Dear Colleague:

We are writing to call your attention to a GoFundMe campaign that has been launched to help the **Cano Martin Pena Community Land Trust** in San Juan, Puerto Rico in aiding people and repairing homes that were harmed by the latest hurricane that has devastated much of the island. The Champlain Housing Trust has volunteered to be the fiscal agent for this campaign. Any funds collected by CHT will be transferred in their entirety to San Juan and will be used by the Cano Martin Pena CLT in providing humanitarian relief. Here’s the link:

[**https://www.gofundme.com/cano-martin-pena-relief-fund**](https://www.gofundme.com/cano-martin-pena-relief-fund)

In 2008, the Champlain Housing Trust won the UN’s World Habitat Award from the Building and Social Housing Foundation. Last year, that same award was received by the Cano Martin Pena Community Land Trust. It is especially fitting that one World Habitat awardee is now stepping forward to aid another. Our hope is that additional organizations and individuals within the larger CLT community will be equally inclined to offer assistance to a sister CLT.

We are painfully aware that the flooded, wind-swept areas surrounding the Martin Pena Canal in San Juan are not the only low-income neighborhoods in the United States to have been hard-hit by what the current administration in Washington DC euphemistically calls “extreme weather events.” But Puerto Rico is a special case. The severity of the damage caused by Hurricane Maria, the breadth and depth of the economic crisis in which the island has been mired, and the half-hearted response of the U.S. government to the worsening plight of Puerto Rico’s inhabitants, compel us to take extraordinary action, offering citizen-to-citizen, peer-to-peer support for fellow activists who have been using the CLT model to empower their neighbors and to rebuild their neighborhoods.

Please help us to spread the word about this GoFundMe campaign. And please give what you can.

In solidarity,

Line Algoed

Cosmopolis Center for Urban Research - University of Brussels

John Emmeus Davis

Burlington Associates in Community Development - Burlington, Vermont

David Ireland

Building and Social Housing Foundation - Leicestershire, England

Greg Rosenberg

Land Alliance Inc. - Madison, Wisconsin

Brenda Torpy

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