



# Community Centre Proposal



**Location:** Abaco, Bahamas

**Expected Time of Completion:** Fall 2015

# Background and Justification

## **The problems the community centre would help resolve:**

- Lack of constructive opportunities and activities
- High rates of juvenile crime and violence
- Low exposure to and knowledge of foreign cultures
- Low levels of education/ high drop out rates
- Very low family income levels

## **The need for a community centre was determined:**

- After conducting many interviews with children, parents, and local community activists
- After running Island Waves programs ([www.islandwavesc4.com](http://www.islandwavesc4.com)) with over 200 children in various settlements
- After discussions with local educators, lawyers, and law enforcement

## Objectives

### **A. Immediate objectives**

- To offer constructive opportunities and activities to hundreds of children ages 4-20
- To bring in programs and charities from around world
- To give the children positive role models from both domestic and international backgrounds
- To begin entrepreneurial projects and programs that can bring financial support to the children and their families
- To offer more programs and opportunities in the arts to the youth of Abaco

### **B. Long-term objectives**

- To increase the literacy and education level of the children in the area
- To reduce the amount of crime in the community
- To lessen the divide between white and black races in the Bahamas
- To raise the family income levels of the families in the area
- To increase youth appreciation and understanding of the arts such as music and dance in the Bahamas

## Special Features

### **A. Focus in the Arts:**

- Music Classes: \*Piano (Music Theory, Playing by Ear), Voice, Guitar, Drum
- Arts & Crafts Classes, Art & Junkanoo Workshops
- Creative Writing/Poetry Workshops

### **B. Green Building:**

- The building will utilize solar energy to power its operations.
- LED light fixtures, proper insulation, motion light sensors, and other energy saving techniques will be placed in the centre.
- There will be a community-composting program that will then be used for gardening.

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

## **A. Expected project results**

- In its first 5 years, the community centre will positively impact the lives of over 300 children and adolescents from the various settlements.
- The positive influence of the centre's programs and project leaders will keep the community's youth away from crime and occupied with more fruitful pursuits.
- Education and literacy rates will rise, opening a path to post-secondary education.
- The youth will direct their energy and creativity into entrepreneurship, increasing social mobility in the community.
- The community centre will create a safe learning environment where children will be able to develop prosperous talents and abilities.

## **B. Project activities and programs**

- Music Classes
- Art and Crafts Classes (including Junkanoo construction)
- Dance Classes
- Mixed Martial Arts classes
- Swimming lessons
- Fishing/ marine conservation program
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- Reading courses
- Science, math, geography, and other workshops
- Community garden
- Entrepreneurial programs/Empowerment Workshops
- Job training and career advice
- Counselling/Wellness & Nutrition Consultations
- Distinguished local and international speakers
- And many more...

## **C. Project Beneficiaries**

The community centre will directly benefit hundreds of children, teenagers, and adults in these depressed communities within the various settlements on the island. Indirectly, the construction of a community centre is expected to positively impact the Bahamian economy and society in the long run by lowering the crime rate and bolstering educational achievement.

The children and adults of the community have been involved in the planning for the centre and will be even more involved in the construction of the centre and implementation of the different programs/activities. The community centre will be a structure planned, built, and operated by both Bahamians and Americans, and various networks around the world.

## **D. Management of the Community Centre**

A Bahamian NPO called "Lend a Hand Bahamas" will own and manage the community centre. The head administrator of the centre will be Garnell Limperes-Dawkins, and she will be assisted by a team of local overseers including various community activists, educators, and leaders.

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All finances and programs will be planned and monitored in a checks and balances system. The members of the board and officers will work together in planning for the yearly expenditures prior to the start of each New Year. The centre will operate during a few hours each afternoon during the school year, and longer hours during the summertime. In both cases, the head administrator overseen by the officers will control the management and monitoring of expenditures and operations.

## COSTS

### **There are two phases of costs:**

1. Phase 1: Renovating the structure **\$5,000.00**
2. Phase 2: Annual Operating Costs **\$16,200.00**

### **Phase 1: Renovating the structure (\$5,000)**

- We currently possess a structure that is suitable for the centre, but it needs minor renovations.
- Exterior Paint (Deck) [6 Gallons]
- Exterior Paint for outside walls 42x54 (No Gloss) 5 Gallon Bucket [3 Buckets]
- Paint for inside walls (Semi-Gloss/Gloss) [10 Gallons]
- Drop side panels (4x2 ceiling) [3 cases]
- Clear Panels (light fixtures) [2 panels]
- Back Door (exterior)
- Electrician (meter)
- Dead Bolts (front/back door) [4 bolts]

### **Phase 2: Operating Costs (\$21,200)**

- Structure rental cost: \$1,200.00/month
- Utility costs: \$100.00/month (electricity), \$50.00/month (phone/internet)
- Programing costs: \$5,000

The operational budget includes: the utilities, transportation for field trips, monthly stipend for the administrator, and other managerial expenses. We will be utilizing solar energies to minimize utility costs, and to perhaps even be able to store energy for emergency use.

(If you have any questions please feel free to call Garnell Limperes at 242-475-5139 or email her at [lendahandbahamas@gmail.com](mailto:lendahandbahamas@gmail.com).

**Video about Abaco Centre:** <https://vimeo.com/59282055>

# Higher levels of Support

## 1. Platinum (\$20,000+):

- You are invited to attend the Grand Opening
- Receive a Community Centre t-shirt
- Have your name of choice placed on one of the below components of the community centre.

### Possible components are:

- Computer Room
- Class Room (Academic)
- Library
- Lounge Area
- Community Garden
- Creative Class Room (Music/Art/Video/Photography)
- Audio/Video/Photography (Recording) Studio
- Art/Crafts Studio Room
- Dance Studio Room

## 2. Gold (\$5,000-\$19,999):

- You are invited to attend the Grand Opening
- Receive a Community Centre t-shirt
- Have your name of choice placed on a plaque that will be in the main area of the community centre.

## 3. Silver (\$1,000-\$4,999):

- You are invited to attend the Grand Opening
- Receive a Community Centre t-shirt
- Have your name of choice placed on a plaque that will be in the main area of the community centre.

## 4. Bronze (\$500-\$999):

- You are invited to attend the Grand Opening
- Receive a Community Centre t-shirt

OPTION 2

