

ONE  
*Team*

ONE  
*dream*



**BARBUDA**

ISLANDS

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

From the outset, Barbuda Ocean Club has been dedicated to using its resources and talents to support a rich, vibrant, and prosperous community for all Barbudans. Following the devastation of Hurricane Irma, this commitment was redoubled, and our goals redefined. In response, Barbuda Ocean Club has developed five pillars to guide its initiatives within the broader Barbuda community. These pillars are:



ENVIRONMENT



CULTURE & HERITAGE



HEALTH



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EDUCATION

While each touches a different aspect of life on Barbuda, all support the goal of revitalizing the island community, making it more resilient, sustainable, and independent. We take this direction seriously and are diligent about making the Barbuda people part of the process. Offering a hand up, not a just hand out is our shared approach. This is a collaboration between Barbuda Ocean Club, our stakeholders, Central Government, Barbuda Council and most importantly our neighbors on Barbuda. Following is an overview of the steps we have taken to promote each of these pillars to date as well as our goals and objectives for the future.



## ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL:** Enhance the resiliency and foster sustainability among the people of Barbuda with regards to ecosystem restoration, preservation, food security, storm recovery, waste management, and utilities delivery to enhance the community's ability to withstand future storm events and return to normal more quickly and efficiently.

The founding mantra from our partnership team was to make sure Barbuda Ocean Club created environmental sustainability for the club and more importantly the entire island. With this mission in mind, we developed the most aggressive and innovative environmental program; based on our EIA, in the region. A primary focus of our efforts has been restoration of the historic, protective dunes on Palmetto Peninsula. These had been eradicated after 50-plus years of illegal sand mining which seriously degraded the island's environmental health and increased the danger to Barbuda's citizens from storm events. To date, working in conjunction with the local community, we have restored 1.5 miles of dunes to a minimum height of 10 feet. Eventually we will restore seven miles of dunes. This restoration of the dune system will help protect Codrington and the residents of the peninsula from future storm surge events.

Hand in hand with the dune restoration, the Club spearheaded a locally run sea turtle monitoring program that participates in the international WIDECAST effort. This past year, the team recorded 73 nesting events. Hawksbill turtles, the most common nesting species, laid an average of 127 eggs per nest. Approximately 111 tiny hatchlings emerged from each nest and safely reached the ocean – indicating high nesting success.

Other efforts supported by the club include wetland development, reef restoration and native plant salvage and propagation. Each of these helps to restore Barbuda's ecosystem and offer further protection to the island from storm events.

Additionally, in the wake of a powerful hurricane, restoring the basics – food, water, shelter – are paramount. Traditionally, Barbudans have enjoyed rather good food security due to the richness of the sea and their tradition of keeping small garden plots at their homes. Recently, thanks to an abundance of produce grown at Barbuda Ocean Club, we were able to provide vegetables to several Barbudan families. In the future, the Club intends to use its resources to provide soil and seed as well as training to encourage Barbudans once again to maintain their own vegetable gardens. The Club also plans to provide fencing to help families protect their gardens from feral animals. In cooperation with Barbuda Go, we will begin providing fencing assistance to residents as early as summer 2021.

Barbuda Ocean Club also recently assisted in a project to assemble and install a new freshwater storage tank on Barbuda which increased the island's capacity from 4,000 to 150,000 gallons of water, providing all Barbudans with more reliable access to clean, fresh water. Additionally, the Club plans to work with local authorities to ensure homes, businesses and public buildings are outfitted with quality hurricane shutters and roofs. Likewise, Barbuda Ocean Club has pledged assistance in helping local home and public facilities connect to the power grid via underground lines which will greatly improve the systems resiliency following any future hurricane.

Finally, Barbuda Ocean Club continues to assist in the cleanup of Barbuda, helping to clear trash and debris from public spaces and providing training and staffing which will enable the island's landfill to better sort and organize debris. The Club also will help promote Barbuda's anti-littering

ordinances by increasing public awareness and education. And, through the introduction of recycling initiatives, the Club will compost organic matter to high quality fertilizer, grind glass for utilization in road repairs, and offshore recycling of plastics and cardboard.

Through these means, as well as ongoing education and training, Barbuda Ocean Club will assist the people of Barbuda in transforming their island into a model for environmental sustainability and stewardship that will provide guidance for others around the globe.



## CULTURE & HERITAGE

**GOAL:** To assist in rebuilding important social spaces, cultural sites, recreation venues and arts programs to restore the spirit and vitality of the community, thus “making the community a community again.”

Historically, Barbuda has enjoyed an incredibly vibrant culture with close-knit kinship and connections among its people. The devastation wrought by Irma has left that legacy in tatters, making it difficult to carry on many of the traditions and practices that made this community so remarkable and inviting.

The immediate goal of Barbuda Ocean Club is to assist the people of Barbuda in the restoration and beautification of culturally significant facilities, such as the Coronation Park horse track in Codrington, other local parks and recreational facilities, the Community Center and arts programs. The Club also plans to regularly sponsor important cultural celebrations such as Barbuda’s annual Caribana, a festival that historically has showcased a queen show, calypso competition, dancing, and food fairs. Likewise, the Club sponsors an annual Christmas event for Barbuda children during the

holidays, featuring toys from Santa, Christmas treats and more. Finally, the Club is sponsoring the music program at Holy Trinity School helping students to learn to play steel pan, recorder, and drums.

The Club also is working to restore the historic Martello Tower and create a community Beach Park. The park is designed as a gathering place for local families and will include a casual restaurant, playground, and beach kiosks to create a fun, welcoming environment for everyone. Also, under consideration is the creation of a historical center to celebrate Barbudan culture & heritage.

Long term, Barbuda Ocean Club’s goal is to provide resources and support to help Barbuda ensure its distinctive culture thrives for generations to come, gaining recognition as one of the most authentic and vibrant communities in the entire Caribbean.



## HEALTH

**GOAL:** Help stabilize the healthcare system on Barbuda and bring available services up to an acceptable baseline standard. In the long term, we intend to assist Barbuda in establishing a world-class, all-encompassing healthcare system on island which will benefit all Barbudans.

The key medical facility on Barbuda is the Hannah Thomas Hospital, and like all key infrastructure, its capabilities were severely degraded following the hurricane. Immediately after, Barbuda Ocean Club was able to help the community by donating mobile medical clinic and mortuary facilities to provide critical services. The Club now is working to secure an ambulance for the hospital, and will soon begin working to help the hospital secure laboratory facilities for necessary onsite testing and acquire specific needed

equipment which will provide the largest benefit for the community. The Club also is working to help the hospital create the type of world-class facilities and housing necessary to attract top medical professionals from around the globe to serve Barbuda.

Barbuda Ocean Club also plans to assist in the restoration of the Wellness Center in the heart of Codrington. Such a facility would be able to provide necessary out-patient services, such as preventative medicine, family planning, counseling services, and women's health, while relieving the patient volume at Hannah Thomas Hospital. Through such preventative approaches, the Club aims to empower behavioral change which focuses on lifestyle behaviors such as exercise, routine eye examinations, and weight management, which impact overall health outcomes. Wellness initiatives will persuade individuals to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors, to use preventive health services, and to take responsibility for their own health and wellness.

In the end, we aim to help Barbuda establish a model healthcare and wellness system on island. Such a system would deliver world-class professional care as well as provide the necessary education and support to help the broader community lead healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous lives.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**GOAL:** Create a network and foundation for supporting and incubating locally owned businesses on Barbuda. Support would include a blend of financial, material and knowledge-based support.

Locally owned and operated businesses not only provide a strong economic base and employment opportunities, they also are an expression of a location's distinctive culture and identity. Such businesses help make a

community more resilient in the face of adversity and create a palpable sense of civic pride. Fortunately, Barbuda is rich with talented, ambitious individuals who have much to offer the community. In fact, many already are operating businesses formally or informally, serving vital roles within the community.

In the near term, the Club intends to identify and work closely with key local businesses such as: bakeries, livestock farms, cook-up shops, mechanics and an electrical supply shop. In fact, Barbuda Ocean Club has engaged a successful business entrepreneur and business consultant from the region to work with these select local businesses, helping them to formalize business practices and plan for future success. Long-term, the Club envisions this program expanding into a networking and mentoring program benefiting all businesses on Barbuda. In addition, the Club plans to assist local fishermen by creating a new dock and access road at Coco Point. Barbuda Ocean Club also plans to formalize its small-business loan program for local entrepreneurs with a goal of assisting five to 10 businesses annually. Finally, The Club plans to encourage successful Barbudans who have moved off island to return home and help revitalize their community and economy.

Ultimately, Barbuda Ocean Club aims to work closely with the talented and creative people of Barbuda to develop a thriving, self-sustaining business community of its own, capable of providing much needed jobs, as well as vital goods and services to the benefit of everyone. Towards that end, we will help the Barbuda business community establish a Chamber of Commerce on island. The Club will support this by providing resources and training to the existing business community so they can offer guidance and leadership for future generations of entrepreneurs.



**GOAL:** Enrich the educational experience for all people on Barbuda, providing them with the necessary equipment, resources, teachers, and programs to flourish and lead happy productive lives. Education of the youth of Barbuda is a key to ensuring its future. We will engage in action that promotes experiential and lifelong learning initiatives.

Barbuda has many talented, passionate, and dedicated educators. However, infrastructure and resources are limiting factors affecting their ability to meet the evolving needs of their students. A top priority for Barbuda Ocean Club is to establish good quality Wi-Fi for the school. Doing so will enable the Barbuda school system to access premier resources from around the world, as well as allow teachers to access top-tier continuing education and training programs, helping them better serve the needs of the people, and improving teacher retention. Barbuda Ocean Club also will work with the school system to develop a comprehensive approach to attracting accomplished teachers and educators to the island.

The Club will help the school system with the implementation of a cutting-edge, web-based literacy program for people throughout the island, bolstering literacy across the board. Further, Barbuda Ocean Club intends to work with the school to develop job opportunities and education programs for those with special needs. The Club also will help the school create a comprehensive vocational education program which will include skill development, mentoring, internships, and apprentice programs to prepare students with marketable job skills upon completion of their education. A component to this will be to establish life-skills program providing everyone with a well-rounded educational experience that goes beyond book-oriented education.

Finally, Barbuda Ocean Club would like to establish a scholarship program to help aspiring learners pursue advanced educational opportunities such as online courses/certificates, higher education, and vocational training at the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education.

The end goal is to create a comprehensive, world-class education system on Barbuda capable of serving the needs of the entire population and attracting top educators from around the globe. By using cutting-edge techniques and the latest technology, Barbuda's education system will ensure 100 percent literacy throughout the island and unlock the potential for its people to achieve their dreams and lead fulfilling lives.

## PUTTING IT TOGETHER

We are excited about this amazing opportunity to work with the people of Barbuda to help restore and preserve their island home. This endeavor will not only enrich the lives of our neighbors, but create a sense of meaning and purpose within our BOC team. While we are in the early stages of this long-term endeavor, the little wins we have experienced to date have only strengthened our commitment to seeing it through. The Barbudan people are resilient, creative, and eager to rebuild their home. They already are hard at work and leading the charge. Barbuda Ocean Club's role is to take direction from the local community, and lend our skills and resources to support their goals. We are honored to help them in this labor of love and look forward to continuing this collaboration for years to come. We are humbled by their passion and drive. And, we are confident our support of their goals and objectives, as outlined in this vision, will create a firm foundation for the future of Barbuda, its people, its land, and its waters.



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