

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



At incorporation in 2013 BCF's focus was on supporting our youth's post-secondary education and we took over the scholarships program previously run by Barbados Ball Canada Aid with a view to significantly enhancing the number and value of scholarships granted. Over the last three years we have been successful in increasing the number of scholarships granted from an average of 4 yearly to an average of 12, with the amount of each scholarship being increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Over the last ten years we granted 94 scholarships valued at \$329,000.

Thank you to our scholarship sponsors - Barbados Overseas Community Canada, Bass Installation, Gloria Baylis, Blue Circle Energy, Diproinduca Canada Ltd and all individual donors. We look forward to your continued support. Thank you also, to the Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation for your support in prior years.

In 2018 we became aware of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's need to replace obsolete and malfunctioning major life-saving equipment and decided that assisting the QEH with its medical equipment needs would be a priority cause for BCF. We obtained approval from Canada Revenue Agency to provide "*medical equipment to hospitals and public health facilities in Barbados for the public's benefit and use*" and have donated equipment costing \$228,700 Barbados dollars to date. We have also donated \$6,752 to Global Medic to cover the cost of shipping 1.1 million masks to Barbados during the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$2,000 to The Grant Morris Foundation towards its fundraising for COVID-19 vaccines for Barbados.

Our commitment to support healthcare initiatives that focus on children, cancer, diabetes and blood disorders such as Sickle Cell Anemia, has been met through our donation of \$65,000 to SickKids Foundation and \$16,000 to Camp Jumoke respectively to date. We have also made donations totalling \$9,000 in support of disaster relief and healthcare initiatives relating to breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Our greatest challenge is raising funds through donations from individuals, both the number of donations and the average amount of each donation received annually, which has not seen the growth we had hoped for. Responses to our online

fundraising appeals have been disappointing and COVID-19 has had a negative impact on our fundraising activities, resulting in the cancellation of the annual golf tournament over the last two years.

As we look to the future it will be incumbent on our board of directors to pursue objectives that will enhance the organization's performance and fully realize its mission "*To help our youth create their future and improve the lives of those in need.*" To this end I believe the following would be pivotal to BCF's long-term success:

- ❖ Increasing annual scholarship grants towards satisfying the demand for scholarships.
- ❖ Re-establishing the golf tournament as an annual fundraising event beginning next year.
- ❖ Increasing revenue derived by the annual raffle lottery.
- ❖ Increasing donation revenue from individuals.

BCF is a board-managed organization and I thank all who have served on our board over the last ten years for their hard work and commitment. I also encourage our scholarship recipients to volunteer on the board or on a committee at some point in the future, to give back to your community. Janessa has shown you the way, I hope that you will follow her lead. With the recent increase in the number of directors from 9 to 11 we will have a more equitable distribution of the workload as we work to achieve BCF's goals.

Bring On The Spring 2024 is being planned for April 13th as a live event to raise \$65,000 to purchase 3 Patient Transport Monitors for the QEH. Please save the date and support us. For further details visit our website at www.barbadoscanadafoundation.com.

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference." Nelson Mandela

Charles (Phil) Broome

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President

Barbados Canada Foundation

October 19, 2023