



# Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

January 2011

## Message from Chairman & President

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the **Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands**, we would like to wish you and your families all the very best in this New Year, and thank you for all you have done to make our community a better place.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, members of CFVI's Board of Directors devoted the day to a **Community Foundation Retreat**. Facilitated by our own Vicki Saunders, a strategic planning and professional coaching consultant who donated her expertise, the Board reflected on the growth of CFVI over **the past ten years** and planned for the Foundation's continuing success.

We considered where the Community Foundation is today, versus ten years ago:

- **Assets of over \$7 million...** compared to \$1.7 million at the end of 2000. This impressive growth in spite of a worldwide financial downturn in 2008!
- **Annual giving of \$2 million** in grants, scholarships and services ... compared to \$260,000 in 2000. Total giving to date in excess of \$9 million.
- Supported by \$450,000 in Angel gifts from **more than 300 Angels** who gave gifts as large as \$15,000 ... compared to 2000, with \$51,000 from 98 Angels, with the largest gift of \$1,000.

In 2000, CFVI published our first USVI KIDS COUNT report and the Board and our community struggled with what the report told us about the challenges facing some children and families in our beloved Virgin Islands. The Family Connection (TFC), CFVI's response to KIDS COUNT, was initiated in 2004 by the Board. Thanks to The Family Connection, CFVI is leading our community in the important and comprehensive work of improving the early childhood experience of our youngest children.

CFVI is investing now for the present and the future of the Virgin Islands: "**For good. Forever.**" At the retreat, board members committed to building the assets of the Community Foundation to insure our ability to continue to provide leadership and support and to meet the challenges of the next decade. As always, we acknowledge that none of this could happen without **CFVI's Angel donors** and community partners. Without you, there would be no Community Foundation!

*Ricardo J. Charaf*  
Chairman of the Board

*Dee Baecher-Brown*  
President

## Mahogany Legacy



### Kimelman Bequest

The Community Foundation received donations totaling more than \$1 million dollars from the **Henry L. Kimelman Charitable Remainder Unitrust**. These gifts were realized through the settlement of the estate of Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman who passed away on November 9, 2009 in Florida. Mrs. Charlotte Kimelman generously waived her right to interest income to the Trust and thus the Trustees were able to complete the transfer of funds while she is still alive.

A donation of approximately \$1 million dollars, directed to the donor-advised **Kimelman Endowment Fund**, provides a wonderful opportunity for the Community Foundation to work with Mrs. Kimelman and other members of the Kimelman family to provide support for important efforts in the USVI. The Community Foundation also received a generous unrestricted gift in the amount of \$100,000 as one of ten residuary beneficiaries listed in the Trust specific bequests. These gifts from the Community Foundation's founding donors were a result of the Kimelman's charitable estate planning, through CFVI's Mahogany Legacy.

**Angels Make It Happen** at CFVI by helping to underwrite the work of CFVI staff and support all CFVI funds, programs, and services. Your annual Angel gift of \$500 and up also supports CFVI's on-going yearly outreach programs. Because of our Angels, CFVI does not charge fees for the establishment, maintenance and administration of the Foundation's funds. **Become an Angel today.** Call CFVI at (340)774-6031 to donate by Visa or Mastercard or mail your check to CFVI, P.O. Box 11790, St. Thomas, VI 00801.

### IN THIS ISSUE

CFVI Highlights.....	pg 2
Grants & Funds	
New Funds	
The Family Connection.....	pg 3
ECAC Grant	
Born Learning Trail	
Virtues Project	
Scholarships & Programs.....	pg 3
Formed Based Code.....	pg 4

*Choosing to Get Involved*

## CFVI Highlights: Grants & Funds

The **Lana Vento Fund** was one of the most active Funds in the past year, awarding almost **\$50,000** in grants including support for artistic outreach activities by The Forum, to the Baseball Explorers for attendance at the Cooperstown Baseball Tournament, and to Great Adventure Enterprises for Summer Basketball Camps. The Fund also provided a grant to The Core Foundation for their **Lionfish Education Project**.

Thirty public school teachers were the recipients of grants totaling \$20,250 from the **Anderson Family Fund for Education**. These grants ranging from \$400 to \$1,000 are intended to enhance the learning opportunities for students where creative strategies and activities are used to promote student learning. The Anderson Family Fund for Education has awarded more than **\$185,000** in teacher grants throughout the Territory since it was established in 2002.

The **Public Education Partnership (PEP)** initiative at CFVI provided grants of \$100 to every teacher at the Pearl B. Larsen School for materials and/or supplies to assist in their efforts to improve student achievement and enhance activities in the classroom. These grants are funded by James River Capital Corporation which has given in excess of **\$81,000** to this program since 2004.

**Haitian Relief Fund** made a grant of **\$15,000** to the Youth Center of the YWCA of Haiti. YWCA reports that while schools were not yet open in Haiti, more than sixty children and young women were able to participate on a daily basis in educational, social, athletic and artistic activities at the Center. When schools in the capital started reopening their doors in May, the Youth Center continued to serve the less fortunate children living in Pétiion-Ville, whose families do not have the resources needed for their children to attend school.



A **\$20,000** grant from the **Haitian Relief Fund** is funding a six month pilot project in Agriculture Extension for the St. Raphael Farmers in Haiti. Mr. Mervelus Montas, a skilled and dedicated Haitian agronomist was hired to manage this project which will organize the St. Raphael farmers into producer "sub-groups" and train them in good agricultural practices to improve productivity, inclusive of land preparation, calendarized planting and pest management. As a result of this program approximately 350 small farmers will sustainably double yields – and a low cost model/pilot project will be created for easy replication by other farmer associations in a country where productivity is very low – and where both income and nutrition are urgent needs. **Fintrac Inc.**, an international

agricultural consultancy in St. Thomas, donated their expertise to facilitate implementation of the project on behalf of CFVI. Fintrac will also coordinate all project activities, progress reporting, and documentation with Mr. Montas, and assist with additional funding in the event of a shortfall in the CFVI-Haiti Seed Grant.

A grant of **\$6,500** was made to Habitat for Humanity from CFVI's **Hodge Senior Citizen Fund** to assist with "The Golden Touch" program. This program is intended to mitigate the impact of physical limitations and to remove health and safety hazards in the homes of seniors in order to promote more independence for them in their *golden years*. Volunteers will come together to do modifications to the homes of Senior Citizens and disabled adults. CFVI was also successful in engaging a group of jewelry store owners in Charlotte Amalie to contribute to this project.

### NEW FUNDS

The **Edward L. Towle Fund for Sustainable Islands** was established by Judith A. Towle to honor the work of her late husband Edward. The central focus of this fund recognizes the many achievements in the professional life of the late Dr. Edward L. Towle, historian, educator, environmental leader, island advocate, and Caribbean conservationist. According to Mrs. Towle, she established the Fund to provide grants to individuals, institutions, programs, research, and related activities that support the sustainable development of small islands in the Eastern Caribbean with emphasis on those that protect the environmental and historical heritage.

MEECHOS, LLC, has established the **VI Gun Buy Back Fund** at CFVI, for the purpose of working with the Police Department to get guns off the streets in the Virgin Islands.

Basketball Travelers, Inc. made a donation to CFVI to create the **Paradise Jam Fund**. The purpose of the Fund is to provide monies for a variety of sports opportunities for the youth in the Virgin Islands to include such things as basketball clinics, providing basketballs to the local public schools, sponsor an Elementary Basketball League, and providing financial assistance for other sports related events.

The **Shansi Miller Fund** was established at CFVI to support and assist non-profit organizations in the U.S. Virgin Islands. A very talented and well known local artist, Shansi recently painted a series of scenes in historic downtown Charlotte Amalie, and will use a portion of the proceeds from her sales to enhance the work of the St. Thomas Historical Trust.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail with your name, e-mail address and "CFVI Newsletter" in the subject line to [general.info@cfvi.net](mailto:general.info@cfvi.net).

# The Family Connection *update*

## **Early Childhood Advisory Committee Grant Award**

The US Virgin Islands is the recipient of a **grant in excess of \$660,000** in federal stimulus funds to invest in improvements to early childhood education in the Virgin Islands. The grant funds are specifically designated to facilitate the work of the Governor's Children and Families Council's Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC), a committee led by **Ellie Hirsh, CFVI's Director of The Family Connection**. The Family Connection (TFC) is a major project of the Community Foundation working to strengthen the child care and early education infrastructure in the USVI to improve outcomes for children. TFC focuses its efforts on policy and infrastructure, quality improvement and capacity building, and community engagement.

As a lead organization that has long been committed to the care and well-being of the children of the Territory, the Community Foundation has been asked by the Office of the Governor to take responsibility for coordinating all activities of the grant. The \$664,277 grant covers a three year period and will be used to bring together both public and private agencies to do cross-agency planning to meet the needs of children and families.

With leadership provided by the Community Foundation, the funding will be used to:

- ◆ Make recommendations for a unified data collection system
- ◆ Ensure that the Territory has an adequate professional development system
- ◆ Ensure that the University of the Virgin Islands is able to meet the needs of the early child care work-force
- ◆ Increase access to high-quality child care
- ◆ Engage in an extensive public awareness media campaign to increase community awareness of the importance of high quality health and developmental experiences in the early years

**A Born Learning Trail** is now available on the island of St. John, thanks to the members of KidsFirst! who sponsored the trail with a donation of \$5,000. KidsFirst! secured a portable set of trail signs that will be displayed at different events on the island of St. John. The Board of KidsFirst!, after meeting at The Family Connection with the management and staff, said they came away from that meeting with a heightened sense of both the needs and opportunities to improve early learning on St. John.

**The Virtues Project** - Modeled on an international initiative focused on building peaceful and caring communities aligned to 52 virtues, this project is an initiative of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and is moving forward with support from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. This initiative promotes the teaching of positive behaviors and attitudes such as compassion, integrity and respect and contributes to healthy and supportive environments. CFVI is working in collaboration with the Department of Education to infuse VI culture into the messages and to implement The Virtues Project in the public schools. The goal is to engage the community in discussion and awareness of the "Virtue of the Week". The Virtues of the Week are widely distributed through the media, religious institutions, schools and childcare centers, government agencies, and business organizations.

## **CFVI HIGHLIGHTS: SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS**

The **Jean Su Maeng-Kim and Charles M. Kim '98 Scholarship** has been established to provide support to a resident of the U.S. Virgin Islands who intends to attend **Binghamton University**. This scholarship, the largest at CFVI to date, will award up to \$28,000 annually to an undergraduate student who demonstrates merit and financial need. The scholarship may be renewable annually as long as the recipient continues to meet the required criteria.

**Emanuel Horsford**, a 2010 recipient of a CFVI **Theodore E. Sharp Scholar Award**, was recently featured on the front page of The Denisonian. "Manny," a former CFVI Junior Angel and graduate of Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, was elected by the students at Denison University as Vice President of the Campus Governance Association. Horsford, a sophomore economics major, won the election by receiving 82% of the vote. As part of his new position, he will serve as the Chair of the Committee on Residential Life.

**Lia Ortiz**, a 2009 and 2010 recipient of the **Lana Vento Marine & Environmental Studies Graduate Scholarship**, was among 8 students from the University of the Virgin Islands who participated in the 63rd annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, held Nov. 1-5, in Puerto Rico. Graduate students from the Masters of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) programs presented portions of their thesis work on topics relevant to natural resource management and ecology process of territorial fisheries. Lia's presentation was on the historical ethno-ecology of the St. Thomas fishing community. Lia was also a CFVI scholarship recipient as an undergraduate in biology at UVI. Her thesis proposal for the MMES program is "Assessment of Water Quality and Coral Reef Community Structure in Brewer's Bay".

## **2011- 2013 DIRECTORY**

The 2011-2013 edition of the Directory of Community Organizations Serving the U.S. Virgin Islands will be available to the public in February 2011. CFVI has produced this directory since 2004, thanks to the vision and financial contribution of Bart Kavanaugh and Betty Saks. The Directory is a tool for residents and visitors seeking information on non profit organizations and service providers. In addition to listing all organizations alphabetically with a description and contact information, the Directory also contains listings, with telephone numbers, for Virgin Islands Early Child Care Providers, Private and Parochial Schools and selected agencies of the Virgin Islands Government that serve Children, Youth and Families.



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### 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 CFVI has given away more than **\$9 million**, over **16 times** the value of our founding donation, in grants, awards, and scholarships. Today, CFVI's assets are at \$7 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!**

## FORM BASED CODE

Thanks to the generosity of local philanthropist and CFVI Fund-donor, Richard Driehaus, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is in a unique position to be able to have a positive impact on the future development of Charlotte Amalie. As the result of a grant which will total \$400,000, the Foundation is able to provide funding for work to develop an Urban Design Plan for Charlotte Amalie.

The firm of Dover, Kohl & Partners (DKP) was hired by CFVI to work with the government, the public and other consultants to do two things: put together a form-based code for the Territory and develop a town plan for Charlotte Amalie as a pilot project to show how the form-based code would work in the Virgin Islands.

Community involvement in the visioning process is an integral component in establishing a workable plan and code. This "charrette phase" which involves sessions where the public becomes involved in the planning, began with a meeting on Friday evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Christ Methodist Church and was the kick-off to a week of well-attended town meetings, hands-on design sessions, and public visits to the Form Based Code design studio in the Grand Hotel. On Thursday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Victor Dover, who managed the project, presented some of the "big ideas" compiled by the team based on feedback from the community:

- ◆ To reaffirm and protect the traditional way of building
- ◆ Transform the waterfront into the finest public space in the Caribbean
- ◆ Connect the different parts of the town for greater mobility and enjoyment
- ◆ Make walkability a priority in design
- ◆ Control the scale – small is beautiful
- ◆ Bring the town to life at night and foster overnight stays by visitors
- ◆ Embrace diversity and improve the quality of life for all.

Dover also showed a series of contrasting images – current pictures of overgrown step streets, vacant lots and congested parking areas compared to artists' renderings of what Charlotte Amalie could be. Specifics of the code will be worked out over the next few months, along with a first draft of the "blueprint" for Charlotte Amalie. Meetings will be held in March to present this first draft for public feedback.



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