanding national events in The Bahamas, including the Miss Universe Cultural Village, the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, and the Best of the Best Sailing Regatta.

Eager to celebrate the history and impact of Lyford Cay Foundations through a series of events starting in late 2019, all best laid plans took a turn after a series of national tragedies—Hurricane Dorian in August 2019, and economic

disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic shortly thereafter—shifted the focus of the organization to providing immediate and critical crisis relief for affected Bahamians.

“The question became whether or not we should still celebrate the anniversary during a crisis and, if so, how could we do this responsibly,” says Lonise. “We were certain that our nation needed to hear the story of Lyford Cay Foundations, particularly after so much tragedy. What we needed to convey most was hope. We needed to deliver that message to as many Bahamians as possible.”

At the end of an unprecedented year in Bahamian history, hundreds tuned in to the virtual viewing event online, and to ZNS on their televisions, to hear the inspiring, courageous, and groundbreaking stories of a diverse group of Bahamians representing the long-standing commitment that Lyford Cay Foundations has made to The Bahamas.

“After it aired, our inbox and phones were flooded with overwhelmingly positive feedback from viewers,” says Lonise. “I believe it was a proud moment for beneficiaries and donors that will continue to inspire the act of giving and celebrate the many accomplishments of the Foundations.” ●

## OUR 50TH YEAR

# JESSICA COLEBROOKE

The Evolution of the  
Seagrape Leaf

*“...my vision could be  
birthed there...”*

When Bahamian artist Jessica Colebrooke ('94) had the opportunity to earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), she walked into a craft store that sold the work of artists in the community and encountered an exquisite ceramic maple leaf that would influence her artistic trajectory.

“I stood there for the longest time studying it, and I remember being inspired,” she says. “I said, when I go home, I’m going to find a leaf and make something similar, and this leaf is going to be connected to The Bahamas and I am going to make people stop and look at this leaf the same way I looked at that maple leaf.”

That leaf would become the seagrape leaf, the ubiquitous icon that adorns a number of Jessica’s internationally-sold ceramic wares that she has manufactured through her company, Jessica’s Tileworks—and now, the commemorative platters gifted to longstanding donors for their contributions to Lyford Cay Foundations on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.





For Jessica, the opportunity to make fifty of these platters as a Lyford Cay Foundations Scholar brought everything full circle—after all, it was through a scholarship from the organization that made it possible for her to study and be inspired in Rhode Island twenty-five years ago.

“I was so happy that Lyford Cay Foundations wanted to go with that design, because my vision could be birthed there, at RISD, because of them, and it’s still growing today thanks to their encouragement,” says Jessica.

Indeed, for Jessica, whose ceramic creations draw from the beauty of the Bahamian environment to be displayed in gallery and retail settings alike, the invitation to manufacture these special platters came at a critical time. As the tourism industry came to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so too did a large share of her outlets for her products—as well as her plans to expand her studio and teach ceramics classes.

Though she responded by utilizing and creating digital platforms for sales and expanding her already impressive line of work to encompass new forms and designs, a significant project like the commemorative platters from Lyford Cay Foundations has been encouraging to this Bahamian manufacturer who chose to fulfill the organization’s mandate to come back home to The Bahamas and make a difference by contributing to the creative Orange Economy.

“Lyford Cay Foundations remembered they had a scholar who they can utilize and who produces a world-class level of work, and invested back into the country, into a Bahamian business,” says Jessica. “I appreciate that.”

“You know that saying, ‘If a tree falls in the forest, do you hear it?’ Sometimes people make donations and they don’t see it,” she adds. “And with this platter, I hope they see the value that they created as a result of their support.” •



# Our 2020 Donors

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# FINANCIALS

# 2020

## LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended December 31, 2020 with comparative totals for 2019

*Includes Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. & Shirley Oakes Butler Charitable Trusts*

|                                         | 2020                | 2019                |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |                     |                     |
| Cash and cash equivalents               | 2,997,615           | 3,617,108           |
| Investments, at fair value              | 27,064,094          | 25,299,667          |
| Other receivables                       | 204,016             | 29,580              |
| Prepaid expenses                        | 660                 | 660                 |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b>\$30,266,385</b> | <b>\$28,947,015</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>       |                     |                     |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                      |                     |                     |
| Grants and scholarships payable         | 7,500               | 12,500              |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses   | 125,693             | 93,615              |
| <b>NET ASSETS, at end of year</b>       | <b>30,133,192</b>   | <b>28,840,900</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$30,266,385</b> | <b>\$28,947,015</b> |

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the year ended December 31, 2020 with comparative totals for 2019

*Includes Lyford Cay Foundation, Inc. & Shirley Oakes Butler Charitable Trusts*

|                                                      | 2020                | 2019                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>                           |                     |                     |
| Contributions                                        | 1,616,006           | 3,711,415           |
| Investment and other income                          | 4,225,724           | 4,526,379           |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>                     | <b>5,841,730</b>    | <b>8,237,794</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                      |                     |                     |
| Grants to support programmes                         | 2,995,400           | 544,001             |
| Academic scholarship awards                          | 352,500             | 362,000             |
| Technical training and vocational scholarship awards | 165,000             | 263,000             |
| University of The Bahamas scholarship grant          | –                   | 210,000             |
| FOCUS education initiative                           | 271,563             | 587,873             |
| Other programme expenses                             | 216,833             | 304,092             |
| <b>Total Programmes</b>                              | <b>4,001,296</b>    | <b>2,270,966</b>    |
| Management and General                               | 365,004             | 362,627             |
| Fundraising                                          | 183,138             | 286,558             |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                | <b>4,549,438</b>    | <b>2,920,151</b>    |
| Change in Net Assets                                 | 1,292,292           | 5,317,643           |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year                        | 28,840,900          | 23,523,257          |
| <b>NET ASSETS, at end of year</b>                    | <b>\$30,133,192</b> | <b>\$28,840,900</b> |

# THE CANADIAN LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended December 31, 2020 with comparative totals for 2019

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

|                                            | 2020                | 2019                |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                              |                     |                     |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | 4,699,065           | 4,285,454           |
| Investments, at fair value                 | 17,617,703          | 14,779,475          |
| Accounts receivable                        | 13,604              | 10,879              |
| Investment income receivable               | 15,750              | 16,158              |
| Prepaid expense                            | 4,805               | –                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                        | <b>\$22,350,927</b> | <b>\$19,091,966</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>       |                     |                     |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                         |                     |                     |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses      | 294,310             | 257,171             |
| Deferred revenue                           | 3,234,523           | 1,995,783           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                   | <b>3,528,833</b>    | <b>2,252,954</b>    |
| <b>FUND BALANCES</b>                       |                     |                     |
| General                                    | 1,742,154           | 1,296,524           |
| Scholarship                                | 1,983,260           | 1,999,183           |
| Endowment                                  | 15,096,680          | 13,543,305          |
| <b>NET ASSETS, at end of year</b>          | <b>18,822,094</b>   | <b>16,839,012</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b> | <b>\$22,350,927</b> | <b>\$19,091,966</b> |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the year ended December 31, 2020 with comparative totals for 2019

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

|                                                      | 2020                | 2019                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>                           |                     |                     |
| General contributions                                | 4,862,813           | 566,165             |
| Scholarship contributions                            | –                   | 25,000              |
| Endowment contributions                              | 600,000             | 150,000             |
| Investment and other income                          | 1,551,058           | 1,976,171           |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>                     | <b>7,013,871</b>    | <b>2,717,336</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                      |                     |                     |
| Academic scholarship awards                          | 254,340             | 284,500             |
| Technical training and vocational scholarship awards | 15,000              | 15,000              |
| University of The Bahamas scholarship grant          | –                   | 33,108              |
| FOCUS Education Initiative                           | 113,660             | 143,252             |
| Adelaide Primary School Initiative                   | 39,926              | 85,080              |
| Hurricane Relief projects                            | 3,716,947           | 175,300             |
| COVID-19 Relief efforts                              | 494,155             | –                   |
| Other programme expenses                             | 23,740              | 23,568              |
| <b>Total Programme expenses</b>                      | <b>4,657,768</b>    | <b>759,808</b>      |
| Management and General                               | 373,021             | 207,146             |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                | <b>5,030,789</b>    | <b>966,954</b>      |
| Change in Net Assets                                 | 1,983,082           | 1,750,382           |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year                        | 16,839,012          | 15,088,630          |
| <b>NET ASSETS, at end of year</b>                    | <b>\$18,822,094</b> | <b>\$16,839,012</b> |



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