

# CHANGING THE WORLD YACHTAID GLOBAL WITHOUT CHANGING COURSE



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One of the most innovative and unique charitable agencies in the world, YachtAid Global was founded by Mark Drewelow in 2006. As captain of numerous superyachts, Drewelow – his crew and his clients – visited many of the world’s most beautiful and out-of-the-way locations. Docking at these exotic locales to purchase fuel, to experience the indigenous culture and to offload trash, Captain Drewelow came to realize that he was traveling the world, enjoying the resources of various ports o’call, yet leaving nothing behind...other than debris.

Back on terra firma after years of circumnavigating the globe, Drewelow began C2C California – a business that has grown to become known as *the* superyacht operation and support specialists in the Eastern North Pacific. Providing everything from port facilities to concierge services, from regulatory integration with local officials to customs-related paperwork, C2C supplies captains and crews of superyachts with the resources they need (literally) for smooth sailing. Through the incorporation of his company, Captain Drewelow began to forge strong, synergistic relationships with yacht captains, crews and owners. The combination of his client base coupled with his wealth of knowledge led to the creation of YachtAid Global, the nonprofit humanitarian offshoot of C2C.

The basic premise of YachtAid Global takes the phrase, “*Going my way?*” well beyond the norm. When participating superyachts are outfitted to cruise to Alaska, Indonesia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, French Polynesia, Mexico, Chile, Belize, Vanuatu (and many others), YAG places school, medical and scientific supplies – or other necessities to aid target communities – on board. Generally speaking, consumable goods donations range from \$500 to \$1,000 in value, and although the dollar amounts may not seem overly large, the ‘cargo’ is meaningful in many ways. The bins of supplies (from five to eight on average) are easy to stow onboard and easy to offload when the yacht arrives in port. Through the help of volunteers and a flotilla of superyachts (the organization now lists up to four dozen privately-owned luxury yachts on its roster) YachtAid Global’s goal is to deliver humanitarian, development and conservation aid to coastal communities around the world.

This unusual philanthropic platform makes cruising a rich and fulfilling experience for those onboard as well. It gives every trip a sense of purpose. Not only can the crew, the ownership and their guests enjoy sun, fun, fishing and sight-seeing, they can make a difference to the villages they visit along the way. Said Founder and Executive Director, Captain Mark Drewelow, “The most unique element of YAG is that it combines a passion for yachting with individuals’ philanthropic objectives. We get needed aid into areas that generally have no hope of receiving help. These isolated communities are off the grid of the major and the minor distribution networks.”

The first pinnacle moment for YachtAid Global occurred when the 45m luxury ketch-rigged sailing superyacht Timoneer delivered the first YAG aid to an isolated community in Nicaragua. That was in May of 2006 and sy Timoneer remains one of the most active yachts in YAG, delivering much-needed resources to Panama’s San Blas Islands, Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands, Antigua and the secluded Polynesian isle, Easter Island.

Recently The Newport Charter Yacht Show approached YAG to be its charitable partner for its signature event held in June 2012. “The Newport event was a firm endorsement of YAG and validation that our organization is recognized by our industry as leading the way with our humanitarian work,” stated Drewelow.

Through the years YachtAid Global has made a difference with medical supplies in Belize, a school fence project on the island of Komodo, school supplies in Alaska, and so much more. The organization has recently expanded to include YAG Kids, “...a program designed to give kids exposure to philanthropy at a young age and to open their eyes to the world around them so they can see how their actions impact people.”

YachtAid Global’s benefactor base – both donators and superyacht owners who volunteer their craft – is growing via word of mouth and through coverage such as this. If you would like to participate in YachtAid Global by making a financial donation, or by volunteering the use of your yacht, please contact the organization at [www.YachtAidGlobal.org](http://www.YachtAidGlobal.org)

– TPJ

Combining a passion for yachting with philanthropic objectives.

