

# Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

## Fund Highlight: Healthcare for the Homeless



Without a home, family, or financial resources, members of the homeless community in the Virgin Islands are faced with a lack of access to adequate health care. As the number of homeless individuals continued to grow within the Territory, caring members of the community came together to develop a solution by offering free high-quality healthcare to those in need.

The *Healthcare for the Homeless Fund* was started in 2012 by radiologist, Dr. George Rosenberg and Michael Aiken, the former executive director of Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands. With help from former First Lady Cecile DeJongh and other community members/organizations, such as My Brother's Workshop, the homeless community now has access to free health care in the form of a free medical clinic.

The clinic is operated out of the Bethlehem House Shelter for the Homeless in Hospital Ground, with several volunteer medical professionals providing free services on the second Saturday of each month. Physicians check the vitals, blood sugar and weight of each patient, who are subsequently treated according to their individual ailments. In many cases, patients require medications, which they also receive free of charge. Dental and psychiatric services are also provided on most clinic days. Through the continued generosity of its private funders, the clinic has been able to upgrade from working out of a single room in the Bethlehem house, and is now using several rooms to provide services.

Volunteers believe the program is making a huge impact in benefitting the health of the homeless population on St. Thomas and St. John. Dr. Thelma Ruth Watson, one of the clinic's volunteers said, "There have been many success stories. Some have discontinued or significantly decreased street drug/alcohol use since receiving care at this clinic. I believe that less homeless patients go to the Emer-

gency Room for emergency care because of this clinic."

The Healthcare for the Homeless Fund is one of the many funds that CFVI administers. The Foundation manages over 100 named funds that operate a variety of programs and initiatives each year. The Foundation is very proud to support programs like Healthcare for the Homeless; without the clinic and its professional volunteer staff, many members of the homeless community would continue to suffer from serious medical conditions, leading to permanent disabilities and without hope of returning to the workforce. If you're interested in supporting the Healthcare for the Homeless program, donations can be made to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. Reference 'Healthcare for the Homeless Fund' in the memo section. Checks can be mailed directly to the Foundation at:

CFVI  
PO Box 11790  
St. Thomas, VI 00801

Contributions can also be made online at [www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund.php](http://www.cfvi.net/donate/donate-fund.php).

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## Promoting Literacy Through the Gift of Giving

CFVI wrapped up its book drive during the holiday season by giving away Christmas themed books to hundreds of students at several public schools and head start centers, as well as to families at local community events. In total, CFVI distributed almost 5,000 high-quality books on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas.

The book distribution efforts are part of CFVI's ongoing commitment to promoting best practices in early childhood.



## The Anderson Family Fund Awards Teacher Grants

The Anderson Family Fund has been sponsoring educator grants through the Anderson Teacher Grants for more than 15 years. During that time, the Fund has awarded \$320,000 to dozens of local public school teachers.

Grants ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 are dis-

tributing on a competitive application basis, with detailed proposals and budgets required. In the past year alone, 11 teachers from 9 schools have received funding for theater and art, literacy enhancement programs, and even sustainable gardening modules.

These strategies for higher learning are just what CFVI president, Dee Baecher-

Brown, says is so important for the territory's youth. "We appreciate the teachers who go above and beyond to provide creative strategies to promote student learning," says Brown. See below for the list of 2016 ATG recipients.



Name	School	Island	Project
Karissa Thurland-Perez	Alfredo Andrews Elementary School	St. Croix	Enhancing Literacy
Jessica Parker	Arthur A. Richards Junior High School	St. Croix	Continuing Tradition: Stepping Out & Exploring St. Croix Through Art Field Trips
Bruce W. Phaire	CTEC ( St. Croix Career & Technical Education Center)	St. Croix	Grand Prix "VI" Style
Margaret Burnett	CTEC( St. Croix Career & Technical Education Center)	St. Croix	At Exploration Project
Tara Jones	Gladys Abraham Elementary School	St. Thomas	Wellness Project
Nancy Liburd	Julius E. Sprauve School	St. John	Quelbe Music Project
Joanne M. Saunders	Lockhart Elementary School	St. Thomas	Visual & Performing Artists "Beautiful Creations"
Lisa Magras	Pearl B. Larsen School	St. Croix	PBL Edible Eats
Danica David	St. Croix Educational Complex High School	St. Croix	USVI Cultural Calendar Creation and Theatrical Performance
Aurora Ramis-Malupa	Yvonne E. Milliner-Bowsky Elementary School	St. Thomas	Building Life Skills with Classroom Cooking and Product Selling
Sandra S. Price-Blyden	Yvonne E. Milliner-Bowsky Elementary School	St. Thomas	S2F: Kaleidoscope: A Multi-Media Mele

## Junior Philanthropists in the Making



Junior Angels at the Bethlehem House for the Homeless on St. Thomas.

CFVI's Junior Angels are giving back to the community in a very special way. In addition to regular weekly placements at selected community organizations, our junior angels come together once a month to support a service project or community event. In September, the Junior Angels assisted staff at the Annual Walk for Wishes fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation on St. Thomas. During Thanksgiving, they supported the Family Resource Center's Food Drive, and in December they volunteered at the soup kitchen at the Bethlehem House for the Homeless. Junior Angels are making a difference in our community and will become the future leaders of our territory. For more information about the Junior Angels program, visit our website at [www.cfvi.net/programs/juniorangels](http://www.cfvi.net/programs/juniorangels) or contact Program Coordinator, Alanna John : [alanna.juniorangels@cfvi.net](mailto:alanna.juniorangels@cfvi.net). If you're interested in making a contribution to support our Junior Angels, contact [katrinb@cfvi.net](mailto:katrinb@cfvi.net).

## VI Public Schools Receive Grants to Promote STEM Education



AT&T STEM Grant Recipient

Students at the Lockhart Elementary School use tool kits to build 3D structures.

CFVI recently awarded eight Virgin Island public school educators with AT&T STEM grants. Several teachers throughout the Territory are aiming to promote science, technology, engineering or math education by implementing new and innovative ideas, and this grant helps them achieve that.

The grants range from \$250 to \$5,000 and are highly competitive, with priority being given to teachers whose proposals directly involve students. 2016-2017 recipients were Everett Ryan, Steve Bullock, and Colleen Clark on St. Croix, and Astrid Hypolite, Shem Matthew, Ludovic Atezem, Natasha Wright, and JoAnne M. Saunders on St. Thomas. The selected project proposals ranged from rocketry and robotics to alternative energy construction.

Joe York, AT&T President Florida, Puerto Rico and U.S Virgin Islands supports this program wholeheartedly, saying "an educated workforce is critical to the future success of the U.S. Virgin Islands, our nation and the success of our company as well."

## Next Generation Scholars Program Welcome New Students



The Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Program was founded as a means of assisting potential first generation college students. Beginning as early as their sophomore year, eligible Scholars are supported in high school through the admissions process, provided further support to ensure success in college, and prepared to be mentors to others in the Virgin Islands. According to current NGS scholar, Jenisha Stapleton, "without CFVI, I would not have been able to receive the mentorship and academic support from my college coach". In supporting the scholars, the NGS program also collaborates with parents, mentors, donors, school personnel, and educational institutions to ensure ample opportunity for success among the students. For the current admissions period, applications can be submitted through an online portal at [cfvi.fluidreview.com](http://cfvi.fluidreview.com) until January 12, 2017.



