

# Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

## Fund Highlight: Mentoring Through the Arts of Music



Research shows that music engages students in the classroom and improves early cognitive development, math, reading, critical thinking, and leadership skills. United Jazz Foundation (UJF) provides creative and educational experiences for both parents and children. Because jazz is improvisational, it celebrates personal freedom and encourages individual expression.

UJF is a non-profit organization that provides music education for youth in the US Virgin Islands. Their mission is to provide music education and professional experiences for underserved student who aspire to have a career in the music industry.

Under the leadership of Nicole and Dion Parson, UJF's work in the Virgin Islands began in 2009. In 2014, CFVI partnered with UJF to create the Mentoring Through the Arts of Music Fund (MTAM) at CFVI. CFVI currently provides financial support and grants management to UJF to help enhance and expand their work throughout the USVI.

Thanks to United Jazz Foundation, underprivileged students in the Virgin Islands have access to enriching opportunities! To date, programs have reached over 10,000 students throughout the Territory with a number of programs that benefit children of all ages:

*Early Learning/Jazz for Young People-* In collaboration with the VI Department of Education and Jazz at Lincoln Center, infants, toddlers and students, in grades Kindergarten through 3 engage in creative and interactive jazz education activities. These activities provide youngsters with the opportunity to enhance their cognitive skills while learning about jazz and the genre's core concepts.

*USVI Ensemble/ After School program-* The VI Youth Ensemble is a performance-based after-school initiative that is focused on gifted students that exhibit high levels of musical talent. Together with a program of progressive academic instruction, activities, and mentorship, the program helps students focus on learning as they develop their sense of pride and self-worth and hone their decision-making skills through performance. In 2016, Keshawn Hardy, a member of the VI Youth ensemble, was awarded the Jerry Silverberg Trumpet Award, by Jaci and Jerry Silverberg. In honor of Jerry's legacy, Hardy was provided with a beautifully refurbished trumpet and a scholarship of \$2500 to attend the Summer Music Program at the University of the Virgin Islands.

*The Artist in Residence Program-* The Artist in Residence Program runs six days a week each month during the school year on St. Thomas and St. Croix, simultaneously in the junior high schools (2 per district) and high schools (2 per district) in the Territory. This program allows all public junior high and high school students to receive much-needed private lessons as well as group coaching on their instrument by the Artist in Residence as well as UVI students.

*Mentoring Through the Arts of Music -* Mentorship and music education opportunities have been provided to middle school, junior high, high school, and university students throughout the US Virgin Islands. Together with local schools, local and professional musicians, and in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, MTAM has offered over 100 workshops since 2009.

*Music for Young People of the Virgin Islands + Music Therapy-* These programs were launched in 2016 in collaboration with the VI Department of Education, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands. Students in Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade and students with disabilities (of all grades) are provided with wonderful opportunities to experience music in creative, therapeutic ways.

To stay abreast of UJF programs and community events, "like" their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UnitedJazzFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedJazzFoundation). If you're interested in supporting these initiatives, donations can be made online at [www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund](http://www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund).

## Spring Newsletter 2017



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Ella's Hope Fund

### CFVI Staff

Dee Baecher-Brown  
President

Katrin Braddell  
Development Director

Brittany A. Brin  
Communications Manager

Marie Charles  
Office Administrator

Judi Richardson  
USVI KIDS COUNT CO-Director

Anna Scarbriel, Ph.D.  
USVI KIDS COUNT CO-Director/  
Child & Family Initiatives Advisor

Patricia Swan  
College Coach

## Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarships Now Available for Local Students



The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is pleased to announce that annual academic scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students are now available. In 2016, CFVI gave away **\$100,000** in scholarships to students throughout the Territory. Funds for these offerings are provided through the generosity of CFVI donors.

The Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and families in the Territory by creating opportunities that otherwise would not be available. The Foundation will be awarding annual scholarships based on the following criteria requirements. An applicant must:

- Be a senior or graduate of a US Virgin Island high school;
- Be enrolled in, or have applied for admission to, an accredited four-year institution with a program leading to a Bachelor's degree; For graduate scholarships, a student must be currently enrolled in or have applied for admission to, an accredited institution with a program leading to an advanced degree (Master's, PhD, JD, MD, etc.)
- Demonstrate financial need.

Selection will be based on student's overall financial need, academic progress, extracurricular activities, and answers to essay questions. Applications for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships can be submitted through an online portal at <http://www.cfvi.fluidreview.com/>. The submission deadline is **April 21, 2017**.

## Become a Part of a Network of Philanthropists!



There are many ways you can give back to the community through CFVI.

### **Become an Angel.**

Angels are members of the largest philanthropic network in the Territory that give an annual donation of \$500 or more to the Foundation. These generous contributions enable us to partner with nonprofits, donors and other community members that want to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families in the Virgin Islands. With your support, CFVI can continue administering funds, programs and initiatives that are benefiting residents of all ages. Angels are celebrated every year at our appreciation gala.

### **Become a part of the Mahogany Legacy.**

The Mahogany Legacy recognizes donors investing in the community by naming CFVI as a beneficiary of their estate plans. Estate plan funds can benefit the Territory in perpetuity, by becoming a legacy for our community's future.

### **Establish a fund/fiscal sponsorship.**

CFVI was created to support donors and nonprofits within the Territory. We currently manage over 100 named funds, many of which were established by local agencies or by individuals as field-of-interest or donor-advised funds. Funds receive 100% of their proceeds plus interest once the fund has reached \$10,000. The money is invested and donors are not charged for any administrative fees.

### **Start a scholarship fund.**

Thanks to our donors, CFVI has awarded hundreds of graduate and undergraduate scholarships to Virgin Island students over the last 20 years. CFVI administers the application process and designates a committee that will select the recipients based on your criteria.

### **Support an existing fund.**

While there are many needs within our community, you can be sure to find a fund that is currently supporting programs and initiatives addressing a wide variety of areas, such as early childhood, sports, music, health, education, environmental science, animal rights, and much more.

## Tadzio Bervoets Receives Euan P. McFarlane Environmental Leadership Award

The Advisory Committee of the Euan P. McFarlane Environmental Leadership Award of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Tadzio Bervoets in recognition of his important work as a dedicated and passionate Caribbean conservationist. The grant in the amount of \$1,000 will boost conservation efforts in St. Maarten and promote recognition of the challenges faced by the region.

Mr. Bervoets was nominated by colleagues, who highlighted his policy and management skills and experience as demonstrated at local, national, and regional levels. Mr. Bervoets has both created and revitalized environmental institutions in St. Maarten, including the Ocean Care Foundation, the St. Maarten Nature Federation, the Reef Check Program in St. Maarten, and the Sea Scouts Program to teach local children about the marine environment.

The Euan P. McFarlane Award was established in 1987 to provide recognition for persons demonstrating initiative, resourcefulness and leadership in promoting conservation and enhancement of the environment in the insular Caribbean, with priority given to the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean. For more information, visit [cfvi.wordpress.com](http://cfvi.wordpress.com).

## Coding Digital Playground Event kicks-off at the St. Croix Curriculum Center



Students, parents and teachers from both private and public schools on St. Croix participated in the Coding Digital Playground event – an exhibition launched by Dr. Everett Ryan, the District Coordinator of Technology at the Department of Education. In addition, through AT&T STEM Education Grants distributed by CFVI, 150 students will receive hands-on training to further develop their abilities in problem solving and critical thinking. ‘Coding is Cool’ at Claude O. Markoe and the ‘Computational Thinking and Robots’ program at the Juanita Guardine schools aim to introduce students to technology at an early age. Each school received \$5,000 to support STEM-related initiatives. For more information, about this event, visit [www.vide.vi/news](http://www.vide.vi/news).

Visit our website for more information about CFVI’s AT&T STEM grants: [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net)

Coding Digital Playground Exhibition

## Bring Hope to Ella



Ella’s Hope is a newly established Fund at CFVI. Three-year-old Ella, suffers from a rare condition known as Rett Syndrome and is the only child in the Territory battling with this illness. Rett Syndrome is a neurological disease that is diagnosed mostly in young girls. Thus far, researchers have found no cure for the disease, but if detected early, treatment and therapy can enhance quality of life.

The purpose of the Ella’s Hope fund at CFVI is to increase awareness of Rett Syndrome and related conditions, to provide funding for public education and research and to assist with the needs of individuals with Rett Syndrome.

Donations can be made directly to the Ella’s Hope Fund online at, [www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund.php](http://www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund.php). Checks can also be mailed to: CFVI | PO Box 11790 | St. Thomas, VI 00801. Checks should be made out to CFVI, with a reference to Ella’s Hope Fund in the memo section.

## Interested in learning more about the Foundation?

The Community Foundation has been serving our community for more than 25 years. CFVI was created to serve both donors and nonprofit organizations of the Virgin Islands that want to ensure the highest quality of life for present and future generations. Its primary goal is to build a collection of permanent funds, which will be used to enhance the well-being of the children, youth, and families of the Virgin Islands.

As a non-profit that helps build community organizations and deliver services that benefit the territory, we'd like to get to know you a little better.

CFVI is happy to visit your organization to learn about ways we can better serve you. This year, CFVI has presented at various organizations such as the Rotary Club of St. Thomas and Inner Wheel Club of St. Thomas. If you'd like use to visit your organization at your monthly meeting, contact our Communications Manager, Brittany Brin, at [bbrin@cfvi.net](mailto:bbrin@cfvi.net).



Katrin Braddell, Development Director; Paula Edwards, Inner Wheel President; Brittany Brin, Communications Manager

## CFVI Participates in Youth Initiative to Promote Literacy

On March 11th, CFVI's Communications Manager, Brittany Brin, attended the kick-off of 'Science Saturdays!' at the American Yacht Harbor in Red Hook. This monthly event is sponsored by the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the American Yacht Harbor.

This collaboration was established to provide fun, educational activities for children of all ages to learn about the local environment. The theme for the month of March is 'Sea Turtles.'

As a continuation of CFVI's book initiative, CFVI provided books to every child that attended the event, more than 50 in total. Brin also volunteered as a storyteller, reading stories about sea turtles and environmental safety and sanitation.

Science Saturdays! start at 10am at the American Yacht Harbor on the second Saturday of each month. Local children's books about sea life can be purchased at Chelsea Drug Store and Coral World.



Story time at Science Saturday!  
at the American Yacht Harbor

## Stay Connected With Us..



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### Edited by:

Brittany Brin, CFVI Communications Manager

Anna Scarbriel, Ph.D., USVI KIDS COUNT Co-Director, CFVI Child and Family Initiatives Advisor