



## Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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[Visit our Website](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

# Happy New Year!

We hope that your New Year has gotten off to a beautiful beginning and will continue to provide you, your family, and friends with all things wonderful!

At the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, our resolve is simple: to continue and expand our efforts to be a catalyst for positive change and enrich the quality of life in the Virgin Islands while preserving our islands' unique cultural heritage; to connect people and resources with community needs; and to inspire philanthropy and strengthen nonprofits.

We are proud of our efforts in 2022 and look forward to serving our beautiful Virgin Islands in 2023 and beyond!

[Check out our 2022 Year in Review presentation here.](#)



## \$176,576 Distributed to Seven USVI Organizations for Emergency Food and Shelter Programs in the Territory



**FEMA**

CFVI would like to share important news with the community about the distribution of a third round of funding totaling \$176,576 in reimbursements and future estimated expenses to seven organizations that have provided or will provide emergency food and/or shelter programs in the

territory during the period of July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Funding is provided through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the federally-funded Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP).

[To read the full article and see the list of grantees, click here.](#)

## The Lawyers' Scholarship Fund Established at CFVI

*Former St. Croix Attorneys set up fund to benefit law school students from the USVI*

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) announced the establishment of The Lawyers' Scholarship Fund at the Foundation.

Two attorneys who formerly practiced law together on St. Croix back in the late 1980s, Lisa Harris Moorhead and Susan Bastress, recently joined forces again to set up the fund as a way of giving back by providing scholarship assistance to eligible college students who are planning to attend law school.



"Our hope is that the annual \$5,000 scholarship will help make law school a reality for our rising generation of Virgin Islands lawyers," said Moorhead.

CFVI will begin accepting applications for the scholarship in March as part of its 2023-2024 scholarship cycle announcement. Applications will be due in May.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

## Allison "Allie" Petrus Joins CFVI Board of Directors

CFVI recently announced that Allison "Allie" Petrus has joined its Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2023. Petrus, who is a businessman in the USVI, previously served three terms in the V.I. Legislature. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and is a native of St. Thomas. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in public administration and master's of business administration.

Also effective January 1, 2023, Kafi Blumenfield accepted the position of First Vice-Chair vacated by Trudie Prior, who has served on the board since 2002.

Larry Kupfer, who has served on the board since 2012, most recently as Second Vice-Chair, is also rotating off the board. Current board member G. Hunter Logan will replace Kupfer as Second Vice-Chair.

Marie ThomasGriffith, who was elected Chair of CFVI's Board of Directors effective January 2021, continues to serve in that role. A full list of all current CFVI board members can be found at <https://cfvi.net/about/board/>.

## CFVI Announces 2022 Recipient of the Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund Award



CFVI announced the recipient of the 2022 Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund Award. Established at CFVI in 2003, the Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund supports studies and activities that address environmental concerns that transcend the boundaries of any single island or island state in the insular Caribbean.

**Christian Torres-Santana** (pictured), from Puerto Rico, has been selected to receive this year's award, an \$8,000 grant to support his Field Guide of Coastal Native Plants for Nature-based Solutions in Puerto Rico project. His proposal was among 11 other proposals from Curacao, Haiti, Miami, St. Croix, and St. John.

The goal of Torres-Santana's project is to raise awareness about the use of native coastal plants as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for conservation and beautification throughout the Caribbean and to address new interest in native species for disaster recovery efforts that mitigate climate change.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

## 2023 Angels Giving Campaign

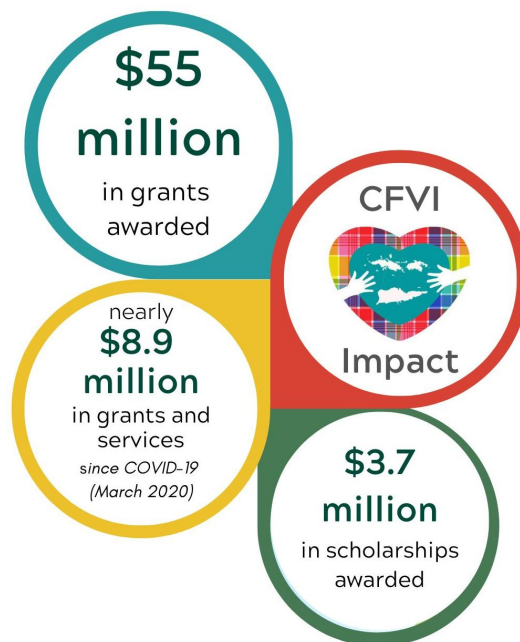
*Anyone can join the largest philanthropic network supporting the USVI for just \$1.34 per day, or less than \$42 per month*

CFVI's **2023 Angels Giving Campaign** raises funds that directly contribute to the well-being of Virgin Islands residents.

The CFVI Angels community is the largest philanthropic network supporting the territory. Since 1999, Angels have provided **\$7.5 million** in unrestricted funding from individual and business donors who contribute \$500 or more annually to the Foundation.

Since the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020, CFVI has provided nearly **\$8.9 million** in grants and services to the territory.

[To learn more about the 2023 campaign, click here.](#)

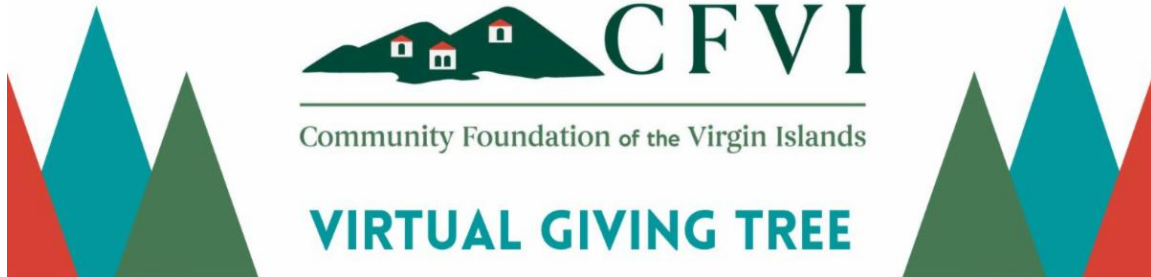


**To make a 2023 Angel donation,**

**CLICK HERE!!**

*Together we can do great things!*

[To learn more about CFVI Angels, click here.](#)



## **CFVI's Virtual Giving Tree Project Distributes \$56,266 to 21 USVI Nonprofits**

*Donations help with holiday-related needs for children, youth, families and seniors*



This year's Virtual Giving Tree Project, launched in November 2022 by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), once again brightened the season of giving for nonprofit organizations throughout the territory. The project distributed \$56,266 to 21 USVI nonprofits to support holiday-related needs for children, youth, families and seniors.

"It is heartwarming to see the amazing amount of love and support that exists in our community, and we couldn't be more grateful," said CFVI President, Dee Baecher-Brown. "Now in its third year, CFVI's annual Virtual Giving Tree Project has provided more than \$220,000 in gifts to USVI nonprofits so that they might bring holiday joy to the communities they serve."

One of the grantees, Leap and Learn Academy on St. Croix, used its \$2,500 grant to purchase holiday gifts for its students. Leap and Learn staff took the students to Kmart West where they chose toys of their liking.

[To read the full article and see the list of grantees, click here.](#)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**CFVI 2023-2024 Scholarship Applications Available in March**

The CFVI 2023-24 academic scholarship

application will be open March 1 at [cfvi.co/ScholarshipPortal](https://cfvi.co/ScholarshipPortal). An official announcement will be made via CFVI's website and social media outlets, and through a press release to local media outlets. The deadline to submit applications is **May 15, 2023**. Final decisions will be made by late July/early August at the latest.



In 2022, CFVI awarded more than **\$162,000** in scholarships to **57** Virgin Islands students. The Foundation has distributed more than \$3.7 million in scholarships since 1996.

Consistent with the Foundation's mission to enhance the quality of life for children, youth, and families in the territory by making enriching opportunities attainable, funds for the scholarships are provided through generous donors to CFVI.

If you are interested in donating to an existing scholarship fund, or establishing a new scholarship fund, contact CFVI at [general.info@cfvi.net](mailto:general.info@cfvi.net).

## Grantee Spotlight

### **The Children's Museum of St. Croix**

CFVI provided a grant to the Children's Museum of St. Croix to create and implement Countdown to Kindergarten, a program designed to facilitate kindergarten readiness skills and close developmental gaps of 4-year-olds by offering holistic play-based learning activities while at the same time, supporting and enhancing caregivers' skills as children's first teachers. To this end, parents and/or grandparents attended the program with their children and were involved in their activities. Time was also allotted for adults to participate in a workshop environment to explore topics to strengthen their parenting skills and build their awareness of community resources.



[To learn more about the Children's Museum of St. Croix, click here.](#)

## **Ready4K Promotes Child Development**

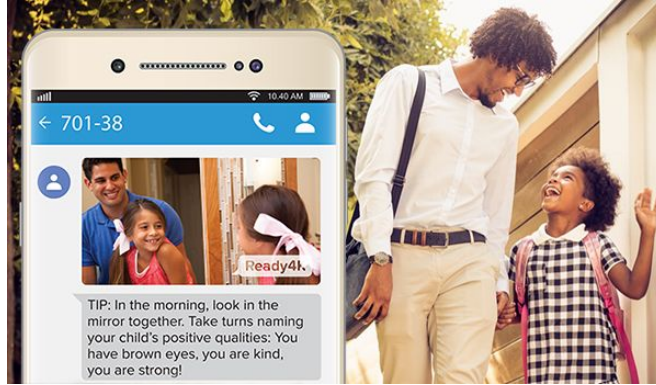
*Text-based curriculum is available FREE through 2023*

Ready4K, a text-based based family engagement curriculum, promotes child development from

birth to fourth grade.

Parents and caregivers receive daily texts that consist of fun facts and easy tips on how to promote their child's development by building on existing family routines.

Join the families of more than 500 children in the territory already using Ready4K! Simply text the code **CFVI** to **70138** to start receiving messages today. By entering your cell phone number you agree to enroll in the program and receive ParentPowered text messages from 70138. While there is no cost for enrolling, data and message rates may apply. You can cancel the text messages at any time by texting STOP to 70138.



## Directory of Community Organizations

To access the directory via a print/PDF version, or to be included in the directory, visit <https://cfvi.net/local-nonprofit-directory/>.

To request a hard copy of the print version, contact [general.info@cfvi.net](mailto:general.info@cfvi.net).

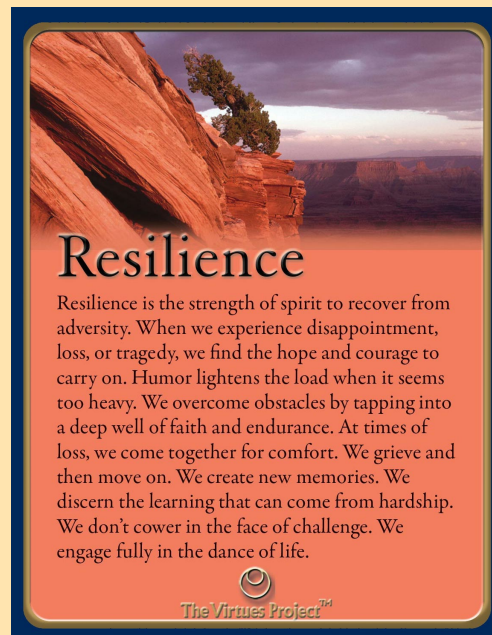
[To learn more, click here.](#)

## Share Virtue of the Week with Others!

Do you know someone who would like to receive the Virtue of the Week? Simply forward this email to them and they can sign up by clicking on the button below.

The Virtues Project, a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, sparking a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity in more than 100 countries.

The Project defines virtues as "the essence of the human spirit and the content of our character." The mission of The Virtues Project is to inspire people of all cultures to remember who we really are, what we aspire to be, and to live by our highest values.



[Sign up to receive the Virtue of the Week!](#)

**CFVI a Participating Charity in Combined Federal Campaign**



The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations, like CFVI, that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

[To learn more about the CFC, click here.](#)

### CFVI Combined Federal Campaign Information:

CFC Sunshine Zone 22

CFC# 45789

EIN 66-0470703

## For Grantees: Grant Recognition Guidelines

We appreciate an acknowledgement of your grant from CFVI in whatever ways are within your organization's communications capabilities. We encourage you to send us press releases or copies of publications or media coverage that mentions your grant. Please refer to the [CFVI Grant Recognition Guidelines](#) for more information, or contact Sean Liphard, CFVI Communications and Development Manager, at [seanl@cfvi.net](mailto:seanl@cfvi.net).

## New Fund

BoltNagi Charitable Fund



## Spread the Good News!

Help us spread the word about the important work CFVI is supporting throughout our U.S. Virgin Islands. Forward this newsletter to your colleagues, friends and family, and invite them to follow us on social media and join our mailing list!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



## CFVI Staff

[Dee Baecher-Brown](#)

*President*

[Davica Brathwaite](#)

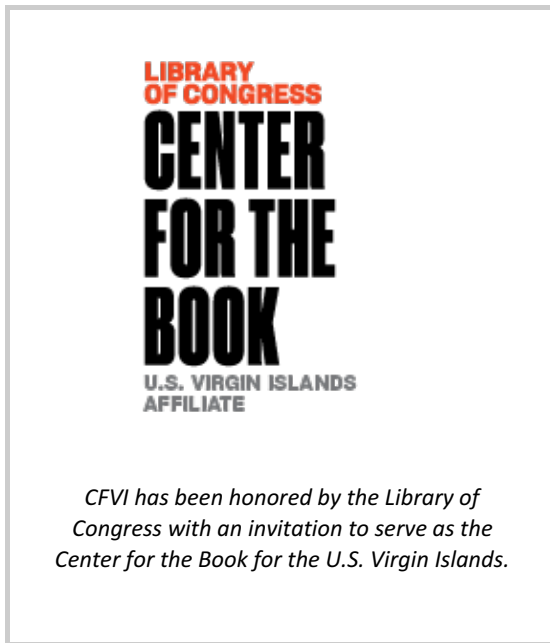
We are proud to have earned Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency by sharing our key metrics and highlighting the impact we're making.



We are proud to have earned the Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.



We are proud to be a vetted organization by GlobalGiving, which recognizes CFVI as a trusted partner and change-maker in the world.



CFVI has been honored by the Library of Congress with an invitation to serve as the Center for the Book for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Grants & Programs Manager

Jeanne Brennan Wiebracht, CPA  
Director of Accounting & Finance

Susan Clark  
Controller

Sean Liphard  
Communications Manager

Beth Nuttall  
Executive Manager

Una Pascal  
Staff Accountant & Office Administrator

CFVI is a proud member of the



COUNCIL on FOUNDATIONS



CFVI was voted Best Nonprofit Organization for 2020-2021 in The Virgin Islands Daily News' annual reader's poll. The Foundation also won the 2018-2019 designation for Best Youth Oriented Organization.

### UPDATE! CFVI Office Hours

Currently, our office is staffed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with employees working remotely Mondays and Thursdays.

Please call or email us before visiting the CFVI office as our hours can fluctuate.

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Connect with us





[Visit our Website](#)

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