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To Bimini, With Love

In their most ambitious humanitarian endeavor to date, the Bahamian American Partnership, an organization created following the devastating events of September 4th and September 11th, 2001, has successfully facilitated the acquisition of a fire truck, which will be presented to the island of Bimini in time for the 30th Anniversary of Bahamian Independence.

For over a year, the Partnership has initiated numerous highly successful programmes relating to Fire Safety and Prevention in The Bahamas, including:

- An elementary school Firefighter in Training programme which, using professional videos and training materials donated by partners in New York, educates children on Fire Safety.
- Bringing New York City firefighter heroes to The Bahamas to interact with Bahamian Fire Services staff, The College of the Bahamas educators and Firefighter in Training students.
- Providing donations such as smoke detectors to Bahamians in need.

On September 4th of this year, the Partnership documented their efforts in a Public Service Announcement film aired at Prime Time on ZNS. The announcement, entitled "From New York City to Bimini" alluded to a very large surprise intended for the island of Bimini.

This surprise was inspired by the Hon. Obie H. Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism who, on behalf of more than a dozen families in Bimini who had lost their homes due to fire, made an appeal for the acquisition of a fire truck.

Numerous partners showed great interest in assisting in this endeavor, foremost among whom were Hannes Babak of Freeport Concrete and Sandy Schaefer of RobinHood Electronics. Sandy Schaefer had the opportunity to travel to New York City to negotiate the purchase of the fire truck and interact with firefighter heroes who survived the September 11th tragedy.

Additionally, Hugh Buckner, CEO of one of The Bahamas' most luxurious resort constructions to date, Sandypoint's Olde Town, has been a staunch supporter of the Partnership from its inception, providing accommodations for visiting New York City firefighter heroes. Sandypoint has also supported the Partnership's numerous efforts to reduce the incidence of repeated incarceration by supporting work-study programmes within Her Majesty's Prison.

As a result of the successful acquisition of the Bimini fire truck, additional appeals have been expressed from a variety of communities, and follow-up will be made in reference to those exhibiting the greatest need.

As expressed in their Public Service Announcement, the Bahamian American Partnership continues to demonstrate that much can indeed be accomplished "With a little bit of effort and a whole lot of Love."