Beyond The Reef

A BVI Non-Profit Organization
Who We Are

BEYOND THE REEF'S FOUNDERS ARE A UNIQUE GROUP OF COLLABORATORS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE OCEAN.

AMONGST US ARE AN UNDERWATER ENGINEER, AN OCEANOGRAPHER, A METAL SCULPTOR AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKER.

TOGETHER, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR COMMUNITY, WE CAN CREATE THE MOST IMPACTFUL ARTIFICIAL CORAL REEF SYSTEM ON PLANET EARTH.
OUR GOALS

**BUILD to enhance OCEAN LIFE:** Create artificial reef systems for aquatic species to inhabit and thrive in where the seafloor is otherwise desolate or damaged as a result of storms or man.

**RECYCLE to reduce WASTE:** Recycle items, in particular larger vessels that were totaled as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, that would otherwise be costly to dispose of and end up in landfill.

**ART to create TOURISM:** Do this in a visually interesting and aesthetically pleasing way to ensure that it is an impacting experience for locals and visitors and will generate positive publicity and tourism.

**OUTREACH to EDUCATE COMMUNITY:** Involve the local community in the build process to generate excitement and awareness for our oceans while simultaneously having the sites generate a revenue stream to fund swim programs for local children.
How We Plan To Do This:

BEYOND THE REEF HAS SPENT THE PAST 8 MONTHS SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING ALL THE NECESSARY APPROVALS TO SINK 4 VESSELS IN TOTAL—

3 AIRPLANES THAT WE PLAN TO TURN INTO SHARKS

THE OLD WILLY T SHIP

SO FAR WE HAVE THE BLESSING (AND ACTUALLY QUITE A BIT OF ENTHUSIASM) FROM EVERYONE IN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THIS!
We have now spent several months working to prepare the airplanes which has included removing and relocating them from the airport, stripping them of all environmental hazards and now finally working to complete the sharks!

So far we have shaped one of the 3 sharks and will continue to make them as awesome as possible with paint, eyes etc!
The Willy T has also been stripped of all hazardous materials, had holes cut in the deck for diver access points and begun underwater welding, patching and pumping of the boat.

Our plan now is to get the Willy T as ready as possible so that it's a clean slate for an intensive 4-5 weeks of artwork in July.

The artwork on the Willy T will be very interactive and completely pirate themed. The BVI has some of the most amazing pirate history in the Caribbean that we have barely capitalized on and we are hoping that this awareness through the wreck site will bring further attention to this rich and somewhat forgotten history for tourism.
"SINK WEEK"

We are up against the clock as we plan to have all of these vessels completed by the first week of August where we will have one big "sink week".

The same type of hurricanes that wrecked these vessels in the first place could be upon us again come August, so it is imperative that we have them securely sand-screwed down to the seabed before the peak of hurricane season.
Sink Locations

Shark Airplanes: Great Dog, The Dog Islands
Willy T: Key Bay, Peter Island
We have gotten verbal "Yes's" from all of the dive companies in the BVI's that they will participate in our plan of asking for a $5 donation from each diver that will go back into the community through an initiative that teaches local children to swim.

Upon diving the wreck sites, a tourist will be given information on the wreck itself along with the goal for the swim initiative and be asked to donate $5 to dive the site in exchange for a cool souvenir sticker to commemorate their dive and donation.
I don't have the exact numbers yet, but if we claim that an average of 30 people dive these sites every day of the year (just a average since there are high and low seasons), and each donates the suggested $5, we have generated $55k just in one year for children's swim programs...not to mention every other amazing thing that comes with it including:

- Coral reef building
- Community education and respect for the ocean and its current problems
- Swim lessons for children
- New wrecks for dive companies that create publicity
- Increased tourism for the BVI
Tourism

We are hopeful that these wrecks will generate a significant amount of positive publicity to put the BVI on the map as one of the world’s **TOP SCUBA DIVING DESTINATIONS** for both our **NATURAL REEFS** as well as our **UNIQUE WRECK SITES**.

Currently, the BVI is a huge sailing destination but we are hopeful that we can make it similar to the Cayman Islands where a tourist will come for an entire week specifically to scuba dive once we are able to offer them more interesting dives sites.
Why this money is going back into CHILDRENS SWIM PROGRAMS
We are dedicated to teaching kids to swim because...

Not only is swimming a fun, social and confidence boosting activity that all children should be comfortable doing (especially when you live next to some of the worlds most beautiful beaches), it is also a necessary skill to ensure safety when living on an island chain that requires using boats for transportation.

We realized that LESS than 1/3rd of the children living in the BVI actually know how to swim (and we are told it might actually be closer to 1 in 10)!

Not only is this unfortunate for recreational and safety purposes, it also removes some of the best job opportunities that the BVI has to offer.

The ocean is the BVI's greatest resource for tourism and our hope is that once local children become comfortable swimming, they can dominate the lucrative fields of becoming boat captains, scuba diving instructors, sailing instructors, paddle boarding guides and surf instructors.

And better yet- if kids can learn from a young age that some of the most fun and lucrative jobs in the BVI come from ocean eco-tourism and preserving their natural resources, they will be less likely to need to exploit their resources for money (such as turtle hunting which is also legal here)!
How do we plan to do this?

We are suggesting a $5 donation from every scuba diver that visits one of our artificial reef wreck sites that will go directly towards programs that teach local children how to swim.
We hope that this platform will become a global example of how a tourism attraction (such as a shark airplane or an awesome sunken pirate ship artificial reef site) can grow to be something far more than just a reef, and generate enough donation revenue that in 10 years every child in the BVI will know how to swim.

And where do we go from there?

We work with local companies to offer sailing, scuba diving, kayaking and paddle boarding courses as school extracurriculars to get children passionate about their ocean and future job opportunities.