



BCS Community Alliance (BCSCA) Launches Second Phase After Completing Three Months of Operation

- **As of July 10, \$ 4.6 million dollars were raised.**
- **The Alliance (BCSCA) distributed 120,215 food baskets in three months and delivered medical equipment and supplies worth \$420,000 dollars.**
- **The Alliance (BCSCA) asks the stae government to continue supporting the most vulnerable sectors in BCS during this crisis.**

Los Cabos, BCS. July 15, 2020 – The Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) announced that July 15 marks the end of phase one of the food and medical aid programs; which started this past April 15. The Alliance (BCSCA) reached 60.6 % of its fundraising goal, equivalent to \$4.6 million dollars in the first three months. This amount was raised through donations from individuals and members of the private sector. These funds allowed for the purchase and the distribution of 120,215 basic needs and food packages across BCS, benefiting more than 72thousand families. While most food packages were distributed in the municipalities of La Paz and Los Cabos, where the largest population is concentrated, the food aid reached all five municipalities in BCS, including remote rural communities in the northern part of the state. During these three months The Alliance also completed the donation of \$420,000 dollars in personal protection equipment and medical supplies to 15 institutions, including clinics and hospitals from the Ministry of Health, IMSS, ISSSTE and Naval Hospital, as well as to first responders and auxiliary and public safety services such as the Red Cross, Civil Protection, Municipal Police, National Guard and Public Services. The donated medical supplies include N95 respirators, face masks, coveralls, gowns, gloves, glasses, goggles, a sanitizing tunnel, and a PCR testing machine for diagnosis of COVID and other infections.

During these three months the Alliance (BCSCA) has developed a food aid distribution strategy that has allowed the registration of each and every one of the food packages that have been delivered. This has been very useful to have a clear overview of where the areas with greatest need are. Each delivery is documented and registered in a geolocation program which generates information for the strategic planning of future deliveries. Delivering a daily average of 1,000 food packages requires the joint effort of dozens of people, Lucía Frausto, BCSCA board member, noted that the food aid has reached each family thanks to the invaluable participation of hundreds of volunteers and members of the armed forces that make up the state's safety board, and added that all of them have worked tirelessly to ensure the orderly and equitable distribution of food packages.

Aware of the financial crisis generated by the reduction of economic activities across the state, as a result of the health emergency we are going through, and knowing that the economy will take several months to reactivate, the Alliance (BCSCA) has decided to launch a second phase in which a specific number of families in vulnerable situations will receive food aid, in accordance with the Mexican Scale for Food Safety as proposed by CONEVAL, Mexico's National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy. The food aid program will focus mostly on disable, chronically ill and over 65 people. This focused effort will be possible thanks to the field work carried out to date, where basic needs have been detected and registered. The Alliance (BCSCA) will continue delivering food packages in July through a variety of delivery models. These models include; door to door delivery, deliveries through local groups and organizations, and deliveries conducted in collaboration with



members of the armed forces of the state's safety board. During this month the Alliance (BCSCA) will define the delivery model going forward.

The Alliance (BCSCA) is aware that this volunteering effort will not be enough to offer food aid to all the families that need it since, as individuals and companies return to work, the support of volunteers and resources for deliveries decreases. This is why, today more than ever, the emergency support programs from municipal, state and federal authorities are so needed, Frausto said.

Marking the beginning of its second phase, the Alliance's board members remind all the families that have received any kind of support from any entity, whether public or private, the importance of being caring and responsible, and invite them to contribute to their communities to improve the health and sanitary conditions in their own communities. While providing members of vulnerable communities with options to further the reach of the food aid that the BCSCA provides, through the establishment of distribution points and community kitchens with the supports of the communities where the help is delivered.

"We are all part of the Alliance; it is time to ask ourselves what each of us can do to help the recovery of Baja California Sur. There is no donation or help too small. Each of us has a moral obligation to contribute to the best of our ability;" said Marisa Comella, BCSCA board member. It is important to point out that the Alliance has no political ties. All the donations come from private individuals and the Alliance doesn't back neither any political party, nor any current or future candidate for office.

The BCSCA continues to work in coordination with the authorities and the armed forces to promote citizen participation; with civil organizations, organized groups and the business sector working together to have economic or in-kind resources to put food on the tables of those who need it the most in these difficult times.

The Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) is a coalition of 191 philanthropic private assistance organizations and the business sector with civil society. It is a movement that has achieved results through integrity, respect, leadership, transparency, and collaborative problem solving with the private, public and nonprofit sectors. The Alliance (BCSCA) is a citizens' initiative without any affiliation to political parties, which arises in response to the crisis caused by the effects of the presence of COVID-19 in our state and meets the needs of equipment and resources for health institutions and the food crisis that thousands of families go through in BCS.

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