

FFCC Returns from The Bahamas *Help for Man-O-War Cay*



Imagine being 13 years old and having 200 mph winds and rain raging around your home. The home that your dad built with the help of your mom and other family members. Kiersten and her 10-year-old sister Kayleigh huddled in the cellar until the eye of the storm passed over and then ran with their parents to their grandparent's home so they could make sure their grandma and grandpa were safe. When the storm finally passed, the family was safe, but their homes were destroyed. Their homes, their community, their island ravaged by Hurricane Dorian.



Man-O-War Cay is 2.5 miles long and 3/4 of a mile wide. It is a small tight knit community with many families who have lived there for generations. Golf carts are how you get around the island and boats and ferries are the mode of transport to work and school. Most of the small shops and businesses were destroyed but some are beginning to come back. There is one operating restaurant, the Hibiscus, that is feeding the town with food that is helicoptered in from another island. The grocery store recently opened but the food on the shelves is still very limited. The hardware store was able to open back up and while we were there, the coffee house with an attached museum that tells the story of Man-O-War was able to reopen. Little by little, progress is being made.



The storm took the roof completely off Kiersten's house and the ensuing rain saturated the walls and contents such that most everything inside was lost. Greg, Kiersten's dad, said, "It took me 8 years to build this home. I can tell you where to find every switch, every outlet in this home. I never imagined after all that work, that I would now be clearing everything out of it."

FFCC, with the help of Man-O-War (MOW) community leaders, identified four families that we would like to help get back in their homes. Kiersten's family is one of the families that FFCC wants to help. In addition, FFCC would like to help G and L Transportation, the local ferry business that provides the critical transportation between the islands. Some of their boats were salvageable and FFCC would like to help get them back on the water. These boats benefit the entire community.



FFCC will be working this week to get the stories of these families and the business up on the website so you can learn more about them. In the meantime, if you have an interest in helping these families, you can give to "rebuilding MOW". Your donations are tax-deductible and 100% of the contribution goes directly to the building supplies needed to restore their homes and ferry boats. **Donations can be sent to, FFCC, 12463 Rancho Bernardo Road, PMB #158, San Diego, CA 92128 OR donate online at www.ffccsd.org.**

With the funds that are raised, FFCC is looking to take teams to Man-O-War to help with the rebuilding effort. If you are interested in traveling to the Bahamas with FFCC, please contact Susy Turnbull at susy.turnbull@hotmail.com. Dates are yet to be determined but FFCC is looking at possible December and January trips.