

PRESSRELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The White & Yellow Cross Care Foundation, as incorporated in its name, has made caring for the most vulnerable people in our community its core aim for the last 50 years. Hurricanes Irma and Maria put a different perspective where immediate action was needed as core health care was even more challenged with the lack of basic needs such as water, food, clothing and a livable home.

During and after hurricane Irma, the district nursing team and other staff were at the homes of clients, giving help and assessing the most urgent needs.

While dealing with the most emergency assistance, White & Yellow Cross realized the urgent need to set up and apply for a middle term recovery project with the vision that basic care for the elderly and physically/mentally challenged living at home can only be achieved if there is a minimum of core living conditions; in other words a home that is safe and dry.

This made the WYCCF Board and management decide to write a project application to the Dutch government requesting early relief financial assistance.

Three projects were submitted, where the first project was targeted towards the reconstruction of 45 homes for the most vulnerable clients under the care of White & Yellow Cross. At the same time, WYCCF actively reached out to possible donors, both locally and internationally and asked for financial support to enable immediate relief for the hardest hit clients and families. The result of this donation drive was overwhelming with companies, service clubs, private donors foundations and friends of the WYCCF donating generously. These donations were used to immediately repair homes, buy back essential household appliances like fridges, stoves and beds and to hand out food vouchers to those who lost their jobs and income. Donations were raised on Sint Maarten, Curacao, Aruba, America and in the Netherlands with activities by amongst others Dr. Vermaak, Foundation "Noot voor Nood", Lions Club and Innerwheel.

After the project approval at the end of 2017, Board, Management, staff and its partners are happy and proud to announce that its project is on the right track.

Having done a social assessment with all its 200 living home clients and a total of 80 follow up technical assessments, taking into account a number of specific criteria like income, pension, living circumstances, extent of damage, 30 client houses were identified as needing help. The project proposal aimed at helping 45 and after careful consideration and the evaluation process, White & Yellow Cross is meeting this target by

extending the 45 to 50 homes adding extra homes to its core WYCCF clientele.

Currently a total of 40 houses are approved for reconstruction, whereby 4 houses are finished and another 12 are currently under construction. In the upcoming months before hurricane 'high season', this project will be finalized making the objective of 50 homes.

The execution of this rebuilding home project is supported by the retraining in construction project for persons in the tourism/hospitality sector who got unemployed after Irma. With the funding by the Early recovery Dutch Funds, WYCCF was also able to start this retraining project in construction. With 23 excited construction trainees, their assistance is a welcome addition to the home recovery program whereby trainees go a step further and also give a hand to other NGOs besides WYCCF, who lost their offices and facilities for kids, adults and seniors.

The White & Yellow Cross Care Foundation expresses its sincere thanks to the Dutch Government grant, its staff, the contractors, its clients and all its partners related to the three projects in the construction and care areas for this great initiative and level of collaboration.

Huis 1 na Irma



Huis 1 na verbouwing



Huis 2 na Irma



Huis 2 na Verbouwing

