



April 6, 2010

**Los Angeles Belizeans Donate \$8,650.62
 To Haitian Relief Drive**

(Los Angeles) It took the Los Angeles Belizeans Haiti Fundraising Committee four events plus some direct cash donations and a concert by Belizean American entertainers to raise \$8,650.62 for donation to the Haitian earthquake relief effort.

It happened almost simultaneously, while a fundraising task force, coordinated by the Consulate of Belize was preparing its agenda of activities, Belizean nationals Fred Dixon assisted by Silvano Torres gathered most of the LA based Belizean entertainers for a fundraising concert on the afternoon of Sunday, January 21st at the Hollywood Park Casino.

With the bands and individual entertainers donating their services and the Casino making their ballroom available for a minimal fee, Messrs Dixon & Torres were able to present the Committee with a check in the amount of \$2,765. **Participating bands and entertainers included Will Johnson from the New Wave Band, The Lancaster Posse, King Rancho and the New Wave Band, The Caribbean Dynamics Band, The New Dimension Band, Culture Jam Band, Eljai Royal, Risdan Martinez, Clinton Crawford, Norman Ysaguirre, Fleshless, LoveA-Boy, D.J. Supa Dan, Libaya Baba, Trevor English, David Budan and Daren Gaynair of Gaynair Personal Services.**

The responsiveness of the Belizean community became evident once the drive was initiated. Through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Moha Cornaque, proprietors of Exedus Belizean Community Social Club, a successful Bingo Night was held. With the proceeds from the sale of food donated by Marie Garcia, Martha Martinez and Ruby Gillett added to the bingo proceeds, the night yielded \$849.00.

A Sunday Brunch attracted many of the Belizean church goers who welcomed the opportunity of having a Belizean style Sunday meal. Served at the Little Belize Restaurant under the new management of “Ms. Dorothy,” Belizeans enjoyed a delicious combination of breakfast and lunch items. Those in attendance had the opportunity of participating in a raffle consisting of donated photo prints by Noel Escalante and the popular Travellers One Barrel Rum donated by Mr. Cecil McNab. Proceeds from the Brunch event added \$1,500 to the fund drive.

Seizing on the Belizean tradition of not cooking on Saturdays, the Committee gave the community an option of Red Snapper or Tilapia for a fish dinner sale. Committee members worked well into the evening at Exposition Church of the Nazarene, restoring the church for Sunday services. The Fish Dinner sale garnered an additional \$982.00 towards the \$7,000 goal.

With the success of the previous three events and the pending success of the next fundraiser, a Casino Trip, it became evident that the Committee would surpass its goal and as a result, a major closing event per discussions would not be necessary. Committee members appealing to family and friends filled a fifty six passenger bus to a local casino. It became evident that our ship was about to anchor safe and sound. Dabbling in a few bingo games while en route, Casino Saturday generated \$1,232.00.

Feeling a sense of accomplishment Committee members gathered on the evening of March 26, 2010, to join in the presentation of a check in the amount of \$8,650.62 to Amy Keller, Director of Financial Development – American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles. In her acceptance remarks Ms. Keller thanked the Belize community and Committee members, “please convey to all those who contributed to your drive, I am touched by the generosity of your community.”

Near the conclusion of the presentation a brief discussion was held with respect to the Belizean community participating in an Emergency Response Training Program, equipping them with the necessary tools to render assistance in times of disaster.

At the conclusion, Consul General Yorke thanked Committee members and asked that they also thank those who contributed as a result of their appeal. “Based on the response to our drive, it is clearly obvious that our community is a very responsive one,” concluded the Consul General.

The Committee chaired by The Hon. Roland Yorke, comprised the following individuals: Theola Brookins, Verona Burks, Fred Dixon, Maxine Drummond, Carole Haylock, Kim Hernandez, Christina Jones, Helen Laurie, Marva Lewis, Trevor Logan, Tricia Logan, Carolyn McKenzie, Phyllis Palacio, Celia Smith, Laverne Smith, Silvano Torres and Ron Wilkins.

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L-R: Kim Hernandez, Phyllis Palacio, Carolyn McKenzie, Edward Keller, Amy Keller, Celia Smith, Hon. Roland Yorke, Theola Brookins, Laverne Smith, Verona Burks, Silvano Torres, Francis Estrada, Leticia Torres, Tricia Logan, Ron Wilkins, Helen Laurie.