



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Summer 2011

Message from the Chairman and President

If you are receiving this newsletter you no doubt have an understanding of what the Community Foundation does and the impact that CFVI has had on the Territory. However not everyone can answer the questions, "What is a community foundation?" and "What does it do?" Specifically, a community foundation serves a geographic area, pools donations in a coordinated way and distributes them according to donors' wishes. Community foundations were designed to encourage philanthropy; donors were relieved of the paperwork often associated with giving. Although the first community foundation was started in 1914 in the US, there are now 1400 worldwide and only one in the Virgin Islands that serves all three islands—CFVI.

CFVI is a truly unique gem in the beautiful waters of the Lesser Antilles. It meets the criteria for a traditional community foundation, but it does so much more. Since its inception, this coordinated effort of philanthropy has grown to an annual giving of \$2 million in grants, scholarships and services. To date, total giving exceeds \$10 million. One aspect that makes CFVI so unique among Community Foundations is that we also run our own programs. Through The Family Connection, CFVI works to improve early childhood programs in the USVI. We also promote volunteerism through the Junior Angels program, responsible parenting through the Fatherhood Collaborative and citizenship through the Virtues Project. We are helping support some novel initiatives such as the VI Gun Buy Back Program and the production of a 13 episode series for TV exploring the marine life of the USVI - just a few examples of our reach. No other non-profit in the VI has touched so many lives. We are proud of our past accomplishments and look forward to a bright future. Join us in our mission to improve the quality of life for EVERY Virgin Islander. Your Community Foundation welcomes your input and support. Thank you for moving us forward. "For Good." "Forever."

Ricardo J. Charaf
Chairman of the Board

Dee Baecher-Brown
President

ANGELS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Each year generous individuals and businesses throughout our community support CFVI through our Angels campaign. CFVI would be incapable of sustaining its programs, let alone tackling new challenges, without these donors – our angels. Angel donations are not only used to run our programs such as The Family Connection and the Mini Grant Program, but also to support CFVI services. CFVI administers the establishment, accounting and maintenance responsibilities for donors who wish to create a fund - FREE OF CHARGE. Currently, CFVI services 108 funds. Can you imagine overseeing 108 checkbooks? We do it, and it's an amazing task.

CFVI can provide this service to the community because of Angel support. Every dollar donated through the Angels campaign directly enriches the lives of our residents through programs. In the past five years, thousands of children have been touched by our childhood education programs. Moreover, hundreds of scholarships have been awarded. Community programs, such as Cancer Support VI, are able to concentrate on their mission rather than being burdened by administrative responsibilities because of Angel support. Every Angel can take credit for helping with the VI Gun Buy Back program and the Caribbean Genealogy Library. No other organization helps so many in our community. Our reach is wide and our story compelling, but this story needs your voice. Our "Angels Make It Happen". The 2012 Angels campaign will begin in September. Please give as an individual, as a family or as a business. CFVI is busy investing in the future of the Virgin Islands. Call and become an Angel today: 340-774-6031.



Pictured: CFVI Angels Mel & Ilene Müller, Mike Perron, Linda Rayner: Zeathea Armstrong with Habitat for Humanity Volunteers and Born Learning Trail ribbon cutting ceremony in St. Croix

Choosing to Get Involved

2011 Annual Meeting With A New Flare

On June 17th the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands held its annual meeting at Columban Hall on St. Thomas. The meeting proved to be one of our most successful. With over 200 people in attendance, the event showcased our community involvement by providing an interactive format where facilitators led table topic discussions. Many of our programs and funds were highlighted, some of which are listed below.

Anderson Family Teacher grants – Since 2002 the Anderson Family Fund for Education at CFVI has awarded more than \$185,000 in teacher grants throughout the Territory. The grants, which range from \$400 to \$1,000, were created to support a wide array of educational enrichment programs. Table hosts: **Steve Morton and Christine Thompson**

Caribbean Genealogy Library Fund – In the year 2000, Mrs. Elisabeth Sharp made a significant donation to CFVI to establish the Caribbean Historic and Genealogic Fund. The purpose was to support the creation and maintenance of a Caribbean Genealogy Library in St. Thomas, and to foster the study of genealogy. The library is currently located in Al Cohen Mall, and is also supported by a second CFVI Fund, the Caribbean Genealogy Library Fund. Table host: **Rob Upson**

CFVI Junior Angels – Introduced in 2004, this program is an initiative of CFVI's Community Service Fund, and seeks to introduce Virgin Islands' youth to the worlds of volunteerism and philanthropy. High school students are partnered with community service agencies for internships exposing the student to opportunities for skill building and personal growth. Table host: **Sue Diverio**



Junior Angels Diamond Ash and Shamari Skelton

Charity Girls – In February 2007, twenty-one Virgin Islands' women formed a group called the Charity Girls and established a fund at CFVI. Their purpose was to raise at least \$10,000 a year to be donated to a cause benefiting women and children. Some grantees who have benefited are the Family Resource Center, Nana Baby Home and Girl Power. Table host: **Debbie K. Davis**

Environmental Fund – This is a newly established field-of-interest fund at CFVI, created by donors to support projects which impact the health of the environment and the quality of life for people living in the Caribbean. Other funds at CFVI which are focused on the environment include the Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Fund and the Edward L. Towle Fund for Sustainable Islands. Table hosts: **Gail Vento and Ziggy Livnat**

Fatherhood Collaborative – Since 1997 the Community Foundation has sponsored the volunteer led Fatherhood Collaborative, providing annual tee shirts for fathers with "Ten Tips for Fathers" and hosting events and presentations to highlight the importance of fathers in the community. Table host: **Judge Ishmael Meyers**

Habitat for Humanity Fund – Established at CFVI to provide technical assistance to Habitat with fiscal management, CFVI has managed over \$100,000 in grants and donations for Habitat free of charge. In 2010, CFVI partnered with Habitat and the Department of Human Services, providing funding for home accessibility renovations for senior citizens living in St. Thomas. Table Host: **Yvette Sutphin**

Horse Rescue & Retirement Fund – Since November 2004, this Fund has provided monies for a program of horse rescue for neglected, abandoned, abused or otherwise unwanted horses and to provide rehabilitation and placement, or retirement, either locally or stateside. Table Host: **Lynn Utech**



KIDS COUNT Director Judith Richardson discusses the project

J. Raymond Jones Fund – In 2010 the Board of Directors of the Jones Holloway Bryan Foundation voted to transfer the assets of the Foundation to CFVI, creating the J. Raymond Jones Fund at CFVI. Consistent with the purposes of the Jones Holloway Bryan Foundation, the fund provides support for studies and activities that enhance the teaching and learning of Science and Math, particularly in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Table Host: **Judy Grybowski**

KIDS COUNT – This program provides data on child well-being in the Territory in an effort to promote dialogue on children's issues and to improve the health, safety and economic status of Virgin Islands' children. The project is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and is part of a network of the 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Table Host: **Judith Richardson**

Laws of Life – The Laws of Life Essay Contest is currently conducted in all public high schools in the Territory. Laws of Life offers teenagers the chance to think and reflect and then write about what they stand for. The contest is a partnership between the Peter & Patricia Gruber Foundation and CFVI. More than \$250,000 has been awarded to thoughtful students in the past 11 years. Table Host: **Bernetia Akin**

Mahogany Legacy – The Mahogany Legacy recognizes those donors who have invested in the future of our community by naming the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands as a beneficiary of their estate plans. Funds benefited by estate plans can support any charitable cause or organization, and can work to benefit the Territory in perpetuity. Table Host: **Norma Levin**

Mini-Grants Program– Since 1997, the Mini-Grant program at CFVI has awarded more than \$404,546 to approximately 630 grantees. CFVI Mini-Grants, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, are provided to organizations or individuals who propose innovative programs which seek to improve the lives of children and families in the Virgin Islands. Table Host: **Penny Feuerzeig**

Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund - Established in 1996, the Nigel O. Hodge Fund has provided information, support, and financial assistance to children afflicted with cancer and other critical illnesses in the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. Table Host: **Josephine Hodge**

Rapid Response Grants Program – Rapid Response provides emergency assistance for children and families with one-time awards of up to \$500 each. Approximately \$200,000 in grants has been provided by the Fund since its inception in 1998. Table Host: **Michael Akin**



Care Ed Learning Center students visited the Born Learning trail

VI Cancer Patient Fund – Established at CFVI in 2005 with a gift from International Capital & Management Co. (ICMC), this fund provides support, education and information to people living with cancer. The fund also assists the uninsured or underinsured VI cancer patients with medical treatment expenses and other required expenses relative to their care. Table Host: **Charlene Kehoe**

VI Gun Buy Back Fund – The Community Foundation received \$10,000 from a donor to pilot a “gun buy back” program in the USVI. The first gun buy backs were held on June 10 & 11 on St. Thomas. A total of 48 guns were turned in, 39 of them illegal. CFVI plans to expand the program to St. John and St. Croix. Table Host: Assistant Commissioner **Raymond Hyndman**

Virtues Project – The Virtues Project is an international initiative focused on building peaceful and caring communities aligned to 52 virtues – such as “compassion,” “integrity,” and “respect.” The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is working in collaboration with the USVI Department of Education, and the Children and Families Council to engage the community in discussion and awareness of the “Virtue of the Week” in schools, child care settings, homes, and workplaces throughout the territory. Table Host: **Donnalie Edwards-Cabey**

Another Banner Year for CFVI Scholarships

Chairperson of the CFVI Scholarship committee, Marie ThomasGriffith, announced at the annual meeting that for 2011 CFVI had awarded a total of 114 scholarships valued at **\$340,750**. Three of those scholarships were awarded for graduate studies and 10 were summer enrichment scholarships given to high school students. She read an excerpt from a report received from one of last year’s scholarship recipients. “Without this scholarship, it would have been difficult for me to attend such a prestigious university. This scholarship opened up the gates for me. I will use this opportunity to remain at the top 15% of my class, to remain a part of activities that stimulate both my creative and academic talent, and to continue to be a leader on campus. This scholarship is the beginning of many great things.”

CFVI was very happy to have several of the scholarship sponsors or their representatives on hand at the annual meeting to greet the recipients. Those present were Norma Levin, Elisabeth Anderson, Ricardo J. Charaf, Trudie Prior, Lana Vento, Josephine Hodge, Bernetia Akin, Lorraine Morton and Thomas Brunt IV.



Thomas Brunt IV with several Heavy Materials scholarship recipients

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ricardo J. Charaf, *Chairman*
Alda Monsanto, *First Vice-Chair*
Marie ThomasGriffith, *Second Vice-Chair*
Victoria B. Saunders, *Secretary*
George H.T. Dudley, *Treasurer*
Pamela B. Berkowsky
Vivek A. Daswani
William L. Graham
Ishmael A. Meyers
Catherine L. Mills
Betty Saks
Margaret Sprauve-Martin
Claire Starkey

Founders

Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman†
Charlotte Kimelman

Honorary Directors

Henry L. Feuerzeig
Penny Feuerzeig

CFVI STAFF

Dee Baecher-Brown, *President*
Aurea Anderson, *Foundation Administrator*
Leah Casteel, *Finance Director*
Mona Charles, *Programs/Executive Assistant*
Beverly Chongasing, *Foundation Director*
Laurel Nuschke, *Development &*
Public Relations Officer

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Physical: 5600 Royal Dane Mall, Ste. 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

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 **\$10 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!

CFVI Thanks Outgoing Board Member Trudie Prior and Welcomes New Member Claire Starkey

Trudie Prior

After having served on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands since 2002, Trudie Prior was recognized at the 2011 annual meeting for her nine years of dedicated service. In the last three years of service on the Board, Trudie held the position of 2nd Vice President and as such served on the Executive Committee of the Board. She also served on the Governance Committee and has been a staunch supporter of The Family Connection initiative and our scholarship program. Since 1997, Mrs. Prior has served as President and General Manager of Coral World Marine Park and Undersea Observatory in St. Thomas. Despite her busy schedule as proprietor of Coral World, she makes time to give back to her community by serving on several Boards to include Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, and the St. Thomas – St. John Hotel and Tourism Association.



Claire Starkey

A marketing and communications specialist, Claire Starkey provides executive leadership and manages strategic and organizational development for Fintrac Inc., an international agribusiness consultancy operating in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Before joining Fintrac in 1990, Claire designed and implemented technical and marketing activities for commercial companies, NGOs and international trade associations. She was also the director of a small business outreach program in the Eastern Caribbean for USAID, and more recently both commencement speaker and recipient of an "Alumni of the Year" award at her alma mater, Daemen College, in Buffalo, New York. She is a former board member of the National Women's Business Association in Washington DC, and has been actively involved in civic affairs for many years. Since relocating to the US Virgin Islands in 2005, she and her husband (Tom Klotzbach) have been avid Family Connection supporters and CFVI Angels, and last year, Claire was a member of the Haiti Advisory Committee for CFVI.



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