



For Immediate Release

## November is National Volunteer Month

Nassau, Bahamas (*Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022*) ...

The Honourable Prime Minister Philip E. Davis, KC, MP has proclaimed November as National Volunteer Month. This is the perfect opportunity to remind persons and to promote the values and mission of The Governor General's Volunteer Bahamas.

His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Cornelius Smith's personal life-long belief and promotion of volunteerism in all its many guises, steered the formation in 2019 of an NGO called The Governor General's Volunteer Bahamas. Its mission is to encourage persons to volunteer; it is a call to action for persons to seek out volunteer opportunities, to instill and inspire a culture of volunteerism throughout The Bahamas.

Born of his Excellency's innate humanitarian drive toward neighbourly love and kindness, his desire has always been to help ease the burdens of the disadvantaged and needy among us. Volunteer Bahamas is a rallying call to adopt a more sustainable mind-set and hands-on approach to personal and community volunteerism.

It is a call to engender a renewed sensitivity and awareness to our neighbour's welfare, and to volunteer assistance to each other as needed. Volunteer Bahamas will help bring the richest personal heart-felt rewards for volunteers by matching them with their chosen area of concern.

Local business accountant and already prolific volunteer, Lindsey Cancino, serves as chairperson of the registered NGO.

"We are a nation blessed with many good souls who by their very nature help others at the drop of a hat, and yet many still hesitate," said Mr. Cancino. "We want to encourage more people to experience the joy of volunteering because we know they will love it and continue and encourage their friends to also help others."

Mr. Cancino said it's human nature to feel good after helping persons, group causes and charitable community endeavours; research indicates that volunteering makes you happy and also often leads to networking opportunities and to learning new confidence boosting skills.

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## Governor General's Volunteer Bahamas Awards November 22nd

A number of outstanding volunteers throughout the country will be recognised and honoured at an Awards event on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteer Bahamas has reached out to the Island Administrators for them to propose an active, local volunteer for an award and The Ministry of Education has also circulated a request to their network so that Educators, with a parent's permission, can nominate a worthy student for an award.

An Essay Competition has also been devised where students will give their views on Volunteerism under the theme, "No Longer Me, But We."

The Governor General's Volunteer Bahamas has events arranged to promote volunteerism through November:

October 28<sup>th</sup> – Press Conference

October 31<sup>st</sup>–Volunteer Month Proclamation published in the two daily papers.

Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> - Morning Church Service St Agnes Anglican Church, Grants Town

Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> – Student Essay Competition launched "No Longer Me, But We"

Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Day

Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Awards Ceremony

Television and radio interviews will populate the networks during the month promoting ways persons interested in volunteering can be matched with appropriate volunteer opportunities through The Governor General's Volunteer Bahamas database. Information at [GGvolunteers@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:GGvolunteers@bahamas.gov.bs) & <https://m.facebook.com/Volunteer-Bahamas-A-Call-to-Action-105240464511703/>

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