**Foundation for Puerto Rico supports P.E.C.E.S. in sustainable energy project**

The Foundation provided funds for the installation of batteries and solar plaques in their school, located in Punta Santiago, Humacao.

(San Juan, PR) – As part as their Bottom Up Recovery Initiative (Bottom Up), Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) donated $90,000 to Programa de Educación Comunal de Entrega y Servicio (P.E.C.E.S.), for the installation of batteries and solar plaques in their school campus location in Punta Santiago, Humacao and make it a resilient community center.

The school’s infrastructure at P.E.C.E.S. evidenced its resistance to a category five hurricane after not suffering any flooding and serving as a shelter for the southeast region of the island after Hurricane Irma and María. Through Bottom Up and its mission of supporting community resilience, FPR has been working in alliance with P.E.C.E.S since the emergency stage, by donating water filters, satellite Wi-Fi antennas, water tanks, and solar floodlights for the school campus.

“One of the primary goals of Bottom Up is to serve as support for the creation of a more resilient infrastructure that ensures communities are more prepared and able to recover faster after a natural disaster,” said Alma Frontera, director of Strategic Projects and Alliances of the Foundation.

The Bottom Up program, active in six municipalities, looks to advance the efforts of Puerto Rico’s recovery with a multi-sectoral focus, using the visitor economy as a strategy to make the island a global destination. This initiative works with four components in each community to accelerate the economic recovery, make the community a more resilient one, and set out local leaders towards planning and autonomy of the destination. The four components are basic needs and infrastructure, support to small businesses, social capital, and touristic development.

“With this donation, we are closer to meeting the objective of turning our school into a resilient structure for the benefit of our students, organization, and community. Since May 2018, we have been supported by Foundation for Puerto Rico and the benefits of its program Bottom Up. This collaboration has enforced the recovery of the community in Punta Santiago and it has helped us be more prepared in case of another emergency,” confirmed José J. Oquendo, executive director of P.E.C.E.S.

The installation of batteries and solar plaques at the school will be completed this year. FPR, P.E.C.E.S., the community and its key members are in the process of co-designing the first plan of community destination using the visitor economy as a strategy of economic development. The plan will be presented to the public in September of this year.

The donation to P.E.C.E.S was made possible thanks to a grant from Unidos por Puerto Rico to the Bottom Up initiative. During the next two years, FPR will expand this program to the towns of Arecibo, Camuy, Utuado, Adjuntas, Manatí, Barceloneta, Naguabo and Ceiba thanks to a grant from the Federal Administration of Economic Development of the United States.

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About Foundation for Puerto Rico

Foundation for Puerto Rico, a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2011, creates opportunities that drive social and economic development in Puerto Rico, with a focus on the visitor economy and transforming the island into a global destination. For more information visit www.foundationforpuertorico.org

About P.E.C.E.S.
Since 1985, P.E.C.E.S. (for its name in Spanish), has dedicated itself to promote the educational, social, and economic development of the south-east side of Puerto Rico through its high school alternative for youth at a high risk of desertion of school. The center of economic community development includes an incubation of small enterprises, among others.