



BCS Community Alliance (BCSCA) Presents Status Report After its First Month of Activities

- **\$ 2.9 million dollars have been raised in donations as of May 12.**
- **It is estimated that the BCSCA will distribute 80,000 basic need and food baskets (*despensas*) per month in the coming months.**
- **The signed agreements show the commitment of civil society, NGOs, the business sector, state and municipal authorities, and the armed forces to work in solidarity and coordination for the good of the people who need it most in BCS.**
- **To date, BCSCA has provided help to 25,000 families and a total of 60,000 *despensas* are expected to be delivered by the end of May.**

Los Cabos, BCS. May 13, 2020 – At a press conference held today the Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) presented the progress made since it began operations on April 9. Marisa Comella, member of the BCSCA Board, announced that as of May 12, the BCSCA has collected \$2.9 million USD in donations from individuals and companies, an amount that represents 40% of the goal of \$7 million USD to provide food aid to 40 thousand families in BCS during April, May and June and purchase the medical supplies and equipment to support the health sector for the management of COVID-19 in Baja California Sur.

To date, the funds raised have been invested in the purchase of 68,000 *despensas*, as well as \$270,000 USD in medical supplies and equipment delivered to 16 institutions, including Ministry of Health clinics, IMSS, ISSSTE and Naval Hospital, and first responders and auxiliary and public safety services such as Red Cross, Civil Protection, Municipal Police, National Guard and Public Services. The delivered supplies include N95 respirators, face shields, coveralls, gowns, gloves, glasses, googles, a sanitizing tunnel, and four PCR testing machines for diagnosing COVID and other infections.

As of May 12, the food aid provided by the BCSCA's volunteer brigades has reached 25,000 families in vulnerable situations across the state, and the goal is to help another 15,000 additional in the next 2 weeks. This help has reached each family, thanks to the invaluable participation of the armed forces, the Ministry of National Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the National Guard, the State Police, coordinated by the state's Safety Board, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the orderly and peaceful distribution of the food aid.

Special emphasis is placed on the promptness in signing agreements for collaboration in achieving the goals of the BCSCA. The first agreement was signed with the state government, by Governor Carlos Mendoza Davis, and the second with the municipality Los Cabos, signed by Armida Castro Guzmán, Los Cabos Mayor. The signing of the agreements with the other municipalities of the state is in process, confirming the commitment of all the participants for the good of the people of BCS who have seen their sources of income disappear with the pandemic; and to offer a common front to provide prompt response for those in need.

The BCSCA continues to work daily to guarantee food aid to families in vulnerable situations. This is the reason for the collaboration of civil society and government in this emergency, with the sum of efforts aimed to promote the participation of citizens, civil organizations, organized groups and the



business sector. This effort will allow the generation of financial or in-kind resources to mitigate the food needs of the people of BCS population at this difficult time. This aid is made possible through the tireless work of volunteers, members of the armed forces and law enforcement personnel who, after receiving training in biosafety protocols to guarantee the distribution of *despensas* under the strictest sanitary protocols, go door to door to deliver them.

The BCSCA operates under a principle of absolute transparency, for which it has established a permanent audit by Kreston BSG, an accounting firm with international backing, affiliated to the Mexican Institute of Public Accountants. To guarantee that all donations are being used correctly. For BCSCA it is of utmost importance to work under the principles of transparency and accountability to society.

The Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) is a coalition of philanthropic private assistance organizations, with the business sector and civil society, working in coordination with state and municipal authorities and the armed forces in charge of maintaining security and order in BCS. The BCSCA is a citizens' initiative without any affiliation to political parties, that is formed in response to the crisis caused by the effects of the presence of COVID-19 in our state and addresses the needs of equipment and supplies for health institutions and the food crisis that affects thousands of families in BCS.

The BCSCA has three main goals:

1. For everyone in BCS to have enough food during the COVID-19 crisis.
2. For all medical personnel to have sufficient resources to treat patients
3. To be a permanent support network that may be activated during future emergencies.

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