



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

January 2009

Message from Chairman & President

It is a great pleasure to provide you – our CFVI Angels... fund donors...volunteers... scholarship recipients ...grantees... and community partners – with some recent highlights for the Community Foundation. A lot has changed in the world since last we wrote to you!

Given the magnitude of the present economic challenges, we would like to begin by assuring you that, because of sound decisions made by CFVI's Board of Directors months ago, we have been able to minimize any significant loss to our endowment. We remain committed to being prudent about all expenditures to maintain our current financial stability and to carefully monitor budgets.

In times like these, when the temptation is to focus on survival rather than progress, we also want to assure you of our commitment to continue to build the Community Foundation and expand our efforts on behalf of children and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands. To this end, the CFVI Board of Directors spent Saturday, October 4th in review, reflection and intensive planning. We engaged in a day-long retreat facilitated by Stephanie Clohesy, a nationally recognized expert whose business is to “guide bold philanthropy in the creation of a just and sustainable world.” It was an opportunity for Board and staff to celebrate all that has been accomplished... and strategize on how to further the Foundation’s mission in thoughtful and ambitious ways, while focusing our resources and mobilizing community support.

2008 was a good year for the Community Foundation! We were able to provide \$1.5 million in grants, scholarships and services in the U.S. Virgin Islands.... and our assets grew to \$6 million. With your continued interest, support and encouragement 2009 will be even better!

Ricardo J. Charaf
Chairman of the Board

Dee Baecher-Brown
President

About CFVI . . .

In 1990 the **Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI)** began with a \$540,000+ gift from Henry & Charlotte Kimelman to create a permanent foundation to benefit the people and non-profit organizations of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since then, hundreds of local residents have added their gifts, and the Community Foundation has given away more than **\$7.5 million**, over **14 times** the value of our founding donation in grants, awards, and scholarships. Today, CFVI's assets are at \$6 million.

Anyone can help . . . Do you have an area of interest or concern? Your gift to CFVI can help meet the community's immediate needs and because CFVI has many permanently invested funds, your gift or fund can grow to meet tomorrow's challenges. You can make a difference by establishing a new fund, making a gift to an existing fund, naming CFVI as a beneficiary of your estate plans through the Mahogany Legacy program or becoming an annual CFVI Angel supporter.

For Good. Forever!

Meet the newest CFVI board members . . .

Vicki B. Saunders joined the board in June 2008. Vicki and her husband, Paul, live in St. Croix, where he owns James River Capital Corp. Prior to moving to St. Croix, Vicki owned her own consulting company specializing in personal development, strategic planning and executive coaching. She works part-time at Undercover Books, serves on the board of the St. Croix Women's Initiative and continues consulting work. Vicki loves to read and enjoys playing tennis and golf.

Steve Simon joined the board in June 2008. Steve and his wife Helen reside in St. John where Steve manages the Jazz in the Moonlight concerts and Coral Bay Blues Festival. He also helps bring entertainment to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Steve serves on the VI Waste Management Authority's board of directors.

Catherine L. Mills rejoins the board after a 1 year hiatus. She returns with much energy and is spearheading our Caribbean Philanthropy Network (CPN) project funded by the Ford Foundation. She also serves as a board member of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Board and as Co-Chair of the All Saints Cathedral School Capital Development Committee. Catherine is married to Attorney Don C. Mills and is the proud mother of a daughter, Cori.

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Choosing to Get Involved

The Family Connection *update*

The Family Connection (TFC) is the Community Foundation's program to enhance the early childhood environment in the USVI. The Family Connection has an ambitious agenda including strategies to strengthen the community child care and early education infrastructure in the U.S. Virgin Islands through professional training, teacher and parent education, child care center accreditation, and advocacy to improve public policies that affect the quality of child care, early literacy, family involvement and school readiness.

Eleanor (Ellie) Hirsh joined CFVI as director of The Family Connection in January 2009. The new director is an early childhood education specialist based on St. Croix, who has worked in the USVI for almost 30 years. Ellie previously assisted CFVI as a consultant in the development of the TFC initiative.

Patricia Varlack is an early childhood professional with extensive experience with Head Start and private child care programs in the USVI. She is carrying the work of The Family Connection Center to licensed child care centers in St. Thomas, providing an outreach program which brings training and resources to the centers. Pat's services are donated to TFC by **Standard Pacific Capital Holdings** where she serves as Director of Community Development.

HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP Donors gathered at the Old Stone Farmhouse on January 14th at a reception hosted by Neil and Trudie Prior, where they were given a report on some of the recent accomplishments of TFC:

- Scholarships to six students at UVI to continue their studies in early childhood without an interruption due to funding shortfalls.
- Donation of a variety of Caribbean early childhood books to the bookmobiles on St. Croix and St. Thomas and the addition of a Caribbean children's book collection to the lending-library at The Family Connection Center in Vitracco Mall.
- Launch of **BornLearning**, a long-term public outreach effort to educate parents and the community about some simple, yet important, things we can all do to ensure a brighter future for our youngest children.

... and a preview of upcoming activities.

Kimelman Grants for Quality in Early Childhood Education will provide a total of **\$25,000** in grant awards ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, for directors and/or teachers in the territory's licensed child care centers. Proposals may request funding for supplies to improve the physical appearance of the center; purchase of books or developmentally appropriate toys; training and materials for parents, staff, etc. Deadline for applications, **May 29, 2009**.

Expansion of BornLearning and the placement of a "BornLearning trail" at parks, malls and beaches to provide support and encouragement for grown ups to participate in the fun of building the brain architecture of our youngest citizens.

Standard Pacific Capital Holdings, LLLP (SPCH) is offering to assist high school graduates in their pursuit of higher education by offering **two \$5,000 scholarships** towards tuition to graduating high school students who are interested in Early Childhood / Elementary Education as a career. It is the expectation of SPCH that upon attaining a degree, these graduates will work in the Virgin Islands and assist in improving the quality of education available to young children.

March 2009, launch of the **Leadership in Action Program (LAP)**, a Territory-wide, intensive training and planning effort in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Governor's Children and Families Council. Over 18 months, 40 key leaders, managers, parents and community representatives in the Virgin Islands will tackle the issues that undermine the future of our children from birth to eight years old, take action and get results.

CFVI received \$200,000 grant in August 2008 from the Ford Foundation for the Caribbean Philanthropy Network (CPN) project . . .

... to support the Community Foundation's work to increase the effectiveness of Caribbean philanthropy. The effort is led by an advisory group of committed professionals in the Caribbean philanthropic sector who share this vision. Members include:

- Catherine Lockhart Mills, CFVI Board of Director member and chair of the advisory group
- Carrolle Perry-Devonish, executive director of the Anguilla Community Foundation
- Judith A. Towle, chief administrative and financial officer of Island Resources Foundation, Tortola, BVI
- Tom Olsen, UNICEF Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
- William S. Moody, Distinguished Fellow, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Etha Henry, president, EJH Alliance
- Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, Astor Home for Children
- Dee Baecher-Brown, president of CFVI

In phase one of the project, Dr. Eugene Miller of the Research Foundation of the City University of New York was engaged to conduct a Caribbean Philanthropy Mapping Project on behalf of the CPN. Results will be available in early May and will inform the future work of CPN.

CFVI Highlights: Programs, Funds, Grants & Scholarships

Our funds and grants at work :

In June 2008, \$22,500 in prizes and awards was provided by the **Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation Fund** to students and teachers of the public high schools within the Territory in the 8th annual Laws of Life program. Since 2001, the Gruber Fund has provided more than \$175,000 in grants to this program.

Since September 2008, the **St. Croix Women's Initiative (SCWI) Fund** has provided \$24,000 in grants to assist with educational needs in the elementary and middle schools on St. Croix. Grants included the purchase of a second-hand, heavy-duty copier for a teacher's workroom, computer equipment and filing cabinets for teacher resource room, steel pans for a music program, and keyboards, cymbals and castanets for a music room.

In October 2008, thanks to the combined giving from the **Charaf Family Fund, Driehaus Community Fund II, Robert O'Connor Fund and QT Investments**, more than \$60,000 in technologically advanced emergency room equipment and training was provided to expand the emergency services capabilities at Roy L. Schneider Hospital.

In November 2008, CFVI awarded \$20,549 in **Anderson Teacher Grants** to 25 teachers from 16 public schools in the Territory to support initiatives in music, the environment and arts. Since 2002 the **Anderson Family Fund for Education** has awarded more than \$145,000 in teacher grants.

In 2008, CFVI distributed \$28,000 from the **Rapid Response Fund** in 83 emergency grants to families in crisis situations on the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. Since 1999 the Rapid Response Fund has provided more than \$150,000 in emergency grants to families in the Territory.

In November 2008 CFVI awarded the **Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Grant** worth \$5,000 to Allyson Hakala and Carlyn Lawrence of the Federation of St. Kitts / Nevis to establish a weekly Environmental Club for school children in Nevis.

The Public Education Partnership (PEP) program of the **St. Croix Financial Center Fund** provided \$9,600 in 2008 assistance to Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School (PBL) in St. Croix, including \$100 grants to each of the 44 teachers at PBL. Since 2003 PEP has provided \$68,000 in grants to PBL.

Throughout 2008 **VI Cancer Patient Fund** provided \$64,000 in 106 grants to Virgin Islands residents in need of assistance.



KIDS COUNT

The U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2007 was released in September 2008.

CFVI held presentations on both St. Thomas and St. Croix for community organizations,

media and government representatives. For more information or to get a copy of the KIDS COUNT Data Book 2007 please visit www.cfvi.net or call us at 774-6031.

Junior Angels make lasting impressions. . .



. . . in the community by volunteering with selected community service agencies. Twenty high school students are making a difference at the Lucinda Millin Home for the Aged, Pistarckle Theater, Enid Baa Library and many more community organizations. They participated in a beach clean-up at Lindbergh Beach in September 2008.

Junior Angels have also attended SAT preparatory seminars with Chris Teare which included information on preparing for the SAT exam, understanding financial aid packages and writing the perfect college essay. Since July 2008, Junior Angels have volunteered over 1,200 hours of service in the St. Thomas community.

Meet our Scholars . . .

In June 2008 CFVI awarded 51 scholarships totaling \$117,750 to high school graduates, college and graduate students from the Virgin Islands. This year the new scholarships included the **Hospitality Scholar Award, Heavy Materials Scholarships, Lana Vento Marine and Environmental Scholarships, and the A9 and VI Recycling Awards**. A one-time award in memory of **Chanise George** was also given.

For the fifth consecutive year, **Windward Capital** funded the Summer Enrichment Program Scholarships for 10th and 11th grade students from public or private schools. In 2008, \$30,000 was awarded to 12 high school students to attend summer enrichment programs stateside.

Shantell Adams received the Artelle M. Wheatley scholarship and is currently attending UVI on St. Thomas with a major in mechanical engineering. She is a member of the Student Government and is treasurer for both the Seventh Day Adventist Association and Always Believe in Yourself which meets to have roundtable discussions about different social issues and promotes community service.

Thad Lettsome received the Coral World scholarship and is currently attending the University of Tampa with a major in marine biology. As part of the Caribbean Students Association, Thad experienced what it is like to be homeless by spending a night living on the streets. Thad is also involved in the university's intra-mural volleyball team.

Sade Balwant received the Theodore E. Sharp scholarship and is currently attending Loyola Marymount University with a major in international business. Sade is the first in her family to go to a four year college. Over spring break, she will be going to Ecuador to teach at a boys' orphanage and is also raising money to go to Mexico to build homes. She is a member of the Loyola Chorus.

Sharnelle Vanterpool received the Hospitality Scholar award and is currently attending Johnson and Wales University in Miami with a major in baking and pastry arts. The scholarship is helping Sharnelle achieve her goal of doing what she loves and her desire is to start her own business back in the Virgin Islands. Sharnelle is busy serving the community by painting and building houses.

Kayalyn Edmeade received a Heavy Materials scholarship and is currently attending Iowa State University studying entomology. She is most interested in biology and research that explains the impact of entomology on the environment. Kayalyn volunteers at the Ames Help Center, a food pantry for those in need and also helped with organizing and cleaning the Body of Christian Worship Center for Sunday service.

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Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Physical: 5600 Royal Dane Mall # 19
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Mailing: PO Box 11790
St. Thomas, VI 00801

Office: (340) 774-6031
Fax: (340) 774-3852

www.cfvi.net

email: dbrown@cfvi.net

In Memory of

Elisabeth Ann Swinson Sharp

*CFVI remembers the life of Elisabeth Ann Swinson Sharp who passed away July 26, 2008. Mrs. Sharp was truly generous of heart and passionate about history and research. She started the Caribbean Genealogy Library located on St. Thomas. At CFVI, Mrs. Sharp founded the **Caribbean Genealogy Library Fund** to help monetarily support the library and the **Theodore E. Sharp Scholarship Fund** in honor of her husband who passed in 1997. The scholarship fund benefits Virgin Islands high school graduates who demonstrate a history and passion for community service.*

Angels make it happen!

Annual Angel gifts, \$500 and up, help underwrite the work of CFVI staff and support all CFVI funds, programs, and services. Angel gifts also support CFVI's on-going yearly outreach programs. CFVI does not charge fees for the establishment, maintenance and administration of the Foundation's Funds.

Thanks to the generous support of CFVI Angels for all Foundation programs and services, CFVI was able to answer the call for help to:

- Assist in the purchase of supplies and materials for orphanages in Rwanda and provide accounting services for gifts totaling \$25,000 from the community to support the Rwanda Project of the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School.
- Coordinate the distribution of 24 televisions donated by Princess Cruise Line through Deliver It to 10 non-profit organizations on St. Thomas.
- Coordinate the delivery of 480 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows books to middle-school students on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.
- Assist in purchasing and coordinating the delivery of adaptive tools and equipment for Virgin Islands Therapists Association, and provide accounting services for gifts totaling \$7,000 from the community to help support their efforts.

Become an Angel today. Call CFVI at 774-6031 to donate by Visa or MasterCard or mail your check to CFVI, P.O. Box 11790, St. Thomas, VI 00801.



P.O. Box 11790
St. Thomas, VI 00801-4790