



# BIOGRAPHY

**Shaun D. Ingraham**



## **Director of Civil Society Bahamas**

**Shaun D. Ingraham is an innovator and a social entrepreneur with a passion for community development and mobilising social and economic capital. He is currently the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer for One Eleuthera Foundation. Born in Tarpum Bay Eleuthera, Shaun found his calling in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew which devastated Eleuthera and other islands in The Bahamas. Working with the Methodist Church at that time, he coordinated the on-the-ground efforts on Eleuthera for many local and international organizations including The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Rotary International, and the Presbyterian Church. These efforts led to his involvement in founding Methodist Habitat. While working in disaster relief and on economic and social projects in Africa, South East Asia, North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Shaun saw first-hand the importance of the civil society sector in the development process. In 2006 he returned home to home to share his knowledge and to contribute to the development of the Bahamas... PTO**

.....CONTD In his quest to better the lives of Bahamians through mobilizing resources, Shaun has founded and incubated numerous social enterprises including, Island Journeys (Co-Founder and former President), South Eleuthera Emergency Partners (founder and former President), the One Eleuthera Cooperative Credit Union Limited, the Centre for Training and Innovation (CTI), Eleuthera Arts and Cultural Center and of course the One Eleuthera Foundation (OEF). In 2010, he founded a little known social enterprise called Eleuthera Land Conservancy which together with other partners advocated for the preservation of the lighthouse point and the introduction of a sustainable development model. It was during this period that he decided that complex problems required multi-layered solutions and created the One Eleuthera Social and Economic Development Model which mobilises community action and local and international partnerships and resources to resolve social problems and generate economic growth. This innovative approach, gleaned from his many years of global experience, has resulted in many successes including: increasing literacy and numeracy in South Eleuthera, strengthening financial inclusion, raising local awareness of the issue of food insecurity in Eleuthera, the Breast Cancer Outreach Program and creating a new model for sustainable tourism.

Under Shaun's leadership, OEF continues to make significant strides in local and international arenas. The OEF's social and economic development model is now recognized at the regional level by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as a viable model for socioeconomic development. Over the past few years, Shaun has been invited to share his experienced with the model throughout The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and the USA. In neighbouring Cat Island, a replication of OEF model is already underway. In addition, Shaun served as a member of the Committee advising the government on the country's National Development Plan and in 2017, he was awarded the Ministry of Tourism 2017 National Cacique award for Sustainable Tourism.

Originally trained as a Pastor, Shaun has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Florida Southern College in Lakeland Florida, and a Masters in Divinity from Emory University in Atlanta GA. He has worked extensively with the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, The World Council of Churches (Geneva, Switzerland), and the United Methodist Church USA. He is also trained in Civilian and Military Coordination and been involved in Disaster Relief and Management and Community Development. Some of his disaster experience includes response to the South Asian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, Haiti Earthquake, and Hurricane Ivan in Grenada.

Shaun has also served as Charter President of the Rotary Club of Eleuthera and Co-Founder and past Director of the Open-Heart Foundation in Nassau, Bahamas. . Some additional agencies with whom he has been involved include Habitat for Humanity, New Providence Community Church, Food for the Hungry, Rotary International and the World Council of Churches.