



Giving is not just about making a donation.
It is about making a difference.

- Kathy Calvin

Letter from the President...



On behalf of the Board of **Friends of Islands Initiatives, Inc.** (FOII), I hope you will enjoy reading our latest newsletter. We most appreciate your interest in FOII - and especially your support.

As you can see on the donor page of our website (www.islandsinitiatives.org), we have been making donations to Nevis causes for five years now, and 2022 is our sixth year of operations. Please continue your support to make the second half of this decade of operations as successful as the first half.

Toward the end of the newsletter, you will see that we are looking to expand our Board of Directors. Please let us know if you have ideas for candidates for this role. Also note that we'll host a donor forum Zoom call on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 and would welcome everyone's input in the discussion.

I hope you enjoy reading our Partner Spotlight below about Swim2Win and its wonderful work toward helping Nevisians feel safe in the water.

Once again, we so appreciate your support and donations to sustain our work.

Gratefully,

Mark Pinney - President, FOII



Friends of Islands Initiatives would like your feedback and ideas for benefiting the Nevis community as we embark on our next five years.

We are planning a Donor Forum Zoom call on January 18, 2023 as an opportunity to generate ideas and get feedback from Donors.

If interested in joining us on this Zoom call, please email info@islandsinitiatives.org and indicate the time of day that's best for you. If there's interest in an in-person meeting on Nevis too, we will try to facilitate that!



Partner Spotlight: Swim2Win

Over the past couple of years, **Friends of Islands Initiatives, Inc.** has been proud to provide grants and support to Nevis' Swim2Win program, which provides year-round swim instruction to children and adults of all ages and abilities. Programs and instruction are geared toward improving water safety and life-saving skills, and replacing fear of the water with fun, fitness, and family time whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle through swimming.

FOII caught up with Terri Andrews, developer and director of Swim2Win, to learn more:

Q: What are the origins of the Swim2Win program on Nevis? What is its mission?

A: Swim2Win was created to address the inherent fear of the sea in the Federation. Consistent, standardized instruction that focuses on proper technique is needed in order to reach everyone.

Our mission is to develop a pool of professionally trained local instructors so that swimming can be introduced as part of the school curriculum. In addition, we are committed to reaching fearful adults so that they can enjoy the beaches and sea with their families. Through our partnership with Government, we are establishing international lifeguard certification for local ferry operators, beach lifeguards, and Coast Guard.

Q: How have grants from Friends of Islands Initiatives made a difference in helping Swim to Win achieve and grow its mission?

Our sponsors and supporters are our lifeline! Funding for caps, goggles, instructor rash guards, medals, halyards, swim sponsorships, etc. allow us to offer professional swim instruction for a very reasonable fee and various camps and community instruction programs for FREE. This year's summer swim camp reached over 125 swimmers, 90% of whom had never had a swim lesson!



Q: What are Swim to Win's aspirations for the future, and how will the program continue to support the Nevisian community?

We began two pilot school swim programs in April and will have two additional programs beginning this fall term. Our long-term goal is to have swim instruction become part of every school's curriculum.

With Government and our partnership with Coast Guard, we will establish an authorized training center to continue to train water rescue/lifeguards for our local ferries and beaches.

We are also training an additional 10 instructors so as to have 30 fully trained instructors by the end of the year for our school programs, Saturday and Sunday Swim to Win classes, Community Free Swims, and our Women's Water Retreats.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2xw7hbhr> to see more pics

Calling New Board Members!

We would like to expand our Board of Directors to include other members who care about the community of Nevis.

Being a good board member for FOII, a volunteer-run nonprofit, is less about giving donations. We would appreciate board members for their contacts with grant-making foundations and donor-advised funds, which make larger equipment purchases possible.

We'd be grateful for Board Members with expertise in keeping financial records, completing tax forms, writing our newsletters and appeals, communicating with the potential grant recipients, knowing about medical needs and equipment, taking photographs, and discerning the need and workings of nonprofits - all of which are indispensable in keeping our nonprofit on a firm footing.

Being a good board member for our nonprofit is more than a philanthropic statement. Our success depends on promoting our mission to benefit the hospital and medical care on Nevis, networking to engage others, and finding kindred spirits to join us in our efforts whether they be volunteers or board members. We meet as a board 3 times a year via Zoom and meet with donors during the season if the situation permits on Nevis.

Would you like to join us in this important mission? Or share ideas for candidates? Please email us at info@islandsinitiatives.org.

If you know someone who would be interested in the good work we do, please forward this newsletter to them or encourage them to support our cause!
info@islandsinitiatives.org