



Changing the World Without Changing Course

For Immediate Release

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YACHTAID Global Launches Galapagos Youth Sailing and Swimming Program
S/Y Seahawk Collaboration Creates Exciting Launch Day Experience

(San Diego, Ca, July 30, 2021) -- YachtAid Global, in collaboration with S/Y Seahawk and Sea Masters Galapagos, has launched the YachtAid Global Youth Sailing and Swimming Program -Galapagos. The program has been created to foster a connection between local youth and the surrounding ocean and environment, as well as provide positive peer relationships.

The confidence gained through learning to command a sailing vessel has been shown to create a sense of accomplishment and desire towards the achievement of greater things, as well as an interest in the mastery of larger sailing vessels. The Sailing and Swimming Program is part of YachtAid Global's ongoing Operation Beagle, a broad initiative of providing Galapagos with access to clean water, educational, and conservation programs.

"The Galapagos Youth Sailing Program's successful launch was made possible through the extraordinary commitment and assistance of the owner's and crew of the 60-meter Perini-built S/Y Seahawk", said Captain Mark Drewelow, Founder YachtAid Global. "The participation by the vessel and crew of S/Y Seahawk is a prime example of how YachtAid Global's partnering yachts contribute to the world around them through participation in our programs."

The S/Y Seahawk graciously delivered the first round of Optimist sailboats to be used in the program and the crew spent time working with the children igniting their interest and excitement in sailing. In addition, the captain and crew invited local children aboard Seahawk to demonstrate how large sailing yachts work, further spurring their imagination and encouraging passion, determination, and hard work.

"As S/Y Seahawk continues to explore remote areas and communities around the world in the coming years, we are on a mission to leave a legacy of doing good along the way, focused on the areas of science, ecology, and community values", explained Captain Stephen Edwards, the captain of S/Y Seahawk. "Collaborating with YachtAid Global on the Sailing and Swimming school project launch is a great example of the community aspect of our mission. The reception from the local people in the three main population centers of the Islands has been incredible."

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The staff of Sea Masters Galapagos and AYS Panama also added to the launch's success through the much-appreciated contribution of their time, knowledge, and energy.

YachtAid Global is committed to establishing the sustainability of the Sailing and Swimming Program. YAG is seeking additional cruising yachts interested in supporting the program and engaging in meaningful interaction, education, and support of the peoples of the Galapagos through this program or any of the other programs operating in the Galapagos.

"The presence of Seahawk raised the awareness and the profile of the program and elevated the enthusiasm for supporting the teaching of sailing to children", stated Captain Stephen Edwards. "This is exactly what is needed to make such a program sustainable... infrastructure is in place to build from this seed. With the support of other vessels and their owners, I believe that we will see a fleet of small sails in the bays of San Cristobal, Isabella and Santa Cruz on our next visit!"

Through Operation Beagle, YachtAid Global has plans to continue and expand programs that increase the collective consciousness and commitment amongst residents of the Galapagos for preservation and protection of the islands' fragile land and sea environment. This is especially important for the children, as education, hands-on exposure, and experiences help build a strong connection to the coastal environment, which these next generations will be entrusted to protect.

About Operation Beagle: The operation is YachtAid Global's ongoing commitment to supporting Galapagos communities in reaching long-term, sustainable development goals through programs in education, clean water access, youth sports, and conservation. Galapagos is an unforgettable cruising destination - visiting yachts and crew can be part of the Swimming and Sailing Program and other initiatives during their visit. Learn more about Operation Beagle by visiting

<https://yachtaidglobal.org/campaigns/operation-beagle-galapagos/> or contacting YachtAid Global at info@yachtaidglobal.org

About YachtAid Global: YachtAid Global (YAG) is a registered 501(c)(3), operating at the highest levels of international non-profit work across coastal communities worldwide.

The organization's humanitarian aid, conservation programs, and disaster relief responses are successfully implemented through a vetted network of NGOs, agents, government agencies, brokers, and charities, in combination with YachtAid Global's provision of consultation, leadership, and logistics management, at local and global levels, for superyachts interested in participating in the execution of the altruistic activities.

Since 2006, YachtAid Global has engaged 250+ yachts across 175+ projects over 25+ countries in timely, agenda-free projects that saved lives and built stronger communities. These projects also enabled YachtAid Global's partner donors, businesses, and yachts to contribute to the world around them and leave lasting philanthropic footprints across global coastal communities.

Contact YachtAid Global to learn more about programs, emerging initiatives or to support the organization as they continue "Changing the World Without Changing Course".

About S/Y Seahawk: The award-winning S/Y Seahawk is a 192' / 58.52m ketch sail yacht built by Perini Navi and launched in 2013. She features exterior styling by Perini Navi, and engineering by Perini Navi & Ron Holland Design. The yacht's interior was designed by Christian Liaigre. She was last refitted in 2018.

About SEA MASTERS Galapagos Yacht Agency: SEA MASTERS Galapagos Yacht Agency is a licensed yacht/ship agency based in Galapagos arranging yacht cruising permits for the protected waters of the Galapagos National Park for visiting yachts and providing yachting services and logistical support.

About AYS Panama: AYS, a division of ASA, specializes in the logistical support of superyachts and mega yachts that are cruising in Panama and/or transiting the Panama Canal. The company maintains offices on both sides of the Panama Canal and is in constant contact with the Panama Canal Authority and Port Operators.

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Editorial Note:

Additional photographs and information are available by request.
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