



Dear Friend of United for Puerto Rico:

Thank you for answering the call to action. None of us would have ever anticipated being at the center of the great devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Lives have been lost, thousands of homes destroyed, and scores of communities were left isolated for weeks by the lack of roads, telecommunication services and electricity.

While the damage to our beautiful Islands, including Vieques and Culebra, has been staggering, what remains as a bright spot is the hope, courage and resilience of our people and, without a doubt, the compassion and generosity of individuals like you.

As members of the Board of Directors of United for Puerto Rico, we have a profound sense of duty to contribute to the recovery of Puerto Rico. The work that we are doing is only possible due to your contributions and support, which is why we will provide a monthly report on how your funds are being used. This will complement our daily and weekly communications as we announce donations and other developments vital to relief and recovery. As private industry leaders, we take very seriously our responsibility and fiduciary duties and are highly committed to support the recovery of our communities. The work of the Board of Directors, all volunteers from the various corporations we represent, have been provided completely Pro-Bono to United for Puerto Rico.

To date we have raised, through approximately 125,000 individual donors, close to \$20 million dollars. United has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Collection Center managed by the Office of the First Lady to distribute goods to communities affected by hurricanes Irma and Maria. As of October 30<sup>th</sup>, the center had distributed 2,320,000 pounds of goods from the 2,394,941 pounds received.

Since our inception in September, we have worked feverishly on three fronts: 1) provide relief aid and support directly to those communities in need and to other local and national NGOs that have a proven record of providing services, and 2) strengthen our capabilities as a new organization to enable us to carry our mission, and 3) focus on fundraising to meet the enormous needs of our people as we focus on recovery.

United for Puerto Rico was born of an initiative of the Office of the First Lady of Puerto Rico to bring together the public and private sector, including NGOs, in a united effort to address Puerto Rico's recovery and reconstruction efforts. This initiative required that we establish ourselves as a non-governmental nonprofit organization.

As part of this plan we constituted a board of 11 members from the private sector joined by three ex-officio non-voting representatives from the government. Board members are in their majority CEO's and Presidents of local private and publicly held corporations that joined the efforts as volunteers to support the recovery of Puerto Rico. We were also able to obtain certification by the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, facilitating the tax aspect of donations from corporations.

United for Puerto Rico's governance is also supported by the following local and national auditing firms: BDO Puerto Rico, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, PWC, and Robles & Associates. The College of Certified Public Accountants is also collaborating with the organization in these matters. On legal matters, the law firm of Pietrantonio Mendez & Alvarez LLC has also joined the effort. These firms support a robust governance structure in line with the level of organization we have become to ensure that the finances and funds are managed in accordance with best practices for non-profit organizations.

To lead the efforts of the organization on an ongoing basis, we hired Mariely Rivera as executive director. Mariely, an experienced and well regarded individual in the philanthropic world of Puerto Rico, is establishing the work plan for the organization, so we can accelerate our work and therefore the recovery of Puerto Rico.

Because of the disruptive nature of Hurricane Maria, in which many have not had access to power, water, supermarkets or well- stocked provisions, many of our initial donations have focused on providing access to meals and water. A request form was included in our website for organizations to seek funds. We have supported non-governmental organizations active in the relief efforts and focused on providing immediate assistance to those who lost their belongings, need food, shelter and other basic necessities and that have a proven track record. These include:

### **Food and Water**

**Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico:** \$100,000 to deliver food products throughout the 78 municipalities of Puerto Rico.

**Boys & Girls Club de Puerto Rico:** \$225,000 to distribute non-perishable goods and hot meals in 44 municipalities.

**Centro de Ayuda Social:** \$48,000 to establish 13 kitchens that will prepare hot meals to communities from Manatí to Loíza.

**National Puerto Rican Leadership Council Education Fund:** \$233,000 to supply potable water solutions to all 78 municipalities in partnership with WaterStep, an international nonprofit organization that provides safe water to communities in developing countries.

### **Health**

**La Perla del Gran Precio:** \$100,000 to be distributed among eight of its organizations and/or programs helping HIV patients, people with mental and physical disabilities and the homeless.

**Fundación de Esclerosis Múltiple de Puerto Rico, Inc:** \$43,100 to support 348 patients who lost everything in the hurricanes. The Fundación is providing these patients with basic goods and transportation to doctors' appointments to continue with their care.

**Iniciativa Comunitaria:** \$100,000 for their project *Operation Compassion* which consists of a mobile clinic to address the needs and medical emergencies of the communities affected by the recent natural disasters.

## Housing

**Humanitarian Assistance Cooperative Housing Foundation:** \$99,844 to provide tarp repair kits or zinc roofs to 200 homes in Caimito.

## Social Services

**Proyecto Nacer:** \$150,000 for the purchase of equipment to continue assisting teenage parents and their children in the Bayamón Municipality and its surrounding areas.

**American Red Cross, Chapter of Puerto Rico:** \$500,000 for the disaster relief operation to deliver supplies and assist in the recovery of the most affected communities.

## Economic Development

**Small Business Generator Program:** \$2,000,000 to provide small businesses that have less than a \$1MM in annual sales and are registered in the Treasury Department's Merchants Registry with a 7,500 to 10,000-watt power generator, with an extension cord and a gas can.

All together as of November 9, the organization will have distributed \$3.6 million. There are other initiatives in our pipeline that we will be able to announce soon.

One of the many challenges we currently face is the backlog in the transportation of materials and goods. We are engaging with the organization LIFT, experts in humanitarian logistics working with non-profits, to streamline and help expedite the shipping of humanitarian aid goods donated by the diaspora and friends of Puerto Rico across the United States to those affected by this epic disaster.

We are also planning a telethon for December 10<sup>th</sup> to complete our fundraising efforts.

We are humbled and encouraged by your generosity. I thank you, our founding members, donors, sponsors, volunteers and the artistic community who have stepped up in a big way to pave a new path forward for Puerto Rico. We have made progress and still have a long journey ahead but with your continued support, Puerto Rico will rise again.

Thank you for answering the call to action.

Board of Directors for United for Puerto Rico