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TCRF INVITES EVERYONE TO SUPPORT THE TCRF BY ATTENDING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL TCRF COCKTAIL PARTY ON 18 FEBRUARY 2012

24 JANUARY 2012, Providenciales, TCI – The Turks & Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) will host its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cocktail Party Reception on 18 February 2012 at the Veranda Resort from 6 pm until 8:30 pm. The event, which will help the non-profit continue its work toward helping to preserve and protect the marine environment of the Turks & Caicos Islands, will feature music by David and Shara Bowen, a silent auction and a raffle drawing for a 3-day, 2-night stay on Parrot Cay.

Tickets are \$30 per person and can be obtained by contacting David Stone at 649-346-3111. Proceeds from the ticket sales, silent auction and Parrot Cay raffle will all go toward projects undertaken by the TCRF, an all volunteer run organization.

“The support we have received from local merchants for the silent auction has been amazing and very greatly appreciated,” said Don Stark, Chairman of the TCRF. “The silent auction will feature gift certificates from several restaurants on Provo, works of art from several local artists, various items from local watersports operators and a Grand Turk Adventure Package that includes airfare, two nights at the Osprey Inn for two people, two days of diving with Blue Water Divers, two one-hour massages and lunch or dinner for two at the Sandbar Restaurant. We want to also thank the Veranda for generously offering to host the event for us.”

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Added David Stone, Deputy Chairman of the TCRF, “we are very excited to host this event and expect it will become one of the social events of the year as it becomes established. The silent auction and raffle will help us tremendously in our efforts to continue the various projects we have underway and planned throughout the islands, including expanding the dive boat moorings, adding and improving snorkel trails on the islands, and continuing to expand the Blue Flag Beach Certification program. We also hope to use some of our funds to help control the invasive lionfish species, which is threat to traditional finfish and lobster fisheries around these islands.”

#### About TCRF

Founded in 2010, the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund is an all volunteer-run organization that provides funding for education, research and conservation programs to individuals, organizations and agencies that help to preserve and protect the marine environment of the Turks & Caicos Islands. Our goal is to have at least 85% of all funds raised through voluntary contributions from divers and snorkelers visiting the Turks & Caicos Islands directed to the Fund’s programs.

Anyone wishing to donate or assist the TCRF in any way can contact them through their website, [www.TCReef.org](http://www.TCReef.org). Scuba divers visiting the islands are encouraged to make a \$10 donation through the purchase of a dive tag that can be attached to their dive gear to show their support. Snorkelers visiting the islands can show their support through the \$5 purchase of a pink or blue silicone wristband. A complete list of outlets for TCRF merchandise can be found on the organization’s website.

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