

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Grantee Highlights: St. John School of the Arts



When Kim Wild of the St. John School of the Arts (SJSA) identified a critical post storm need to support both parents and students in her devastated community, she created the Arts Rescue! program in response to those needs. A grant from CFVI assisted in ensuring the success of this program.

Following the hurricanes, Julius E. Sprauve School (JESS) was forced to establish split-sessions to provide elementary students with academic morning sessions, and middle-school students with afternoon sessions. With parents working tirelessly to establish normalcy for their children and struggling to provide for their most basic needs, this split academic session created a significant personal and financial child care burden on these families. Fortunately, the Arts Rescue! program provided the solution.

To allow parents an uninterrupted day of recovery efforts and to provide a safe and creative outlet for children traumatized by the storms, JESS opened their doors from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., allowing students island-wide to participate freely in the Arts Rescue! after-school program.

Programming included 60 classes per week, and offered 22 individual courses in music, dance, visual arts, language arts and theater. This program benefitted the children of St. John immensely, the majority of whom lost much more than their art supplies last September. It also provided their parents with the freedom and peace of mind to devote their days to recovery efforts, knowing that their children were well-cared for and nurtured in their absence. For almost 40 years, SJSA has been providing multi-disciplinary arts education programs to the children of St. John. CFVI is honored to support their mission.

VI Residents Receive Gift Cards



Delivering-Good partnered with CFVI to provide American Express gift cards for VI residents impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Delivering-Good organization is a 501(c)(3) organization that distributes new merchandise products to individuals and families that are affected by poverty or tragedy.

A total of 250 gift cards of \$100 value were distributed to individuals and families in need on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas.

See below for a few testimonials from some of our recipients:

“The Community Foundation [through its generous donor] has helped me and my family through the hardship posed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The gift card that we received will allow me to purchase supplies in preparation for the upcoming school year.”

“This being several months after the storm I believe made it a bit more of a surprise to people that folks still cared and wanted to help. It also came at a time when some of the realities of the accumulating expenses has set in.”

“Thank you at CFVI and your generous donor who made this gift. It brought a bit of much needed relief to some very special families.”

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CFVI Staff

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'IGGI' the Iguana is Helping Children and Parents Cope with Post-Traumatic Stress



'IGGI' the Iguana, first imagined in the Virgin Islands in 1995 after Hurricane Marilyn, was formally introduced to the Virgin Islands community immediately following the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. The IGGI Project is an initiative founded by VI Holistic Health Consultant, Joan Bennett-Williams, and funded by CFVI.

'IGGI' helps children, parents and educators to explore and process emotional stresses after traumatic experiences such as a hurricane. The "IGGI philosophy" teaches us that a devastating crisis challenges our current coping skills and can be an opportunity for further evolution as an individual as well as a community. The trauma is seen as a collective event that challenges each of us differently, but collectively we are in this together, seeing each other as "one piece of the whole." Although the 'IGGI' Project was developed for children, the message is universal and incorporates the two-generational approach by including teachers and parents in these efforts. The 'IGGI' toolkit includes coloring books, a story book, teacher's manuals and parent guides.

Since September, the 'IGGI' team has engaged children, staff and parents through puppet shows and expressive dance at various community centers, elementary schools, Head Start pre-schools and at various carnival and community events on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

For more information about the 'IGGI' Project, contact CFVI at 340-774-6031.

USVI KIDS COUNT and the UVI Caribbean Exploratory Research Center has Launched Post-Hurricane Assessment of Impacts on Children and Families

KIDS COUNT VI partnered with the University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (UVI-CERC), to conduct a CNA Post Hurricane Assessment. The project will cover education, health, housing and human services status of families in the U.S. Virgin Islands, post Hurricanes Irma and Maria. KIDS COUNT has collected and reported on the well-being of children and families in the Territory for almost 20 years, documenting and publishing those findings in our annual KIDS COUNT Data Book. This joint assessment will serve as an opportunity to not only continue that documentation, but to expand its boundaries through this partnership.

Dr. Anna Wheatley Scarbriel, Director of Grants and Programs at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, says "We are eager to launch this project and are hopeful that the findings will serve as a catalyst for stakeholders across the Territory to inform efforts around advocacy, strategic decision-making and access to additional funding needed to bolster the well-being of our children, youth and families in the wake of the September hurricanes."

With the information from this study, these organizations can more easily create programs to benefit those children and families that need it most. Director of UVI-CERC, Dr. Gloria Callwood, says the organization "anticipate(s) that the resulting data will be significant to informing decision making and the development of workable approaches to mitigating the impact of future disasters on children and their families."

CFVI and AT&T Awards STEM Education Grants to VI Educators

Thanks to the generous contributions of the AT&T Foundation, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is able to help fund STEM projects and programs through our AT&T STEM Grants for the 3rd year in a row. **\$31,500** has been awarded to 6 public schools and early childhood centers throughout the Territory.

"STEM industries demand a highly-educated and skilled workforce and provides opportunities for under-represented populations such as women, minorities and students with disabilities to obtain the skills essential to their future success," says AT&T President Joe York, a proud advocate of the STEM programs made possible through these grants.

The grants range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 and will be used on the projects and programs provided by these institutions to spark students' interests in the field and help mold the minds of future engineers, professors, chemists, astronauts, mathematicians and much more.

Charlotte Amalie High School, St. Croix Central High School, John H. Woodson Junior High School, St. Croix Educational Complex High School, Claude O. Markoe Elementary School and the VI Department of Human Services Head Start Pre-School Program are all recipients of this award.

CFVI Hosts Community Round Table Meeting with NY Federal Reserve



In March, CFVI hosted a meeting with representatives of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and local community organizations to discuss current economic conditions within the Territory. In addition to William C. Dudley, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and several of his key staff and board members, local attendees included the St. John Community Foundation, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development, Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, University of the Virgin Islands, My Brother's Workshop, Women's Coalition of St. Croix and the Family Resource Center.

Community leaders provided Mr. Dudley and his team with insight into the impact of the storms on the Territory and a recap of progress made thus far. This was followed by a group discussion identifying remaining gaps in services and sharing ideas on how to strengthen the infrastructure of local community organizations in order to provide those services.

The USVI is under the jurisdiction of the Second District of the Federal Reserve. According to President Dudley, the New York Fed has been closely monitoring developments in the U.S. Virgin Islands since the hurricanes and today's meeting provided critical insight into current economic conditions. The information gathered will enable the New York Fed team to better identify ways they can support our long-term recovery efforts.

Staff Highlight: Who is CFVI?



Marie Charles
Accountant

Hometown: St. Martin

Education: "I graduated from the Charlotte Amalie high School in 2005 and obtained a BSBA degree from Devry University in Orlando, Florida."

Describe your role at CFVI. "I maintain day to day office operations and financial related tasks."

What is the best part of your job? "The idea that accounting has to be monotonous is a myth. There's never a dull moment. I am constantly learning and each day is new and exciting."

Random fact about yourself: "I am terrified of dolls, and I think horses are the most beautiful animals in the world."

CFVI Awards \$73,000 in Education Enrichment Grants



After the hurricanes, the future of education in the Territory felt uncertain. Nevertheless, through the perseverance of educators and students alike, many schools across the island were up and running sooner than expected. That is why the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is so pleased to announce that **\$73,000** was awarded to educators across the U.S. Virgin Islands through our Education Enrichment Grants. These grants serve as a base for teachers and instructors to create or continue programs designed to enhance the education experiences of students in the Territory.

The recipients of the fund provided proposals for the most collaborative, service oriented, and educationally enriched programs in the Territory, and CFVI is pleased to assist in making those programs possible. CFVI president, Dee Baecher-Brown said, "We are honored to partner to provide the educational resources our children need to succeed in and out of the classroom."

The \$500-\$5,000 in funding from the Education Enrichment Grants provided 20 educators with the opportunity to fill the gap caused by Irma and Maria through arts, physical education, cultural immersion and literacy programs.

These grants would not have been made possible without the help and contributions of Fundación Banco Popular, Island Foundation, Inc., the Annie E. Casey Foundation and CFVI.

See the list of grant recipients on page 4.

CFVI Partners with Changing Tides Foundation to Distribute Disaster Prep Supplies



At the start of the new year, the Changing Tides Foundation donated a number of solar powered tools, water filters and other renewable products to the Montessori school and the Community Foundation in response to the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. CFVI was able to assist by identifying schools and other organizations that would benefit from the use of these supplies.

Changing Tides Foundation volunteer, Sarah Brady, and CFVI's Communication Manager, Brittany Brin Robinson, distributed water filters, coolers, and a number of solar powered items to local schools on St. Thomas in preparation of the upcoming hurricane season. Brady also conducted a water filter demonstration.

Changing Tides Foundation is a non profit organization that partners with local organizations to raise awareness and address social, environmental, health and safety concerns around the globe.

Junior Angels



Our Junior Angels' efforts were put on hold temporarily as the island recovered from the impact of two Category 5 storms. At the start of the new year, our Junior Angels were back in action at their respective agencies. Our high school volunteers have been active at organizations such as the Humane Society of St. Thomas, Boys & Girls Club and the Family Resource Center, just to name a few. We are currently accepting new members to the Junior Angels program. If you or your son or daughter is interested in joining our network of young philanthropists, contact kdelagarde@cfvi.net.

For more information on how you can contribute to this program, contact Development Director, Katrin Braddell, at katrinb@cfvi.net.

2017-2018 Education Enrichment Grant Recipients

Grant Recipient	School	Project
Althea Albanzas	Lockhart Elementary School	Reconstructing Therapeutic Kindergarten to March 21st Century Classrooms
Thelca Bedminster	Jane E. Tuitt Primary School	Dancing in the Rain: Learning how to Weather the Storms Through Dance
Jenny Brathwaite	St. Croix Central High School	JAG Internship/ On the job training
Joan Castor-Willock	John H. Woodson Jr. High School	AVID Tutorials (Enrichment)
Kisha Corbett	Jane E. Tuitt Primary School	My Neighborhood
Jacqueline Francis	Jane E. Tuitt Primary School	Empowering the English Language Learners
Linda Garvin	St. Patrick's Catholic School	Reading Jump Up Program
Matthew Hamilton-Kraft	Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School	BCB Middle School Global Citizenship, Leadership and College Prep Program
Katrina Hamilton-Kraft	Ivanna Eudora Kean High School	Kean-BCB Mentoring
Paula Heller	AZ Academy	Unlocking Student Talent: Using Assessment to Drive Instruction
Laurise Oliver	Alexander Henderson School	Hurricane Maria's Adventures!
Marlon Parohinog	Julius E. Sprauve School	It's Hip to be Fit in JESS
Kerish Robles	Ivanna Eudora Kean High School	Culinary Expansions: Culinary Arts Program
Cherrie Saliot-Warner	Ivanna Eudora Kean High School	Life Skills Program for Students with Special Needs
Mackisha St. Prix	Leap and Learn Academy	Increasing Literacy Through Unique Experiences
Karissa Thurland-Perez	Alfredo Andrews Elementary School	Enhancing Literacy and Math
Eli Torres	St. Croix Central High School	Educational and Cultural Trip to Puerto Rico 2017
Kristina Torres	St. Croix Montessori School	Healthy Play Spaces
Kimbolie Torres	Ulla F. Muller Elementary School	Y.E.S. (Youths Experiencing STEAM)
Merle Vanterpool	Lockhart Elementary School	Early Act/Reader's Theatre/Environmental Clubs

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