



## **Volunteer Participation is Key for the BCS Community Alliance (BCSCA) to Achieve Its Goals**

- **The delivery of more than 1,500 food packages daily requires a logistics effort that made possible through the support of volunteers.**
- **Currently there are 129 active volunteers who have each contributed an average of 19 hours.**
  - **All volunteers receive training in biosecurity and in the geo-referencing app.**
  - **\$ 1.6 million USD a month are needed to bring food aid to 40,000 families.**

Los Cabos, BCS. May 23, 2020 – The Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) continues to work providing food aid to families in need in Baja California Sur. The BCSCA's goal is to support 40 thousand families during the months of the crisis caused by the presence of COVID-19 in our state. To do this the BCSCA is delivering an average of 1,500 food packages (*despensas*) Monday through Friday. There are endless hours of coordinating and prep work before these deliveries are made; from the organization of distribution routes, the assembly of the food packages, the loading of vehicles, to the distribution itself, which is carried out door to door according to the established biosafety guidelines. This effort is achieved thanks to the coordinated work of volunteers with personnel from the different associations that are part of the Alliance and the armed forces; says Víctor Rafael Flores Linares, statewide volunteer coordinator for BCSCA. "The work of the volunteers is extraordinary. They donate their time and put all their will so that together we can achieve the goal", said Flores Linares and he explains that there are volunteers who work in the field making the deliveries and others support from their homes doing office work, there are also those who donate their time and use of their vehicles to support the delivery effort and are responsible for transporting supplies and documents for the logistical needs of the operation.

Luis Garduño, statewide distribution coordinator for the BCSCA, comments that approximately 85% of the *despensas* are distributed in the municipalities of La Paz and Los Cabos. The rest are taken to other municipalities, concentrating on rural areas. "The need is very great, the Alliance delivers in remote areas in coordination with local authorities and the armed forces in order avoid duplication of efforts and reach as many families as possible," says Garduño. Deliveries in remote rural settlements require a special effort since it is often an overnight trek to reach the most remote areas, volunteers in localities that work in small groups called cells, are a key element in order to achieve these deliveries. The support of cell coordinators, such as Mario del Ángel and Daniela Muñoz, has been invaluable in reaching areas that are difficult to reach.

The BCSCA currently has 129 active volunteers out of almost 600 that have registered. All volunteers receive training in both biosecurity and protocols for the delivery and use of the application to register beneficiaries. These trainings are conducted by Christian Zavala via Zoom. Zavala has been in charge of the development and implementation of the training since the start of BCSCA's activities. "There are many people who register, but fewer people actually show up to do the job. On average, volunteers spend 19 hours working," says Zavala.

Ruth Ramírez Sánchez, from BCSCA's communication team in La Paz, comments that the amount needed to provide food aid to 40 thousand families in BCS per month is of \$1.6 million USD, to purchase the pantries ; but beyond that there is the coordinated work of volunteers, members of the



armed forces and public security who, after receiving training in biosafety protocols to guarantee the distribution and reception of pantries under the strictest sanitary protocols, go door-to-door to make deliveries.

The BCSCA welcomes all community members interested in volunteering. Registration is done online at [www.acbs.org.mx/volunteers](http://www.acbs.org.mx/volunteers) . On the site you will find all the details. The BCSCA operates on the principle of altruism and does not ask for pre-registration to deliver the food aid. For the BCSCA it is of utmost importance to work under the principles of transparency and accountability to society.

**ABOUT BCSCA:** The Baja California Sur Community Alliance (BCSCA) is a coalition of 188 philanthropic private assistance organizations, and private companies, 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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