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23 March 2009

PRESS RELEASE

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HSBC Cayman Makes Repair of Veterans and Seaman's Centre Possible

In November 2008, Hurricane Paloma caused extensive damage to Cayman Brac. The Veterans and Seaman's Centre in Cayman Brac was no exception. Rebuilding efforts to the Centre have been a major concern as capital and resources required typically take years of fund raising. However, with the generous donation of US\$109,410.00 from HSBC Cayman, the rebuilding of the Veterans and Seaman's Centre can start immediately.

In the aftermath of Paloma, HSBC Cayman started a program in which it would match direct staff contributions to the relief efforts. The funds for the Veterans & Seaman's Centre were the result of this program and the remainder was derived from a private trust client.

"We are truly honoured that HSBC Cayman was able to support Hurricane recovery efforts on Cayman Brac at this level. The Veterans & Seaman's Centre is such a vital part of the community, especially since it serves a hurricane shelter. We are extremely pleased that we could help an organisation with such critical community benefit," noted Gonzalo Jalles, CEO, HSBC Cayman.

The contract for rebuilding the Centre has been awarded to Phoenix Construction. Mr. Shayne Howe, Managing Director of Phoenix, commented, "HSBC is to be commended for taking such a strong interest in the Centre and helping to make this rebuilding effort a more immediate reality. The Centre will be rebuilt to specifications similar to the Aston Ruddy Centre which also serves as a hurricane shelter. Phoenix supplied and installed the roof system in 2000 and since the Centre has experienced no additional structural damage. Phoenix will be contributing to the fundraising efforts by donating half of their profits on the project as a means to help support this worthwhile reconstruction project."

Capt. Arlin Tatum, Member of the Veterans & Seaman's Society stated, "This generous donation from HSBC Cayman will touch the lives of the entire population." Aside from serving as a hurricane shelter, he says, "the facility serves as a community centre for school functions, family reunions, group picnics, events and meetings. It gives us all a place to gather and support community efforts."

This information is issued by

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“The residents of Cayman Brac are very appreciative of HSBC’s commitment to the recovery effort”, noted Moses Kirkconnell, MLA and member of the Veterans and Seaman’s Society. He added, “We were blessed by their support from the first few days after the hurricane when the HSBC Cayman staff and management donated relief supplies and subsequently helped sponsor the repairs of the Brac Youth Centre. Now, because of their continued support, our Veterans and Seaman’s Centre will be rebuilt.”

“The original building was a labor of love by the members of the Society with support from many in the community,” says Nancy Kirkconnell, Mr Kirkconnell’s sister and avid supporter of the Society. “Over a period of several years, the members raised funds for materials and volunteered side-by-side with workers as they built their meeting hall. Once completed, they made it available for community events and as a hurricane shelter for all who needed it. From their own savings they furnished it with cots, blankets and other supplies. It stood as a symbol of the work ethic and community service of the men and women of the Society.”

“I have always been proud to be a member of this association. The senior members serve as role models for all of us who strive to follow in their footsteps as they model the character and spirit of a generation we will forever admire,” added Mr. Kirkconnell.

Organisations and individuals interested in supporting the Veterans & Seaman’s Society should contact Capt. Arlin Tatum at 948-2515 or Joris Poldervaart at 948-2336.

Notes to Editors:

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