

# Don't put unfair charity burden on int'l business

## Donor says Bermuda needs to prioritise funding

By Ruth O'Kelly-Lynch

International businesses should not be expected to pick up the slack when the Government cuts funding to charitable organisations, according to a leading donor.

A member of The XL Foundation, one of Bermuda's largest charitable donors, said many international business were already heavily investing in the Island and should not be expected to fund everything at a packed public meeting on the administration of charities last night.

The XL Foundation member said that although 90 percent of the company's workforce lived elsewhere in the world The XL Foundation gives two-thirds of its charitable budget to organisations in Bermuda.

He added that the Island needed to priori-

tise pointing to the \$11 million earmarked by Government to be spent on cricket in the next few years.

"I am all for supporting development in sports but when you take it away from the charities, many that provide basic services that make the Government look good, and assume that international business will pick up the slack, I think it is an unfair burden to put on businesses already being charitable.

He added that the Foundation has already earmarked most of the funds and would not be able to help many charities left in the cold this financial year after the Government cut or did not renew grants usually received. And he said that the Island's charities could benefit from streamlining instead of duplicating services because an Island of 65,000 people did not need 400 charities.

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Social Rehabilitation to allow charities and donors to discuss proposed changes to the Charities Act. Some of the changes include greater accountability, better registration, a definition of what a charitable organisation is and more transparency of charities' goals and mission statement.

Minister of Social Rehabilitation Dale Butler said: "Almost 90 percent of households donate to charity with the average household donating more than \$1,200 in a year. This is more than the average household donates in the US and far more than in the UK. Together we can ensure that 'Giving in Partnership' is more than just a slogan — it is our modus operandi and our best avenue in securing a brighter future for all people in Bermuda."

**HAMILTON ROTARY CLUB:** Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute chief operating officer Patrice Dill



**'We needed to offer a new beginning to help destigmatise the issues surrounding mental illness for the Island of Bermuda.'** -

*Patrice Dill of Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute.*

# We are not a 'lunatic asylum'

By Nadia Arandjelovic

The Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute should not be viewed as a "lunatic asylum", but rather the well-respected mental health service organisation that it is, a representative said.

Chief operating officer Patrice Dill told members of the Hamilton Rotary Club this week about the need to break stigmas surrounding mental ill-

service delivery. We are not behind at all, we are very much in the cutting edge when it comes to our service," she said.

According to Ms Dill, the institution changed its name from St. Brendan's Hospital to Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute in 2005 for several reasons, namely "to truly represent the services (they) do".

She said: "We are not just a hospital we do a lot of community programmes, we run group homes and clinics do a lot of outreach and educational

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