

# 2018 HURRICANE SEASON

In 2017 generators brought relief to vulnerable families in Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica

Newsletter June, 2018



June 1<sup>st</sup> is the official first day of the 2018 hurricane season; but May 29<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Albert had already destroyed 347 houses and caused the evacuation of 40,000 persons in Central Cuba. OAA has already distributed pre-staged humanitarian supplies stored by our church partners in Cienfuegos and Matanzas. We have also started emergency air shipments of relief items from our warehouse partner in Miami.



Humanitarian aid alleviated the suffering of thousands of victims, contributed to the rebuilding efforts, and built local capacity and sustainable partnerships.

*"We are grateful of the generous donation of these much-needed generators which will bring relief and comfort to thousands of people who will benefit from the supply of electricity at institutions which serve the poor and underprivileged; and to further develop the country's capacity for disaster resilience support and assistance so we can be more resilient"*

- Kathleen Pinard-Byrne  
Dominica Red Cross

Last year, OAA provided \$3.6 million in food, water, and hygiene kits to Cuba, and the devastated islands in the eastern Caribbean, and over \$1 million in diesel generators to Antigua & Barbuda, and Dominica. The overall purpose of our relief programs is to benefit disaster victims and reduce the suffering of the most vulnerable groups in the America's Region, and to provide tools and resources needed to increase their preparedness and self-sufficiency.

## OUR SUCCESS STORY 2017

For the first time on record in 2017 the region was hit by two back-to-back category five hurricanes. Hurricane Irma devastated Barbuda and Antigua and that was quickly followed by hurricane Maria which devastated the island of Dominica. According to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Barbuda had more than 95% of the island's homes and infrastructure destroyed. The entire population of less than 2,000 had to be evacuated to Antigua. Over 90% of Dominica's infrastructure was destroyed and critically damaged. Most of the island did not have access to clean water, electricity, security, medical care and communication services.



Donation of diesel mobile power generators

With the financial contribution of our caring donors and the U.S. Caribbean Strong Relief Fund (of The Miami Foundation), and the donation of 18 diesel generators from the USAID/Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) the distribution of relief commodities became the centerpiece of this initiative implemented by OAA under our program brand “Americas Relief Team” (ART).

Assistance was also provided by Tropical Shipping, King Ocean Services Shipping lines, The Dominica and The Antigua Red Cross, and 13 local organizations in the islands. Relief aid commodities and critical assistance provided by this initiative helped to alleviate the suffering and directly impacted the lives of approximately 12,000 victims.

## OUR PLANS THIS YEAR

At OAA we believe that the cost of natural disasters is high, but lives can be saved before they ever occur. We are helping communities identify, assess and reduce their risks. Creating response plans and resilient strategies now can help better protect people tomorrow. Our program of Community & Port Resiliency Program (C-PReP), which seeks to provide technical, material, and strategic tools to support communities and airports facing complex challenges both during and after a crisis event. This year we plan to conduct workshops in Antigua, St Lucia, Dominica, Barbados and Puerto Rico. It is our vision that the program will be expanded to communities and airports throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



*C-PReP Workshop for Mexican airports in Miami*

As we learned from Hurricane Albert, tropical storms arrive fast and create terrible devastation. We must be ready to help save lives! OAA has activated The Caribbean Hurricane Fund and the Cuba Christian Relief Fund as contingency funds to provide rapid logistics response to move disaster relief cargo from our staging warehouses to disaster victims as fast as possible. If you wish to help you may designate the fund you wish to donate.

**“The overall purpose of our Relief Programs is to benefit disaster victims and reduce the suffering of the most vulnerable groups in the Americas, and to provide tools and resources needed to increase their preparedness and self-sufficiency”.**

*-Dr. Teo A. Babun, CEO*

**YOU CAN  
HELP!**



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