

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWENTY NEW YORK WOMEN TO SAIL TO CUBA TO DELIVER AID TO AREAS HIT BY HURRICANE MATTHEW

New York, NY, October 24, 2016 – New York City-based sailing club *Sailors NYC* has organized a flotilla that will deliver donations to those in Cuba affected by Hurricane Matthew. The flotilla will be captained and crewed by 20 women from the New York metropolitan area.

The flotilla comprises of three sailboats, two monohulls and one catamaran, and will depart from Key West, Florida to Cuba on November 5, 2016.

Captain Nitzan Levy, founder of *Sailors NYC* and an intrepid sailor herself, is the organizer of the flotilla. “As soon as the sea gates to Cuba opened, I knew I must sail there. It’s empowering that a group of women have come together to sail to Cuba and assist those affected by Matthew.”

Although originally not intended to be a women only flotilla, the Cuba flotilla attracted 20 women from New York, all eager for the opportunity to explore the island that has been off limits to American tourism until recently. “When I saw that the flotilla was attracting women, I decided to make it a women-only flotilla and hired two female captains to join the trip. I’m inspired by the spirit of these women and I can’t wait to share this unique journey with them,” said Levy.

The idea to run a special donation drive for the Cubans who were affected by Hurricane Matthew earlier this month came from the women themselves. After learning about the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in the Eastern part of Cuba, the women started collecting clothes and basic essential goods to deliver to Cuba. *Sailors NYC* contacted Father John Baker from the St. Mary Star of the Sea church in Key West who is assisting the coordination of transporting the donations collected to Cuba.

To organize the trip, Captain Levy contacted *Harmony Yacht Vacations*, a Key West, Florida travel agency that was one of the first companies to offer

boat charters from Key West to Cuba. Levy and agency owners Margie and Brad Matheson created an itinerary that combines sailing, diving and snorkeling and land excursions.

In Cuba, participants will stay in [Marina Gaviota](#) in Varadero and in [Marina Hemingway](#), located nine miles west of Havana. Commodore José Miguel Díaz Escrich, the port officer of the *Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba*, will host participants for a dinner party on Tuesday November 8, 2016.

The Cuba flotilla is *Sailors NYC*'s fourth flotilla to the Caribbean after sailing to St. Martin and St. Barths in 2014, the US and Spanish Virgin Islands in 2015 and the Grenadines in February 2016. "People who sign up for our sailing flotillas are both sailors and non-sailors who share the passion for exploring destinations in a unique way. People of different ages, backgrounds and cultures come together to sail luxurious boats at affordable prices and they meet people who become their friends for years after. Flotillas create a special bond," said Captain Levy.

Sailors NYC is a sailing club and school offering sailors in the New York metropolitan area an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy unlimited access to recreational sailing on medium size vessels (25'+) without the cost, upkeep and crew associated with owning a boat. The club, which operates from Pier 25 in TriBeCa and Liberty Harbor Marina in Jersey City, offers sailors of all levels the opportunity to improve their skills and enjoy the camaraderie of other sailors. *Sailors NYC* hosts sailing vacations in spectacular settings throughout the world, classes and other social events year-round. For more information, visit www.sailorsnyc.com.

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