

Better Research Better Life Foundation Unifies Ongoing Recovery Efforts for the Caribbean Primate Research Center in Puerto Rico

San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 18, 2017 - The Better Research Better Life Foundation (BRBLF) is pleased to announce that to date it has received donations totaling \$128,309 in support of the Caribbean Primate Research Center (CPRC) relief and recovery efforts from well-wishers and generous supporters, including the Annenberg Foundation and the Society for Neuroscience.

On September 20, Hurricane Maria inflicted catastrophic devastation and made *adversity* a new reality for Puerto Rico's residents, the CPRC staff as well as the rhesus monkeys, which are among the most-studied primates on the planet. For 79 years and 9 generations, animal births, deaths, group dynamics and individual behaviors have been monitored and recorded in detail. As the dedicated CPRC team continues to manage difficulties in operating with damaged facilities each day to support these animals and their welfare, BRBLF is committed to providing assistance to the staff and the research center.

To date, BRBLF has purchased and facilitated delivery of satellite phones, a cargo container supplying essential food, bottled water, clothing, stoves, mattresses and medicine for the CPRC staff and their families. Furthermore, BRBLF and the respective supporters are funding and supporting the logistics and infrastructure improvements with delivery of all-terrain vehicles, generators, building materials, a truck and a floating dock purchased by supporters such as the National Primate Research Centers, International Primatological Society and others.

"This fragile [nonhuman primate] population somehow weathered this awful storm, but we need to act quickly to save them and the important scientific possibilities they represent", said Dr. Michael Platt, a neuroscientist at the University of Pennsylvania.

A major portion of the BRBLF donations will be dedicated for the construction of a new laboratory on Cayo Santiago, in place of the previous building which was completely destroyed by the hurricane. Additionally, BRBLF will provide the CPRC staff and their families with holiday gift certificates and solar jars, which store energy during the day and release light at night. "It is our desire to bring light into their homes and their hearts", said Boris Predovich, a project coordinator at BRBLF.

"Today we are at Cayo Santiago to make the first step on the creation of our new laboratory facilities with the aid of Better Research Better Life Foundation. This is a very important lab and research facility, not only for Puerto Rico and the States, but all over the world. It's a very well-known facility and we hope that we can get started the creation of the lab within the next six months", said Dr. Segundo Rodríguez Quilinchini, Interim Chancellor of the Medical Science Campus.

"We hope that this will be a long-term collaboration allowing us to continue working together with the BRBLF. We wish to improve our research resources in a way that allows us to support more researchers and continue providing high quality results", said Dr. Carlos Sariol, Director Unit of Comparative Medicine & co-promoter of the CPRC Disaster Relief initiative.

"We are very proud to have the BRBLF here along with other research centers and primate centers that have come to Puerto Rico and help the University of Puerto Rico. We do very high end research here, especially right now, they're concentrating in non-invasive research. The lab will be focused on behavior and we will work with autism. We prioritize to get this center back to normal operations because everything stopped since Maria. So, it's very, very important that the BRBLF has given us their help to work with this center and put it at the level it was and probably build it better, more resistant because we know that storms like these will come again and again through the years. This is something that will be known globally. Many of the questions of diseases that we have today could be answered just right here and that's why it's very important for us to keep this center at a top level with the help of the university and the researchers that use these facilities", said Dr. Darrel Hillman, President of the University of Puerto Rico.

One of BRBLF's primary 2018 initiatives is to continue facilitating constructive dialogue and providing aide to the CPRC relief and recovery efforts. BRBLF will continue to focus on the quality of animal and human life by supporting infrastructure improvements, which will ensure the continuity of this unique and invaluable resource to the biomedical and behavioral research community.

All of this is made possible by the generous support of organizations, foundations and caring people, along with the resilience and dedication of the faculty and staff of the CPRC.

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The Better Research Better Life Foundation (BRBLF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization created by internationally respected professionals and specialists in the field of non-human primate (NHP) research.

Your consideration and tax-deductible contributions would be most appreciated.

Donate at BRBLF.org

"There is no education like adversity"

~ Benjamin Disraeli