

September 2025

THE CURRENT

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands Quarterly Newsletter

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A Message from Our President

As we move into the fall season, I am delighted to share some of the many bright spots happening at CFVI and across our community.

We are especially excited about the opportunity to double our community's support through a **\$50,000 Humanities Challenge Grant** from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation. Every dollar raised will be matched, amplifying the impact of our efforts to preserve, celebrate, and inspire through the humanities.



Looking ahead, our **annual CFVI Angels campaign** will soon be underway. This campaign is one of the most meaningful ways for our community to come together to support the Foundation's vital work across the Virgin Islands. We hope you will join us in this tradition of generosity.

We also pause to honor the memory of CFVI Director Emeritus, **Henry "Hank" Feuerzeig**, whose dedication, leadership, and generosity left a lasting legacy. Hank's contributions to CFVI and to the Virgin Islands will be remembered with immense gratitude.

From literacy initiatives to expanded support for families and children, CFVI remains steadfast in our mission to partner with individuals and organizations making a positive difference throughout the territory. And there is more to come — be on the lookout for new opportunities to engage with and support CFVI's work in the months ahead.

Together, we are building a stronger Virgin Islands, and I am deeply grateful for your partnership in this journey.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dee Baecher-Brown".

Dee Baecher-Brown, President

ISLAND UPDATES



Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund to grant \$12,000

The 2025 Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund will award \$12,000 to support initiatives that address shared environmental concerns in the insular Caribbean. "We're looking for smart, scalable solutions that have transboundary relevance, benefitting multiple communities not just in the Virgin Islands, but across the Caribbean," said CFVI President Dee Baecher-Brown. [READ MORE →](#)

In memorium: Remembering Hank Feuerzeig

Our CFVI community is deeply saddened by the passing of Henry L. Feuerzeig, emeritus board member and beloved community leader. In 2002, Hank and his wife Penny established The Feuerzeig Family Fund at CFVI, continuing their longstanding tradition of generosity and dedication to the Virgin Islands community. He served for 30+ years on the CFVI Board, and we will deeply miss his unwavering commitment, vision, and leadership.



Mellon Humanities Challenge Campaign aims to raise \$100,000K

Double your impact to support the humanities with the Mellon Foundation's Challenge Grant! From now through the end of the year, your dollar goes double the distance in support of the Humanities Council of the Virgin Islands (HCVI). [LEARN MORE →](#)



CFVI attends National Book Festival in D.C. with Great Reads Author

CFVI proudly represented the U.S. Virgin Islands at the 2025 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. CFVI staff, alongside four scholarship recipients, engaged with festival guests from across the U.S. to share the unique stories, culture and spirit of the Virgin Islands. [READ MORE →](#)

CULTIVATING CHANGE

A spotlight on our grantees and community impact

Rotary Club of St. Thomas East Eco



IEKHS Tropical Arboretum Revitalization, Expansion and Outdoor Classroom

A \$10,000 grant from CFVI, the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School Arboretum was revitalized by the Rotary Club of St. Thomas East Eco. Originally planted in 2005, this space now features an outdoor classroom with recycled benches, tree tags with QR codes, and a student-created digital guide. Twenty students from the Rotary Interact Club teamed up with local experts and volunteers—contributing 475+ hours to clean, prune, plant, and educate. This project was funded through the Popular VI Community Fund.

St. Thomas Historical Trust



STEP: St. Thomas Explorers Program

With \$14,680 in Youth Enrichment Program Grants from CFVI, the St. Thomas Historical Trust engaged 288 youth (ages 6–16) in unforgettable walking tours of historic Charlotte Amalie! Participants explored iconic sites, received locally made refreshments, and wrapped up their experience with meaningful group discussions at the Trust museum. From booklets to beverages, every detail helped bring local heritage to life.

Patient Assist VI



Helping seniors with essential medical care

Bridging the gap between care and cost for our seniors through a \$15,000 grant from the Hodge Senior Citizen Fund, Patient Assist VI (PAVI) helped 86 seniors across the Virgin Islands by covering Medicare Part D deductibles, providing co-pay assistance, and funding full medication costs for the uninsured. The program expanded to St. Croix and exceeded the grant total to meet growing needs. This initiative shows how direct support can make a lasting impact on community health.



INSPIRING FUTURES

The latest from our education initiatives and scholarship programs



Seven Virgin Islands Students Headed to Space Camp Thanks to CFVI and RapierMed

Seven high school students from across the Virgin Islands were awarded full scholarships to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. Students experienced hands-on astronaut training, mission simulations, and team-building in a world-class STEM environment. [READ MORE →](#)

CFVI Announces 2025 Lawyers' Scholarship Recipient: Kari Currence

We're proud to announce Kari Currence as the recipient of the 2025 Lawyers' Scholarship, which was established in 2022 to support the next generation of Virgin Islands legal professionals. A graduate of Good Hope Country Day School, Kari is currently pursuing her law degree at the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University and is expected to graduate in 2026. [READ MORE →](#)



CFVI Awards \$177,525 in Scholarships

This year, CFVI awarded \$177,525 in scholarships to 60 Virgin Islands students, with 15 attending the University of the Virgin Islands. With over 130 applications received, our scholarship programs continue to grow. We also launched the \$5,000 Alda Monsanto Scholarship for students pursuing finance or economics and awarded the first \$2,500 Valerie E. Hodge Scholarship for foster youth continuing their education. [READ MORE →](#)

ON THE HORIZON

Upcoming grants, opportunities, and events

New Funds, Fiscal Scholarships, and Grants

Popular VI Community Fund Grants

Supports youth education, youth economic empowerment, and environmental projects focused on low- and moderate-income (LMI) individuals and communities.

Accepting applications: Oct. 1 - 31

Grant application training session: Friday, Oct. 3 at 10 A.M. AST

[Register here](#) for the training session and [click here](#) to preview the application.

Maria Rodriguez Foundation Award

The Maria Rodriguez Foundation Fund was founded in 2021 to recognize a member of the U.S. or British Virgin Islands community who embodies Maria's spirit of selfless service. The nominee selected will receive \$5,000 to be used in the USVI or BVI in support of eligible charitable activities. For more information, [click here](#).

Nominations open: Oct. 15, 2025

Nomination deadline: Dec. 31, 2025

[Click here for the nomination form.](#)

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grants

Funded by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, the recipients of these grants will be announced by the end of this year.



2026 CFVI Angels Giving Campaign

CFVI's 2026 Angels Giving Campaign raises funds that directly contribute to the well-being of Virgin Islands residents. Programs, operating costs, and much of our community outreach are provided each year through generous Angel donations.

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VIEWFINDERS

Reflecting on our success, planning for our future



Our 2024 Annual Report: Creating Lasting Impact

Discover the impact your support made last year in our 2024 Annual Report. Inside, you'll find inspiring stories, key accomplishments, and a look at what's ahead as we continue building a stronger Virgin Islands together. [READ MORE →](#)

The Rashida A. Hodge Scholarship Fund

Established in December 2024 with a \$1 million endowment to CFVI, this program reflects Ms. Hodge's commitment to giving Virgin Islanders opportunities at the very place that shaped her own education and career. Full tuition, fees, and housing at NC State for up to four years (undergraduate level) will be awarded annually to 1–2 students. [READ MORE →](#)



Grade-Level Reading Week

In celebration of Grade Level Reading Week, CFVI was proud to host a special story time on July 26 at The Virgin Islands Children's Museum featuring Island Alphabet, the vibrant new book by Angela Golden Bryan. [READ MORE →](#)

ABOUT US



Our mission

To be a **catalyst** for positive change and enrich the quality of life in the Virgin Islands while preserving our islands' **unique cultural heritage** by inspiring philanthropy, strengthening nonprofits and engaging the community. We do this by **connecting people and resources** with community needs.

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