



For Immediate Release
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***TimeWorks* Cleans Up with the Bahamas National Trust**

On Saturday October 16th, approximately 200 volunteers with the Lyford Cay Foundation's ***TimeWorks*** initiative spent the morning picking up garbage and debris from Adelaide Beach as part of the International Coastal Cleanup. In conjunction with the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), who has coordinated the cleanup in the Bahamas since 1994, ***TimeWorks*** targeted approximately three miles of shoreline to clear one cubic ton of garbage from Adelaide Beach in less than two hours.

The annual International Coastal Cleanup is a global effort sponsored by the Washington DC based Ocean Conservancy and supported by an international network of environment and civic organizations like the BNT, as well as government agencies, companies and individuals. These groups collect and remove debris from the shoreline at different locations around the world and record the types and amounts of debris found. Originally scheduled for September 18th, the International Coastal Cleanup Day was rescheduled to Saturday due to the threat of Hurricane Jeanne.

Although volunteers from all areas of New Providence joined the effort, the main volunteer base for this event was Lyford Cay School students, teachers and parents. The idea was to focus the effort on residents of the Western District and especially children who will be responsible for preserving the local environment in years to come.

“We are very pleased with the response of the school community to this event. We are excited that our students are keen to service the community, and our teachers are building on this experience to provide real world lessons in environmental preservation in their classrooms,” said Mr. Thomas Schaedler, the principal at Lyford Cay School.

The volunteers met at Lyford Cay School early Saturday morning for a delicious breakfast generously provided by August Moon Café and Dunkin Donuts. BNT Public Education Officer, Mrs. Lynn Gape, gave a presentation on marine debris and the Coastal Cleanup, explaining that during the Coastal Cleanup in 2003, shoreline festivals and recreational activities accounted for 87 percent of all debris found in the Bahamas.



The results of the debris classification at Adelaide Beach demonstrated that this trend continues, as the garbage collected was composed primarily of aluminum cans, glass bottles and picnic debris. Disturbingly, however, other articles found at the site included car batteries, a microwave and stereo equipment which indicate that individuals are also using the shoreline as a dumping site for household debris. According to the BNT, this is a common problem in New Providence where some residents, rather than transporting their waste to the dump, habitually use undeveloped land as a dump site. In total, one cubic ton of bagged garbage was trucked away from the site by Bahamas Waste Management later that afternoon.

TimeWorks Committee Chairman, Mrs. Alessandra Holowesko, in expressing her gratitude to the volunteers, said “due to the fantastic turnout and enthusiasm of this group we were able to clear the area faster than we even expected. We collected a shocking amount of garbage and debris. We hope not only that the cleanup effort makes a positive impact on the Adelaide community, but also that the results of the debris classification adds useful data to the global research on shoreline pollution”.

Mrs. Holowesko went on to thank **TimeWorks**' corporate sponsors who played such an important part in the initiative. Friendly and efficient transportation to and from the beach for the volunteers was provided by Majestic Tours. Hats, sunscreen and SPF lip balm were generously donated by Panama Jack. Ice cold water and juice were available throughout the morning thanks to the involvement of Aquapure and Artic Ice. Finally all participants wore **TimeWorks** t-shirts made available with the assistance of Sun Tee, Pictet Bank & Trust, and Oceanic Bank and Trust.

The Lyford Cay Foundation's **TimeWorks** initiative is designed to address the critical needs of the local community. The program's goal is to mobilize a diverse group of caring individuals in direct volunteer service and civic engagement. With three events planned for the October to November time period, **TimeWorks** estimates that they will deliver over 1,300 volunteer hours to various charitable organizations.

The beach cleanup was the second of the scheduled **TimeWorks** events following the October 2nd outing to Harbour Island for 39 children from the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home. Mr. Manuel Cutillas, Chairman of the Lyford Cay Foundation, was on hand to participate in the cleanup and noted how, “wonderful (it is) to see so many people of all ages turn out this morning to try to make a positive impact on our environment. This type of group service is at the heart of the **TimeWorks** program, and we are especially pleased to see that we have individuals here today who are volunteering for their second **TimeWorks** event.”

The remaining **TimeWorks** project scheduled for 2004 is on Friday, November 19th at the Dean William Granger Memorial Drug Rehabilitation Center where **TimeWorks** volunteers will staff the soup kitchen. For more information on the **TimeWorks** program, phone the Lyford Cay Foundation main office at (242) 362-4910.