

THE MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA JOINS FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSIONER BEN SORENSEN, RIO VISTA CHURCH, HOPE 4 HOPE TOWN, INFORMA MARKETS, MISSION OF HOPE, THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE U.S. SUPERYACHT ASSOCIATION IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE DORIAN DISASTER

Volunteers will be loading the ship, True North, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 8th at Derektor Shipyard in Dania, FL

Fort Lauderdale, FL – A coalition of business and non-profit organizations, associations, and religious groups organically coalesced around an opportunity to provide direct and sustained disaster relief to the Abaco islands. Originally organized by Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Ben Sorensen and the Rio Vista Church, the group came together using multiple daily conference calls and WhatsApp to communicate, coordinate, and leverage their efforts to raise more than \$200,000 in two days.

Commissioner Sorensen said, "I've always known we have an amazing community in Fort Lauderdale, but this immediate outpouring of not just financial support, but true compassion and care, is an experience I'll never forget and something for which I'm tremendously thankful."

The funding is being used to deploy True North, Mission of Hope's 110' vessel that has been converted into a floating campus for disaster response teams, including medical and construction personnel, that react to natural disasters. The ship and staff departed Turks and Caicos Thursday evening and are expected to arrive in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday to pick up relief supplies to deliver to Abaco in the coming days."

"Abaco and the islands surrounding it are like family to all of us," said Phil Purcell, CEO/president of MIA SF. "When Commissioner Sorenson called, the marine industry responded quickly and decisively to join this relief effort."

Andrew Doole, president of U.S. Boat Shows at Informa Markets, said, "The people who have been displaced in the Bahamas by Hurricane Dorian are our friends, clients, and customers and we are committed in the long-haul recovery of this global treasure."

"The International Yacht Brokers Association is proud of the response so many are making and thankful to join in this relief effort in Abaco," said Paul Flannery, IYBA Executive Director.

Kitty McGowan, president of the U.S. Superyacht Association agreed, saying, "USSA is happy to be a part of this coalition and stands committed to the long term efforts to support the people of the Bahamas in any way we can."

Hope 4 Hope Town core committee member, Julie Berry of Marina Investments Group, Stiles Realty, was overwhelmed by the stories of destruction and despair, saying, "The images and messages coming from Abaco and the Bahamas are heartbreaking and we knew

we needed to act quickly to help our neighbors and friends who remain in harm's way in the aftermath.”

Anyone wishing to join the effort is encouraged to visit the donation page at <http://www.missionofhope.com/dorian>

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The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) is the largest trade organization in the Southeast United States dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing the 111,000 middle class jobs in Broward County and 142,000 jobs regionally driving the economic output to \$12 billion regionally. Created in 1961, the not-for-profit trade group is focused on the sound growth of the marine industry in the South Florida Region to benefit its members and their customers, communities, and the environment. The Association has over 500 members in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties and is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.