



PROJECT "COVER ME"

Post Hurricane Irma Relief Efforts

**Business & Professional Women
Concordia St. Martin**

January 2nd 2018



Project Summary

On September 6th 2017 Hurricane Irma hit the island of St. Martin/St. Maarten at category 5+, leaving massive devastation including 90% of homes and buildings destroyed, more than 50% unemployment, displacement of families, some deaths, injuries and much more. 4 months later, the carnage caused is still visible through roofless homes with and without tarpaulins. There is also a shortage of lumber and other building materials.

Hope for recovery for many is further dimmed because they did not have insurance to assist them in the rebuilding process. For those that are fortunate enough to still be in their own homes, the memory remains ever present as every time it rains they get wet.

BPW Concordia realized that it can make a bigger impact in its community by providing what is most needed and least provided...that is shelter. This marked the birthing of project "Cover Me", an initiative to seek donations and sponsorship of lumber, galvanize and other building materials that will allow persons who do not have insurance or financial means, to construct roofing that will provide protection from the elements.

As a network of women helping women and our communities, we cannot help but also consider the situation of our sisters in other countries and regions that were also recently affected by natural disasters such as Anguilla, Dominica and Puerto Rico, to name a few.

We believe that a project like "Cover Me", could be of even greater service if promoted and managed on an international level. For this reason, we humbly request the support and consideration of BPW International to promote and propel this project forward by putting together a taskforce that can oversee to its execution and management.

Because of the high number of persons in need of a roof, a criteria for the selection of the donees will be applied. For donees to be considered:

- they must have no insurance or assistance from another organization including government
- the structure must be their main/only residence
- priority will be given to homes with Children, elderly and the physically or mentally challenged
- priority will be given to higher numbers of persons in the household

The list of building materials needed for hurricane prone areas could be communicated upon request. Further partnerships with the government to provide building permit could also be considered and explored.



Stakeholders

The stakeholders will be those appointed by IFBPW for the respective geographic locations. BPW Concordia would like the opportunity of being the stakeholder for St. Martin/St. Maarten.

Project Resources:

- International Federation of Business & Professional Women and their appointees, including affiliate clubs.

Strategy & Logistics

Collection and shipment of materials:	A specified shipping address will be given to the donor/sponsors to which they could ship the goods (Four Star Cargo).
Storage location(s):	A storage location for the goods will be sought by BPW. Upon receipt of the building materials, they will be inventorized and filed.
Distribution:	Each donee will receive a branded coupon for collection of their building materials. This coupon will include the number of lumber and other materials based on the “needed living space necessary for the household”.
Visibility / branding:	Members of BPW will clearly be identifiable through the use of uniforms, club and project name. They will also receive an information brochure on BPW and its aims and initiatives around the world. Each donee must agree to be televised or appear on media publications to help highlight the works of the organization.



Media publication: Pictures will be taken upon arrival of the goods, setting up of distribution point(s) and handing out of goods to be added to the BPW portfolio.

Evaluation plan

The project will be regularly evaluated by BPW in order to ensure effectiveness and proper Accountability. A concise report will be prepared and sent monthly to the IFBPW.

Conclusion

The IFBPW has an opportunity to exploit its humanitarian activities through the provision of shelter for the needy, a vital element necessary to create a better sense of hope and security. Allowing persons to shelter in their own homes will also help alleviate the psychological trauma caused by the devastation left behind by natural disasters. Partnerships between BPW International and manufacturers of building materials could be of great value internationally. BPW Concordia St. Martin aspires to see the realization of project "Cover Me" reach its fullest potential through the solid backing of the well reputed International Federation of Business and Profession Women.