



HelpUSVINow! FUND REPORT

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

December 2019 | www.cfvi.net

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) was created in 1990 to serve both donors and non-profit organizations that want to ensure the highest quality of life for all Virgin Islanders. CFVI's mission is to enhance the well-being of children, youth and families throughout the Territory through capacity-building and grant-making.

From a founding gift of \$540,000 from Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman and Charlotte Kimelman, CFVI now manages a portfolio of \$16 million, with more than 100 named funds and programs committed to youth, education, early childhood, health, hurricane relief/recovery, the environment, and more!

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a longstanding history of serving the USVI community, CFVI was identified as a trusted vehicle for receiving and distributing funds to support hurricane relief, recovery, and renewal across the Territory.

CFVI is uniquely positioned as the only Territory-wide community foundation - offering donors, funders, and other stakeholders intimate community knowledge, a history of collaborative partnerships, leadership, reputation, and accountability. The Community Foundation's audited financial statements and Form 990 (filed annually with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service) are posted on CFVI's website.

Please visit cfvi.net for more information about the Foundation and its operations.

HelpUSVINow! Fund

Established by Richard J Stephenson to help the USVI recover from hurricanes Irma and Maria, which impacted the U.S. Virgin Islands in September 2017. The Stephenson Family Foundation contributed \$2 million to benefit health, education, and other long-term needs of the USVI community.

Their generosity inspired additional contributions from businesses, nonprofits, and individuals totaling \$55,627.

Cancer Treatment Centers of America
Celebrate Life Trust
Charles Cairns
Galtere, Inc.
Kotula Family Foundation
Laura O'Brian
Louisette Cap-Ligins
Michael Cassidy
Roger W. Broseus, Ph.D.
The GE Foundation

The total donations from this fund:
\$2,055,627.28

To date, \$2 million has been distributed in grants to 30 recipients across the Territory, including schools, clubs, community programs, and others. At the request of the Stephenson Family, the remaining fund balance of \$55,627.28 has been donated to CFVI's Building Forward Fund, which is designated for ongoing disaster and crisis relief efforts in the USVI.

Schools

All Saints Cathedral School

\$100,000

Antilles School, Inc

\$200,000

Free Will Baptist Christian School

\$100,000

Gifft Hill School

\$150,000

Good Hope Country Day School

\$150,000

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School

\$100,000

University of the Virgin Islands

\$150,000

VI Montessori School & Peter Gruber

International Academy

\$200,000

Churches

St. Thomas Reformed Church

\$5,000

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Croix

\$25,000

Clubs

Boys and Girls Club of St. Thomas / St. John
\$15,000

Dancing Classrooms VI, Inc.
\$12,000

Island Health and Wellness Center
\$21,000

St. Thomas Swimming Association, Inc.
\$100,000

St. Thomas/St. John Youth Scholastic Chess Club
\$20,000

World Ocean School
\$25,000

Programs

Caribbean Exploratory Research
Center (CERC)
\$25,000

Christiansted Lighthouse Mission
\$10,000

Family Resource Center
\$25,000

My Brother's Workshop
\$150,000

Patient Assist VI, Inc.
\$50,000

St. Thomas Rescue
\$25,000

VI Association for Independent
Living
\$7,000

Cancer Support VI Fund
\$200,000

VI Partners For Healthy
Communities
\$50,000

Women's Coalition of St.
Croix
\$25,000

Yvonne Ashley Galiber Breast
Cancer Fund
\$10,000

HelpUSVINow! Fund Grants

SCHOOLS

All Saints Cathedral School | St. Thomas | \$100,000

Funds allowed the school to address the technology needed to maximize delivery of academic and support services, address challenges to the school's jeopardized plumbing system, and to invest in the school's intramural sports programs.

"Hurricanes Irma and Maria derailed us momentarily from our vision. Instead of focusing on the thrust outlined in our ambitious strategic plan, the administration's focus was redirected towards meeting the needs of our faculty, staff, parents and students, assessing the security of buildings and grounds and developing a short-term strategy to provide a stable, but supportive, environment for us to resume business as usual.

-Carla Sarauw, Head of School

Antilles School | St. Thomas | \$200,000

Funds were used to provide tuition assistance to families experiencing financial challenges due to the hurricanes, supplementing the school's commitment to expanding access for a wide range of families. .

"Our leadership came together and determined it was a top priority that we do everything to keep our school community together. The \$200,000 from the Community Foundation's HelpUSVINow! Fund was essential to helping us keep our community together and stronger. Tuition assistance provided our families in need a critical sense of hope and normalcy. In times of crises, communities become stronger and more resilient, these funds were able to provide the much needed support we needed to foster the V.I. strong spirit. We are so grateful to the Community Foundation for all their support to Antilles and the greater Virgin Islands."

-Liz Morrison, Head of School

Free Will Baptist Christian School | St. Croix | \$100,000

Granted funds helped pay for damage and other issues caused by Hurricane Maria. Half of the grant was spent on structural damage to the campus including replacing and repairing doors that were water damaged. The other half of the grant was used to help augment lost tuition during the month of the storm, and for those students who left the island as a result of the storm.

"I appreciated the effort that was made to help connect the donor with a need. The money helped alleviate a huge financial burden. As large as the grant was, we still ended the year in the red. We were thankful to be able to offer a break in tuition for the month of September to parents. Although the storm was a blow to our school financially, we knew it was also a hard time for our families as well. Because of the generous grant of \$100,000, we were able to recoup some of that money back."

-Hannah Postlewaite, Lower School Principal

Giff Hill School | St. John | \$150,000

Giff Hill School (GHS) sustained over \$1.5M in damages to its physical plant and more than 130 students and their families left the island due to lost homes and employment. As a result, the GHS Board waived tuition for the 2017-18 school year and opened its doors to any child who wished to attend our school. GHS was the first school to re-open on St. John, less than two weeks after Maria, welcoming more than 80 students who were not part of the school pre-storm. The storms also created tremendous challenges for GHS financially. Waiving tuition required that GHS raise the entire \$2,900,000 budget, as well as the \$1,500,000 in repair costs to the campus. Through the generosity of the community, the school was able to pay the salaries of the faculty and staff and begin repairs to our physical plant.



“Thank you so much to Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, HelpUSVINow!, and the Stephenson family for assisting us during the most challenging time in our school's history and setting us on the road to recovery.”

-Beth Tamplin Jones, Director of Development

Good Hope Country Day School | St. Croix | \$150,000

The funds provided tuition assistance to additional students and financial relief to current families suffering hardships as a result of Hurricane Maria. The grant allowed GHCDs to provide an additional \$53,000 in financial aid funds to new students. In addition, it helped the school recover from an immediate loss of 110 students, resulting in \$625,000 in lost revenue.



“Even though enrollment dropped by more than 30% in the months after Maria, we were able to mitigate the deficit with only a 10% reduction in faculty due to the availability of the grant funds, prudent financial budgeting throughout the year and robust fundraising campaigns.”

-Linda Stamper Keularts, Director of Advancement

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School | St. Thomas | \$100,000

Funds were used to repair or replace lost or damaged items:

- The cafeteria and kitchen, which was heavily damaged, received all new tables, along with new drop ceiling, wiring and security cameras, dishwasher, freezers and food processor
- The library had blown out windows replaced, along with new floor tiles, books, and a projector.
- Lockers, 60 new desks, cots, art supplies, educational toys, and rugs
- Art, PE and science supplies
- Computers, air conditioners
- Rejuvenated steel band program “Angels of Steel” and to repaired damaged steel pans



“We are very appreciative of the opportunity to have received this grant. On behalf of everyone here, thank you!”

-Shirley LaPlace, Business Manager

University of the Virgin Islands | St. Thomas and St. Croix | \$150,000

At UVI’s School of Nursing (SON), the Clinical Skills Laboratories (CSLs) suffered damages to teaching mannequins and clinical training equipment essential for skill acquisition of nursing students. Grant funds were used to purchase clinical equipment to replace damaged or outdated items at the CSLs on both campuses, including simulation mannequins, general hospital beds, a birthing bed, exam table, training models, a simulated critical care room, a CPR-ready bed frame, crash cart, and more.



“Through the generous donation from the Community Foundation, UVI nursing students are experiencing an enhanced learning environment leading them toward a successful transition into professional nursing.”

-Beverley Lansiquot, RN, DNP, Dean, School of Nursing

Virgin Islands Montessori School & Peter Gruber International Academy | St. Thomas | \$200,000

The grant helped VIMSIA establish normalcy for students, families, staff and our community at large after the Hurricanes, including establishing back up electricity with generators and infrastructure; lean-up and emergency renovations of campus; replacement of damaged materials and supplies; subsidized tuition for displaced students.

“Establishing normalcy included making classrooms and common areas usable after the two hurricanes, acquiring new materials and supplies for classrooms and campus, providing generators, food and water for those in need, providing counselling, and providing electricity via generators. We indeed were able to establish normalcy a lot sooner than anticipated and immediately launched into our second goal of student learning. Given the overall condition of the island and families' homes, the respite of the school environment enabled the students to academically excel.”

-Michael Bornn, Head of School

CHURCHES

St. Thomas Reformed Church | \$5,000

The grant was used to finance the operation of an after school child care program serving 25-30 school aged children Monday through Friday from 3:00 - 6:00 pm. The funds primarily paid for two part time staff, as well as storage equipment , sports and recreation supplies, learning materials, books, art supplies, musical instruments and field trips.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Croix | \$25,000

Funds were used to support the Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N) Project, which hired a local work crew to clear debris and do general hurricane cleanup for residents in Frederiksted. The work crews cleaned and removed damaged items from homes, including clearing out food items, tree cutting, debris removal, maintenance and cleaning the home.

CLUBS

Boys and Girls Club of St. Thomas / St. John* | \$15,000

Funds are being used to launch a Boys and Girls club on St. John to provide an afterschool program for the island's youth, including bringing on board a Program Director, and purchasing supplies/snacks, and club insurance. The program is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020.

**The Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade served as the fiscal agent for this grant.*



Dancing Classrooms VI, Inc. | Territory-wide | \$12,000

Funds were used to sponsor participation of four public school classrooms through Dancing Classrooms' 10-week, in-school residency for 5th graders. Two residency sessions were conducted every week. Each residency included a video lesson and a guest artist visit and culminated in a showcase for all participating classes.



"Despite the uncertainty of what our program would look like following the hurricanes, our organization remained committed to bringing our program to as many Virgin Islands school children as possible. Our efforts to provide quality and intentional arts and education programming were needed more than ever after the hurricanes, as dancing provides a very therapeutic activity for students and adults alike."

-Sarah Mahurt, Board Member

Island Health and Wellness Center | St. John | \$21,000

Funding provided general support to sustain the nonprofit health center's mission. Specifically, the grant money was used to help with increasing lab costs.

"Being able to cover all but 15 percent of our lab fees due to the generosity of the HelpUSVINow! Fund was instrumental in continuing Island Health's mission. Because we were able to pay this outstanding balance, we were able to allocate dollars to other much-needed services such as chronic health management and other community health initiatives."

-Sandy Colasacco, Executive Director/Nurse Practitioner

St. Thomas Swimming Association, Inc. | \$100,000

The funds allowed the pool to repair the fence surrounding the pool, replace signage, repair the electrical system, replace the pool pump, repair the vacuum pump, repair damaged tiles and pool structure, clean up debris, repair flooded bathrooms, repair stairs and access, replace doors and locks to bathrooms and lower storage area, repair generator, and provide diesel fuel for the generator.

“The continuity of the 2018 swim season was a wonderful escape from the daily challenges for many hurricane survivors. Kids could come to the pool for play, for lessons or to participate with the swim team at five different levels. The team miraculously persevered and continued to break many records throughout the year at local and international swim meets. Without [the grant], the St.

Thomas Swimming Association would have been forced to close and it is doubtful that it would be in operation today.”

-Bonnie O'Rourke-Barr



St. Thomas/St. John Youth Scholastic Chess Club | \$20,000

Funds were used to help 18 students enrolled in public schools in the St. Thomas/St. John school district to participate in the K-12 National Youth Scholastic Chess Tournament in Orlando, Florida, in December 2018. Funds were also used to purchase 12 chess sets for the Nisky Moravian Chess Club and 12 chess sets for the Charlotte Amalie High School Chess Club.



“Our students returned home from the tournament elated after winning 11 hard earned trophies. Much praise, support, and congratulations were received from many leaders and organizations in our community for the trophies won.”

-Sinclair Wilkinson

World Ocean School | St. Croix | \$25,000

Funds allowed World Ocean School to work with a total of 292 St. Croix elementary, junior high, and high school students from eight condemned school campuses during the 2017-2018 school year. Each student participated in an average of 13 hours of learning onboard the historic schooner *Roseway*. This supplemental education aboard *Roseway* involved World Ocean School's previously developed curriculum and program-structure, and lessons took the form of geography and history related to St. Croix, physics and math relevant to *Roseway*, and growth as a shipboard community supported by the values-based education and caring crew.



PROGRAMS

Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC), University of the Virgin Islands | Territory-wide | \$25,000

Funds were used to support a comprehensive assessment of the post-hurricane status of children in the Territory, including health, education, housing, and social services, ultimately providing critical information regarding gaps/needs and opportunities (e.g., for advocacy, strategic planning, grant writing, etc.). The report is available here: <https://cfvi.net/about/publications/>

Christiansted Lighthouse Mission | St. Croix | \$10,000

Funds were used to provide core support of operation of the Lighthouse Mission, with particular emphasis on the adult meal ministry and personal care services. Five days a week, the Mission serves as a gateway to services for the poor and homeless. A hot meal is a staple most days, and on Saturdays, Rotarian volunteers purchase and prepare a plated cold cut sandwich, fruit, chips and a dessert. Beyond providing core support, other targeted projects were completed: The building on the Corner of Market and Queen Streets was painted with the help of volunteers, the commercial refrigerator was repaired, gravel was spread under the playground equipment, and tiles on the dining room floor were repaired.



"Once again, thank you for your support that helps us continue our presence in Christiansted as a lighthouse to those who are in need of practical elements of basic life support."

-Debbie Cullen, Director

Family Resource Center | St. Thomas and St. John | \$25,000



Funds were used to assist with acceptance, sorting, packaging and distribution of basic supplies to those individuals who requested help, regardless of address, finances, household size or occupation. Counseling services were also provided. Distribution events were supported by assistance from retired police who volunteered to maintain order at each distribution site and each event.

“This funding came at a critical time when our organization was experiencing challenges with funding.”

-Anya Stewart, Executive Director

My Brother’s Workshop (MBW) | St. Thomas and St. Croix | \$150,000



This grant was dedicated to helping rebuild and repair 22 homes in the USVI, with a majority of them belonging to senior citizens unable to qualify for any loan assistance. MBW used volunteers and community members to help keep labor costs low and maximize the impact.

“While completing this grant, we worked with 50 students as we helped guide them in construction and woodworking according to our model of one trainer to four trainees. Our youth definitely became hurricane heroes in the light of such tragedy.”

-Jenny Hawkes, Executive Director

Patient Assist VI, Inc. (PAVI) | Territory-wide | \$50,000

Funds allowed PAVI to fulfill its mission of providing lifesaving medication to those who can't afford it--with the underlying belief that no one should have to choose between basic living expenses and necessary medications. After the hurricanes, the number of people in financial need rose in an unprecedented fashion and PAVI was able to coordinate with MD's, clinics, pharmacies and case-managers to help people first get connected with supplies of donated medications, then get connected with the Federal EPAP program (for those who qualify), and also to be enrolled in PAVI's programming, which continued without interruption.

"Your grant kept this organization operating last year, and the impact is impressive. In 2018, PAVI enrolled 45 new patients which doubled the number of our enrollees since many left or were medically evacuated after IrMaria. We obtained 620 prescriptions at no cost to our patients, but with a value exceeding \$417,000. To date in 2019, PAVI has already enrolled 31 new patients and provided 337 prescriptions with a value exceeding \$233,000. Thank you for helping our tiny organization be the best it can be and for supporting our mission."

-Angela Beall, Executive Director



St. Thomas Rescue | \$25,000

Funds allowed St. Thomas Rescue to pay the balance of rent for office space for the year immediately following the storms and replaced destroyed equipment such as chainsaws, shovels and disposable medical supplies for emergency kits kept in each vehicle.

Virgin Islands Association for Independent Living | Territory-wide | \$7,000

Funds were used to replace items lost as a result of the storms, including a portable video magnifier, large print white on black keyboard, a scanning and reading appliance, and a beach wheelchair. In addition, the organization was able to refurbish a magnifier for its St. Croix location.

"We welcome and truly appreciate the financial support made available to our program. We certainly would not have accomplished replacing these items which are so vital to the lives of many without this assistance."

-Felicia Brownlow, Director

Cancer Support VI (CSVI) | Territory-wide | \$200,000

The funds allowed CSVI to keep its doors and lines open to be able to continue to assist local cancer patients on each island. The organization assisted patients in going off island for treatment after the closure of the local Cancer Center due to the storms. CSVI also assisted patients in relocating to states, where they could apply for and get Medicaid to assist in their treatment.



"This grant also enabled us to have our gala fundraiser in March of 2018. We were one of the only non-profits in the territory who went ahead with our fundraiser. It was well attended and was a great break for the community to come together and start to feel normal again. We did not have to turn down any patients requesting assistance, thanks to the \$200,000 grant."

-Charlene Kehoe, Director

Virgin Islands Partners for Healthy Communities (VIPHC) | Territory-wide | \$50,000

Funding supported VIPHC's efforts to continue providing services to program enrollees in its Cerebrovascular Health Initiative after the hurricanes. Additional issues that were addressed included dislocation of staff at provider sites caused by damage to Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital and Charles Harwood Medical Complex in St. Croix, and replacement of damaged office equipment, supplies, and health education materials.

"Despite the challenges, sustaining and continuing collaborative efforts like this initiative can play a key role in reinforcing and motivating behavioral and lifestyle changes that can have a great impact on individual as well as community health."

-Eurkres Rallings, Executive Director

Women’s Coalition of St. Croix | St. Croix | \$25,000

Funds were used to provide relief to USVI residents after the storms, including crisis counseling and referrals to community resources, as well as distribution of household goods and clothing to seniors, children and families in need. In addition, the organization replaced appliances and furniture lost in the storms, helped displaced victims of domestic violence relocate to the states to ensure their safety, and assisted individuals/families affected by the storms with rental and utility assistance and emergency housing.

“The people we reached through these efforts were the most vulnerable in our community, including the elderly, disabled, home-bound, incarcerated, and youth populations. We took the supplies directly to them, so that transportation and accessibility wouldn’t prevent them from getting the supplies they so desperately needed. One elderly resident of Whim Senior Housing told us that they thought that everyone had forgotten about them. Their faces lit up as we handed out supplies and, for the first time many of them didn’t feel like they were alone in the recovery from the storm.”

-Carolyn Forno, Assistant Director

Yvonne Ashley Galiber Foundation, Inc. | St. Croix | \$10,000

Funds were used for mammograms, client travel for medical services, and administrative functions, including design and printing of informational brochures, mammogram applications, website updates, and public outreach speaker series.

“We look forward to the possibilities of furthering partnerships with CFVI in the future to support our collaborative mission of health care advocacy and the education about breast cancer risks in our V.I. community. We are most grateful for the grant, particularly because we were unable to have our usual annual fundraisers but were able to continue some of our work during the aftermath of the storms.”

-Cassandra Dunn, Vice President





Special Thanks

To everyone who made this report possible, especially to our Board, community partners, and generous donors

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