

Bermuda Community Foundation Releases Bermuda Vital Signs Report
Press Release
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017

HAMILTON, BERMUDA — The Bermuda Community Foundation is pleased to announce the release of the Bermuda Vital Signs Study 2017 that provides a snapshot of the quality of life in Bermuda, as determined by members of the community.

Vital Signs is a periodic community check-up conducted by community foundations across the globe that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends and shares opportunities for action in issue areas critical to quality of life and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations.

Our Vital Signs report reveals seven priority areas or categories that are made up of 18 indicators that the community thought should be considered when assessing the overall vitality of Bermuda. The 7 priority areas are:

- health and personal well-being
- economy and work
- housing, education
- safety and security
- community well-being, and
- diversity and inclusion.

This summary report will focus only on the perception data to highlight the voice of Bermuda's residents as the chief source of data informing our efforts. The public opinion findings were derived from two public telephone surveys of a random representative sample of the Bermuda population. The complete report, an internal "white paper", provides a more comprehensive picture of life in Bermuda by combining two forms of information:

- People's perceptions of quality of life in Bermuda and how well Bermuda is performing in these areas.
- Factual data about life in Bermuda (e.g., Bermuda's infant mortality rate as an indicator of the quality of healthcare) collected from such reliable sources as the Department of Statistics, the Bermuda Business Development Agency (BDA), the Bermuda Health Council, and the Bermuda Police Service.

We learned that people in Bermuda on average rate their quality of life a 7 out of 10 with a vast majority highly regarding Bermuda as a place to live. The report reveals many aspects of our life on the island that need improvement.

Bermuda Community Foundation Managing Director Dr. Myra Virgil says "What the Bermuda Community Foundation wanted to do was provide a set of metrics that we could use to evaluate where help is most needed in the community. In addition, we needed to develop a methodology to enable us to revisit this information and measure effectiveness of resources applied to key areas. This is a service we can now offer donors, as well as ensure the BCF was bringing value to the community with its own grant-making."

The resulting white paper is retained as the BCF's proprietary information which we will use to assist stakeholders to direct efforts and resources where they are most needed.

This summary document, however, is being made publicly available to provide everyone with a snapshot of the issues affecting quality of life in Bermuda 2017. To add value, our plan is to conduct surveys at regular intervals – so we can measure the impact of targeted activity. It will enable us to track effectiveness and ensure we are on the right track to improve life in our community.

Given that the Bermuda Community Foundation (BCF) exists “to provide an enduring source of funding to support and strengthen the community” we decided that the views of the community were essential for this project. We are grateful to all who participated. Total Research Associates and Strategic Evaluation Consulting were our partners in this venture.

The BCF will follow this survey with a series of “Seven Vital Conversations” where we will delve more deeply into the seven primary quality of life elements. By convening stakeholders to discuss the issues and plan how we could improve outcomes, we have a chance to work together towards a common goal.

For more, see the full summary report at www.bcf.bm

About the Bermuda Community Foundation

The Bermuda Community Foundation's (BCF) is a limited liability and segregated accounts company, registered as Bermuda charity #948. Its mission is to create an enduring source of funds forever dedicated to the good of Bermuda. BCF aims to improve and strengthen Bermuda's social sector by assisting donors of all kinds to make the most of their generosity. As a public grantmaking foundation, its resources go towards creating a permanent asset base for the public benefit by fundraising, stewarding and investing charitable gifts from the community, grantmaking, and responsibly managing its operations. BCF was founded in 2013 by The Atlantic Philanthropies, RenaissanceRe, the Buchanan Charitable Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, XL Foundation and with support from private donors and nonprofits that established their own endowed agency funds to be managed at the foundation. BCF benefitted from the early stage legal advice of Conyers Dill & Pearman and appreciates the ongoing support of PwC who conducts its annual audit pro bono. For more information, please visit www.bermudacommunityfoundation.org or contact info@bcf.bm.