



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands holds its 2010 Annual Meeting. Announces \$1.7 Million in Giving and \$252,095 in Scholarships

More than 200 donors, grantees, scholarship recipients and community partners gathered at the Columban Hall on St. Thomas for the Annual Meeting of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands on Friday morning, June 18th 2010.

CFVI's Chairman of the Board, **Ricardo J. Charaf** reported that the Foundation, celebrating its 20th Anniversary, gave more than \$1,700,000 to the community during the past year in the form of grants, scholarships and services. Assets of the Foundation are now greater than \$6 million. Charaf also reported that this is the 6th consecutive year that CFVI has given away more than \$1 million. Since the Foundation was founded in 1990, more than \$9.8 million has been provided to the Territory.

Charaf noted that while we are facing economic challenges at the local and national level, the Community Foundation is well positioned to meet current commitments and continue to expand their work. He expressed his deep appreciation for Fund Donors and CFVI Angels. Angels provide the basic support for all CFVI Funds and programs – including mini-grants, scholarships, KIDS COUNT, and fatherhood. Because of Angels, CFVI is able to provide services at no cost to the community. This year marked the eleventh year of the CFVI Angel campaign and the Foundation has surpassed this year's Angel goal of \$450,000.

Alda Monsanto, board member and chair of the Governance Committee announced that four CFVI board members had agreed to serve an additional three-year term on the Foundation's Board: Pamela Berkowsky, Vivek Daswani, Betty Saks and Marie ThomasGriffith. She also announced the slate of 2010-11 officers: Ricardo J. Charaf, Chairman; Alda Monsanto, First Vice Chair; Trudie Prior, Second Vice Chair; Vicki Saunders, Secretary; and George HT Dudley, Treasurer.

Marie Thomas Griffith, board member and chair of the Foundation's scholarship committee, announced that CFVI had another outstanding year in

terms of scholarships. She thanked the CFVI Scholarship Review Committee for their tireless effort in reviewing over 128 academic scholarship applications and 14 summer enrichment scholarship applications and for their diligence in making the difficult selections. This year there were 5 new scholarships added: Cynthia de Haynes Health Science Scholarship, CAHS Alumni Physicians Scholarship, VI Association of Legal Assistants (VIALA) Scholarship and two Richard Noel Allen Scholarships. She also noted the value of the A9 VI Recycling scholarships offered were doubled in value by the donor, A9 VI Recycling, Inc. CFVI also administers the Government of the VI Employees Retirement System scholarship program and reviewed 21 applications. Thomas Griffith announced the award of 83 academic scholarships totaling \$241,750 to Virgin Islands students to assist them in the pursuit of their college education, and 7 summer enrichment scholarships in the amount of \$10,345 for high school students to attend various off-island summer enrichment programs. Total value of the 2010 scholarships is \$252,095 (List of scholarships and recipients is attached.)

Other presenters included **Dee Baecher-Brown**, CFVI president, who reported on the on-going, long term CFVI initiatives, including the longest running efforts of 14 years of scholarships, mini-grant awards, and the Fatherhood Collaborative. Brown wished all the fathers a "Happy Father's Day" and offered each Dad a Father's Day gift of the Foundation's annual "10 Tips for Fathers" tee shirt. Brown invited the young men and women in attendance to take a tee shirt to their fathers as a Father's Day gift.

Ellie Hirsh, the director of CFVI's early childhood initiative, The Family Connection, reported on some of the current and future projects in the Territory and on the 2009 Kids Count report released May 11, 2010, Best Beginnings Conference held at UVI May 25th through the 28th and the VI Business Leaders Summit on Early Childhood Investment held on St. Croix, June 14th and St. Thomas, June 15th.

Gladys Abraham Elementary School students, escorted by Neomi Toussaint-Williams, performed two drumming numbers at the meeting. Members of the Charlotte Amalie High School Jazz quartet of Tabari Lake, Kai Richardson, Jonte Samuel and Malachi Thomas performed. Kai Richardson, Jonte Samuel and Malachi Thomas are all recipients of academic scholarships from CFVI in 2010. Tabari Lake received a 2010 Windward Capital Summer Scholarship to attend the Interlochen Arts Camp at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan.

Meeting attendees were also treated to displays of art, music and literary projects produced with assistance from CFVI grants. For more information about the meeting or CFVI, please call at 774-6031 or visit the Foundation's website at www.cfvi.net.