

VI Community Receives High Quality Early Childhood Books

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is distributing a total of 5,000 high-quality early childhood books to children, parents and hospitals, as part of CFVI's Early Childhood initiative. With a total retail value of over \$60,000, the Foundation was able to purchase these books at a minimal cost through its standing as the lead organization for the USVI in the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading initiative. Throughout the course of the year, CFVI will be distributing books on St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix.

Thus far, the Foundation has donated over 2,000 books to the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital on St. Thomas and the Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center on St. Croix. Welcome bags, books, and educational materials in both English and Spanish will be given to families upon leaving the hospital with their newborns. Lutheran Social Services on St. Croix also received more than 300 books, for classrooms at the two Early Head Start centers and a library at the Queen Louise Home for Children.

In addition, CFVI has given away over 100 books to families with young children at ICMC's Jazz in the Park series at Roosevelt Park on St. Thomas. Over the remainder of the year, CFVI will distribute books to parents and families at various community events. CFVI will be attending the Annual Parent Orientation for the Head Start Program on August 31st and September 1st at the Sugar Estate Complex on St. Thomas. CFVI staff will be giving away books, bookmarks, and other materials to promote literacy and to emphasize the importance of reading to young children during the early years.

CFVI thanks the following generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers for assistance with sorting, distribution, and transportation of books throughout the community.

Antilles School| Caribbean Surf Co. | Great Lakes Insurance | Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center| Lutheran Social Services | Norma H Shipping| Reebok CrossFit St. Thomas| Roy Lester Schneider Hospital



CFVI volunteers sort books



Nurses at the Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix with CFVI hospital bags and books

Want to make a Difference in this community? Become a CFVI Angel!

2017 Angels Campaign

Angels are CFVI donors that give an annual donation of \$500 or more. Programs, operating costs, and much of our community outreach are provided each year through generous donations from CFVI Angels. Angel gifts support all we do in the community. Each year, Angels are celebrated at our annual gala.

Help Us Build a Stronger Community by...

- Establishing a Fund -Donating to a Fund -Supporting CFVI Programs
- Becoming a member of the Mahogany Legacy by naming CFVI as a beneficiary of your estate plans

For more information, visit our website at www.cfvi.net. If you or your business is interested in becoming an Angel, contact our Development Director, **Katrin Braddell** at katrinb@cfvi.net.



"FOR GOOD. FOR EVER."

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CFVI Staff

Dee Baecher-Brown
President

Katrin Braddell
Development Director

Brittany A. Brin
Communications Manager

Mandkhai Campbell
Accountant

Marie Charles
Office Administrator

Odette Magras
Grants and Programs Coordinator

Judi Richardson
USVI KIDS COUNT CO-Director

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



Gladys Abraham Goes Green!

This past school year 18 teachers from 15 public schools in the territory were awarded Anderson Teacher Grants from CFVI to enhance students' learning experiences. John Anderson, one of the fund's founders said to "never underestimate the value of a great education," and with that sentiment, the fund was created.

One of the grant's recipients, Vincent Henley, decided to create a class-run greenhouse. He said his hope for this venture is to give children the experience of main-

taining a recently accepted source of sustainable living for produce and plant life. Henley said that one of the most rewarding aspects of this project is the hands-on learning opportunities the students receive. "Teachers are visiting the garden when their classes are discussing topics such as photosynthesis, algae, bacteria and carbon dioxide," said Henley.

The project wouldn't have been a true learning experience without some bumps along the way. Henley said that there weren't enough hands for the constant main-

tenance the systems required. Even with minor setbacks, Henley said, "It has always been a goal of mine to bring aquaponics on the elementary level and because of your contributions I was able to reach that goal. CFVI is making a difference. Without the help of the Foundation, this project would not have gotten off the ground."

Applications are now available for Anderson Teacher Grants at cfvi.fluidreview.com.

"CFVI is making a difference. Without the help of the Foundation, this project would not have gotten off the ground."

-Vincent Henley
Teacher at Gladys Abraham Elementary School

CFVI Angels Provide Summer Enrichment Opportunities to VI Students

"CFVI is seriously making dreams come true for these children. They will be able to have an experience they may not have been able to have otherwise."

-Dana Holtz
Queen Louise Home for Children Director

The Foundation has awarded a total of \$15,000 in scholarships to ten Virgin Island students to attend marine-related programs this summer. These students will have the opportunity to participate in swimming, boating, and aquatic sporting activities. This is the Foundation's annual grants program to provide financial aid for students to attend life-enriching summer programs.

With the expansion of the maritime industry and the growing number of marine-related youth programs in the territory, the Foundation felt that it was important to support our youth by making these opportunities available to them. A main goal of the Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for VI youth and to open up opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Funds for these offerings are provided through the generosity of donors who give to unrestricted funding- CFVI Angels.

Students of kindergarten age through juniors in high school were eligible to apply. Decisions were made on the basis of financial need and the quality of the program. Priority was also given to children that were living in foster care. Many of our recipients this year are residents of the Queen Louise Home for Children on St. Croix. Dana

Holtz, Director of the Queen Louise Home for Children said, "CFVI is seriously making dreams come true for these children. They will be able to have an experience they may not have been able to have otherwise."

Our recipients are attending programs such as the St. Croix Adventure Camp, the World Ocean School Summer Program and the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation Sports Camp.



Upcoming Publications...

2015 USVI KIDS COUNT Data book

Keep a look out for our 2015 KIDS COUNT Data book, which will be published later this year! If you'd like a copy of our book, send a request to general.info@cfvi.net. To access the data center head to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#VI/4/0/char/0>.



Community Services Directory

Our 2016-2017 Directory of Community Organizations is now available online at www.cfvi.net. The book is currently being printed. To secure a hard copy of our book, send an email to general.info@cfvi.net.

Funding our Territory's Future

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has been making positive changes in the territory since its founding 26 years ago, with 20 of those years providing financial assistance through scholarships and grants. The foundation provided 19 different scholarships this year to local students as well as grants for educators.

Most recently the foundation has awarded 58 students with \$100,000 in scholarships and \$40,000 in grants to 43 recipients. The awards range from arts-based scholarships like the Prior Family Interlochen Scholarship to merit-

based scholarships such as Next Generation Scholars. The Foundation's Scholarship Committee Chair, Marie ThomasGriffith, declared that "the greatest gift we can offer our youth is the ability to access and pursue their higher education." A gift that ThomasGriffith said will continue on for generations.

The 2016 recipients attended an awards ceremony at the Prior Jollek Courtyard at Antilles School to celebrate their accomplishments as well as recognize the donors whose funds were able to provide these scholarships.

The ceremony also recog-

nized the winners of the Laws of Life Essay contest, funded by Peter and Patricia Gruber. The submissions and the judging for the contest are completely anonymous and it's open to anyone in any of the territory's public high schools. The contest is an educational program that allows students to express their thoughts and experiences through text. The first, second and third place winners are awarded monetary prizes.

The foundation awards scholarships annually and all Virgin Islanders are encouraged to apply .

Scholarship and grant applications can be submitted at <http://cfvi.fluidreview.com/>. To view the complete listing of our scholarship and grant recipients visit our blog at cfvi.wordpress.com.



CAHS Class of 1951 Scholarship recipient, Briault Atemazem

J. Raymond Jones Fund Supports VI Students Pursuing STEM Careers

The *Mathematics Behind the Science Summer Program* (MBS) at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) has received a grant of \$14,764 from the J. Raymond Jones Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI). MBS is a college preparation program for college-bound students who are majoring in Science, Mathematics, Engineering or Tech-

nology (STEM). The residential program met with the students daily for six weeks during the summer. Students had the opportunity to enroll in scientific reading and writing courses, attend career sessions with practicing scientists and gain computing and analytical skills .

The donation provided room and board, and transportation for 18-22 students. It also

provided salary, housing and meals for teaching and resident assistants. The aim of this program is to serve as a bridge between high school and college level mathematics and to increase success and retention rates for STEM students.



2016 MBS students and teachers at UVI

Spreading Silverberg's Passion for Music

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has partnered with the United Jazz Foundation to present Keshawn Hardy with the Jerry Silverberg Trumpet Award and Scholarship.

Hardy is a sophomore at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School and a member of the 2016-2017 Virgin Islands Youth Ensemble. The award is meant to allow Hardy and students like him to pursue

their passions in music as well as to honor the award's namesake and recognize his musical contributions.

Jerry Silverberg was a well known attorney as well as a talented musician. He started playing the trumpet as a child and continued as an adult. Hardy was given the opportunity to play on Silverberg's refurbished trumpet, played at the beginning of his college career.

The \$2,500 scholarship gave Hardy the opportunity to attend the Summer Music Program on the University of the Virgin Islands' St. Thomas campus.

For more information on the United Jazz Foundation or CFVI visit their websites at <http://unitedjazz.org/> and <http://cfvi.net/>.



Keshawn Hardy, Jerry Silverberg Trumpet Award Recipient

ICYMI..

Did you read our Op-Ed piece, "It's the Early Years That Really Matter?," in the Daily News earlier this year?

Written by our USVI KIDS COUNT CO-Director, Judi Richardson, she addresses the importance of high quality early childhood education in the Virgin Islands. To access the article, head to cfvi.wordpress.com.

Prior Family Provides Interlochen Scholarships for VI Students

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has awarded scholarships to three Virgin Island students to attend the prestigious Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan. The Prior Interlochen Scholarships provide financial aid for students who have been accepted to the Interlochen Arts Academy School and/or summer programs. The arts program provides students with the opportunity to study music, theatre, visual arts, film, creative writing and dance.

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 were funded through the generosity of the Prior Family Foundation. Selection was based on a student's overall financial need, academic progress, extracurricular activities and answers to essay questions. "In the past the Foundation has offered scholarships for local students to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy and we are excited to provide this opportunity once again. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our youth will have access to life-enriching programs," said CFVI President, Dee Brown. For more information, visit CFVI's blog at cfvi.wordpress.com.



Junior Angels: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is always looking for ways to assist the territory's youth, and although scholarships play a major role, the foundation's service opportunities take precedent. The foundation hosts several initiatives with this goal in mind, one of which is the Junior Angels Program.

The program seeks to immerse Virgin Islands youth into a world of community orientation and volunteering. Founded on St. Thomas, the program made an extension into St. Croix in 2010 giving Crucian members the opportunity to get involved. Junior Angels have had the opportunity to volunteer in several environments; from nursing homes to local theaters.

Junior Angels volunteering at the Rotary Sunrise Kids' Triathlon

Though the program focuses heavily on the Junior Angels' volunteer work, the occasional 'vacation' day is encouraged and sponsored by the program. The Angels recently celebrated their time off at game night and a day on the water with Virgin Islands Eco Tours. They were able to kayak, snorkel and hike; learning about the local ecosystem while enjoying its benefits.

Neither the program nor the expedition would have been possible without the help of the sponsors. To continue this journey of experience building and networking for Virgin Islands youth visit <http://cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund.php> or send a check to CFVI at P O Box 11790, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801, with CFVI Junior Angels in the memo section.

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Editors:

Brittany A. Brin, CFVI Communications Associate
Cyana Francis, CFVI Intern

CFVI | PO Box 11790

St. Thomas, VI 00801

5600 Royal Dance Mall | Suite 19

St. Thomas VI 00802

340-774-6031 | www.cfvi.net

general.info@cfvi.net