

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



Sol Relief is dedicated to providing immediate and effective disaster relief through our aviation network in collaboration with local communities and partner organizations; we specifically focus on providing last-mile air logistics. In addition to our initial relief efforts, we are committed to supporting locally-led initiatives for long-term recovery, emphasizing resilience and disaster preparedness.

### EMPOWERED BY OUR PARTNERSHIPS



## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVERVIEW

- 12 humanitarian flights completed including flights to Fort Myers & Big Bend, Florida and Abaco, Bahamas.
- \$15,000 in home renovations for first responders in Southwest Florida following Hurricane Ian.
- \$21,000 of supplies and grants provided to Big Bend, FL after Hurricane Idalia.
- \$351,000 contributed to rebuild the Murphy Town Community Center in Abaco, Bahamas.
- \$200,000 granted to rebuild the Friends of the Environment's Learning Center in Abaco, Bahamas.
- Conducted two day Disaster Prep & CPR Training course with local leaders in Abaco, Bahamas.
- Supplied \$18,000 in Polyglass roofing material for community church and homes in Abaco, Bahamas.
- Over 1,400 lbs. of donated toys (more than 850 individual toys) flown and given to families in Big Bend, FL after Hurricane Idalia as part of our annual holiday toy drive.

## HURRICANE RESPONSE

### OVERVIEW OF HURRICANE IDALIA RESPONSE

- Big Bend Area, FL - \$12,500 in monetary donations to Compassionate Alliance for food, water, and cleaning supplies, as well as \$2,500 of in-kind donations.
- Strengthened and leveraged partnerships with Compassionate Alliance and Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) by collaborating on response and recovery efforts in Idalia affected areas.
- Sourced and delivered 858 toys (over 1,400 lbs) using 7 full planes to families for the holidays.

# SUMMARY OF RESPONSES & PROJECTS

## RESPONSE PARTNERS

IDALIA				
Compassionate Alliance	St. Pete Air	Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (FLVOAD)	Madison County Sheriff's Office	Map International

MURPHY TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER				
Many Hands 4 Abaco	Murphy Town Local Government	Kids Around the World (playground)	Premier Imports	Over a dozen local subcontractors

## COMPANY DONORS

- St. Pete Air
- AnswerFirst Communications
- CDW
- Luminaid
- Stevens & Stevens
- Polyglass Roofing
- Charitable Aviation Foundation
- Amuni Financial
- Construction Casualty Insurance
- Biltmore Construction
- Silver Airways
- Donna L. Pope Family Foundation
- Totally Tiki Tours
- Helinger Advertising
- The Hangar Restaurant
- Amazon Disaster Relief
- ClickFirst Marketing
- Cartier CPA
- Kahwa Coffee
- Rockshop Fine Gems & Jewelry

## IN-KIND FLIGHT DONATIONS

- Approximate cost savings from volunteer flights
  - 8 X \$800 = \$6,400 (Northwest Florida flights after Idalia)
  - 4 x \$2,000 = \$8,000 (Bahamas flights for Community Center)

**Total: \$14,400**

## NEW PILOTS SIGN UPS

14 new volunteer pilot sign-ups to support the Sol Relief mission



# COMPLETED BAHAMAS PROJECTS

## FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATIONAL CENTER



Sol Relief formed a pivotal partnership with Friends of The Environment, based in Abaco, Bahamas, to facilitate the revival of their Environmental Education Center — a facility tragically lost to Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Demonstrating our commitment to supporting longterm recovery efforts, we extended a substantial grant to propel the reconstruction efforts.

We proudly joined the celebration at the Center's grand opening in May 2023, marking a significant milestone in community recovery and environmental stewardship. It was an honor for Sol Relief to be recognized on the Center's wall of partners, underscoring our dedication to supporting vital environmental initiatives.

Friends of The Environment continues to be an educational cornerstone in the Bahamas, spearheading a diverse array of programs designed to inspire and educate individuals of all ages. Their offerings span a broad spectrum, from field trips and afterschool activities to immersive summer camps and pre-college environmental studies, nurturing a new generation of environmental guardians.





# MURPHY TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER



In a collaborative triumph, Sol Relief, alongside Murphy Town Local Government and Many Hands 4 Abaco, spearheaded the restoration of the Murphy Town Community Center — a sanctuary for many during Hurricane Dorian, which had since been abandoned after being rendered unusable by the disaster. This rehabilitation has resurrected a multifunctional venue that not only fosters recreation and learning but also serves as a vital hurricane shelter, ensuring a secure space during perilous times.

Before the storm, the center was the heartbeat of the community, accommodating meetings, celebrations, educational programs for adults and youth, and incorporating facilities like an after-school classroom, a computer lab, and a kitchen. The devastation of Dorian left a void, stripping the community of a safe haven for gatherings — an integral component for communal health, wellness, and emergency preparedness.

December 2023 saw the Grand Opening, a poignant event that celebrated renewal and resilience, drawing over 200 community members and families.

Sol Relief's role in this project has been a profound journey of partnership and impact, culminating in a revitalized center that is much more than a building — it is a symbol of hope, unity and community resilience.





# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

## SUSTAINING RECOVERY IN ABACO, BAHAMAS



Our commitment to the Bahamian communities endures. Orchestrated by Leticia McIntosh, Sol Relief's dedicated Bahamas Program Manager, we've catalyzed support for numerous families across Abaco, nurturing recovery and empowerment through a series of impactful initiatives:

- Easter Outreach: We provided essential groceries and clothing to 200 families.
- Sports Equipment Donation: In collaboration with Jump for Kids Florida, we furnished local youth with thousands of dollars' worth of sports and athletic gear.
- Disaster Preparedness & CPR Training: Launching our inaugural training event in Abaco, we leveraged the newly rebuilt Learning Center, a project funded by Sol Relief, as the venue. The training was attended by 16 community leaders, including nonprofit and school officials as well as government employees, earning high praise for its comprehensive curriculum.

Each endeavor represents a stepping stone towards a stronger, more resilient Abaco, reinforcing our dedication to the islands' long-term prosperity.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM: SOL RISING



Sol Relief's educational initiative, Sol Rising, harnesses the wonder of flight to inspire the next generation. Focusing on youth aviation, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education, and meaningful community engagement, Sol Rising brings aviation to life for students. Throughout 2023, we offered an array of immersive learning experiences, from field trips to interactive community events, all aimed at sparking interest in the exciting world of aviation.

This year, we connected with over 800 young individuals and more than 150 adults, introducing them to the multifaceted world of aviation and its myriad possibilities. Additionally, Sol Relief participated in prominent community events, including the St. Pete Science Festival and the Halloween Trunk or Treat Event, hosted by the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

In a notable highlight leading up to the St. Pete Science Festival, Sol Relief orchestrated an ambitious collaboration with the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, the City of St. Pete, and the St. Pete Police Department. This partnership culminated in a remarkable feat: the transportation of a Cessna airplane through the city to the university, drawing awe and excitement from festival attendees. The event not only showcased our commitment to education but also provided a platform to share Sol's mission, highlighting our disaster relief and recovery efforts to countless families.





# EVENTS

## ST. PETE SCIENCE FESTIVAL EXHIBITOR



As mentioned above, Sol Relief participated in the St. Pete Science Festival, an annual event celebrating science and education, hosted by the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. We engaged attendees with a flight simulator experience during the educational field trip day and showcased an aircraft at the university.

Attracting 12,000-15,000 visitors, the festival offered us a platform to demonstrate the intersection of aviation and technology in disaster relief and recovery, and how we utilize these tools to make a tangible impact in communities affected by crises.

## 5TH ANNUAL HAPPY HOUR & HURRICANE SEASON FUNDRAISER

Sol Relief's annual Happy Hour in June successfully rallied over 100 supporters, including pilots, donors, volunteers, and newcomers passionate about our mission.

Hosted at the Hangar Restaurant, this engaging gathering raised over \$15,000 in preparation for the hurricane season.

The event also celebrated our exemplary volunteers, honoring Dawson Cannon as Pilot Volunteer of the Year and Lizzie Fitzgerald as Ground Volunteer of the Year. Special thanks to Biltmore Construction and Construction Casualty Insurance for sponsoring this vital fundraiser.





## 6TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & TOY FLY-OUT



Our latest annual Toy Drive and Fly Out was our most successful to date; amassing over 1,400 pounds and more than 850 toys. Seven aircraft were filled and delivered donated toys to the Cross City and Suwannee County Airports, as part of our ongoing Hurricane Idalia recovery initiative.

In a meaningful collaboration, Compassion Alliance and the Madison County Sheriff's Office joined forces with us to distribute the toys. The impact was heartfelt—recipients expressed profound gratitude, with the gifts bringing much-needed holiday cheer to numerous families.

On the home front, we leveraged partnerships with local businesses such as Anchor Bar Davis Islands, Admiral Farragut Academy, the Hangar Restaurant, The Rock & Gem Shop, Practically Frivolous Hair Salon, and St.Pete Air, who generously served as toy drop-off points. Additionally, several local supporters held private drives, further amplifying our efforts.

Thanks to these collaborations, as well as our sponsors Amuni Financial and AnswerFirst, and the community's generosity, we were able to ensure a season of celebration for those still facing the challenges of recovery.



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Immediate, efficient & effective disaster relief via aviation.

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