



## **Media Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ANNOUNCES 2011 MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS**

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has awarded \$24,546 in grants to 33 community projects through the 2011 CFVI Mini-Grants program, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, according to President, Dee Baecher-Brown. Mini-Grants are provided to organizations or individuals who propose innovative programs which seek to improve the lives of children and families in St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

Since 1997, the Mini-Grant program at CFVI has awarded more than **\$404,546 to approximately 630 grantees**. “CFVI believes that the Mini-Grants program is a wonderful example of how long-term commitment and small grants can have a big impact in our community,” said Ms. Baecher-Brown.

CFVI Mini-Grants support the Foundation’s mission to enhance the educational, physical, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of children, youth and families in the Virgin Islands. Mini-Grants support a wide range of service organizations and individuals working to provide positive alternatives for children and families and help meet social challenges, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drug abuse and illiteracy.

A few examples of the mini grants that were awarded this year, are listed below:

- St. Thomas Historical Trust will partner with the Virgin Islands National Park to provide guided tours to educate students about the history of Hassle Island. Transportation costs for students will be covered by this grant.
- A grant to VI Scholars for their work with 20 rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during the summer. Student-Teacher-Mentors from Stanford University will provide a curriculum to reinforce the importance of academic excellence, community, honor, leadership, and perseverance, and encourage students’ commitment to being responsible citizens who will effectuate positive change within their community

- St. George Village Botanical Garden on St. Croix was awarded a grant to assist with the establishment of a children's garden. The children's garden will serve as a natural space to study native species, pollination, clean energy, waste reduction through composting, and healthful living through exercise and fresh produce in the Caribbean. Approximately 100 children are expected to participate in this project.

The annual mini grant program which is a great benefit to children and families in the Virgin Islands is made possible through the generosity of CFVI Angel donors. CFVI also distributes scholarships to students throughout the Virgin Islands and grants to individual teachers for innovative classroom projects.

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands was established in 1990. The Foundation has grown to more than 100 funds and scholarships created by individuals and businesses to support educational, environmental, social and cultural initiatives in the Virgin Islands.

Please find a complete list of the recipients attached. For more information please call CFVI at 774-6031 or visit their website at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net).

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