



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Summer 2010

Message from Chairman & President

It was a pleasure for the Board of CFVI to host our 2010 Annual Meeting on June 18th at the Columban Hall in St. Thomas and to have the opportunity to meet and greet so many CFVI Fund Donors, Angels, Volunteers, Community partners, Scholarship and Grant recipients and their families. We were delighted to welcome representatives of Medical Air Services Association, who graciously sponsored the meeting. All in attendance were inspired by the outstanding performances and artwork displayed at the meeting by our young Virgin Islanders.

This year, we were thrilled to report that, despite the challenging economic times, CFVI has had our best year ever, providing more than \$1.7 million dollars in grants, scholarships and services and surpassing all prior years. It was the 6th consecutive year that CFVI gave in excess of \$1 million. The 2010 CFVI scholarships were worth more than a quarter million dollars, another record breaking number for CFVI. Our Angels' donations also exceeded our goal of \$450,000.

Thanks to our Fund Donors, Angels, Volunteers, Community partners and a dedicated staff, we can assure you that CFVI is well positioned to meet our current commitments and continue to expand our efforts. With your continued interest, support, and encouragement, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands will continue to grow and serve our community as we approach our Twentieth Anniversary in December 2010.

Ricardo J. Charaf

Dee Baecher-Brown

Our Children Now! How Do We Compare?

The 10th annual **KIDS COUNT** report for the U. S. Virgin Islands, with a profile on the well-being of children and families in the USVI, was released in May 2010. Through **KIDS COUNT**, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) works with community partners to improve the quality of data available, and to encourage the use of data as a tool for planning and positive action on behalf of children and families. Kids Count is funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation located in Baltimore, Maryland.

This year for the first time, **KIDS COUNT USVI** reports on the total number of children living in single parent households, including those headed by a single mother (41.8%) and by a single father (14%). A total of 55.8% of Virgin Islands children are growing up without their second parent in the household. This is an alarming percentage by itself, and in comparison to a national rate of 32%. We also call to your attention the troubling measurement of Early School Risk Assessments of children entering kindergarten (pgs 25-26). At CFVI, we are committed to working for solutions. We are in our 14th year of celebrating fathers with our Fatherhood Recognition and our 5th year of The Family Connection, providing the best foundation for our children by enhancing the early learning environment.

Hassel Island provides spectacular venue for 2010 Angels Gala reception!

The 2010 CFVI Angels Gala was hosted by Josefina and Ricardo J. Charaf at their lovely home, on Hassel Island on April 17, 2010. Over 300 Angels and guests embarked from the Yacht Haven Grand Marina, across the lovely St. Thomas harbor to the evening's festivities. Guests were invited to tour the beautifully renovated estate on historic Hassel Island and were treated to a delicious and plentiful assortment of foods and drinks.



Thanks to our Annual Meeting Sponsor

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Ricardo & Josefina Charaf with Neil Prior

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.

Choosing to Get Involved

Winston Raymo Renovations

The Community Foundation was approached by Foresters, a Canadian Insurance group to assist them in identifying a community project on St. Thomas for approximately 150 of their associates. CFVI identified the Winston Raymo playground which was in a state of disrepair, overgrown with brush and old rusty unusable equipment. CFVI was able to forge a collaborative effort between the Government of the V.I., Foresters and the Community Foundation. Nine months of close work and coordination resulted in a beautiful state of the art playground for the children of the community. In addition to Foresters' donation of more than \$40,000 toward the project, there were two days of magnificently coordinated hard labor by Forester's volunteers, CFVI staff and DPNR contractors to bring the project to completion. New playground equipment, special activities for preschoolers, and a gazebo were installed along with thousands of dollars worth of landscaping, in hopes of bringing the neighborhood children and families back to the park.



New and Improved



Abandoned Playground

Born Learning Trails

The newly renovated Raymo playground now features our latest Born Learning Trail. The six new colorful trail signs were the perfect finishing touch to the playground and will provide parents with suggested activities to engage in with their children while at the park and elsewhere.

Kids First! will sponsor a portable Born Learning Trail for use on the island of St. John. These signs will be available in the Fall for use at various activities around the island of St. John.

Business Summits

CFVI sponsored V.I. Business Summits on Early Childhood Investment on June 14th (St. Croix) and June 15th (St. Thomas) in collaboration with the St. Croix and St. Thomas/ St. John Chambers of Commerce, the Dept. of Human Services, the Governor's Children and Families Council and The Pew Charitable Trusts. More than 100 leaders from the community participated in sessions with national and local experts on the importance of investing in early childhood education. Local speakers included the Governor and First Lady, and attorney George H.T. Dudley, Treasurer of CFVI's Board. Ellie Hirsh, director of The Family Connection, provided the leaders with statistics from the 2009 USVI Kids Count Data Book and gave a compelling analysis of the current state of early childhood education in the Territory. National experts who had traveled to the USVI to participate in the Summit were:

- ◆ Dr. Ross Thompson, professor of Psychology from the University of California, spoke about the growth and development of the brain in early childhood;
- ◆ Rob Grunewald, associate economist at Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, stressed the importance of investing in EARLY education for the nation's future economic health;
- ◆ Lloyd Lamm, investment banker and member of the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission, encouraged business leaders to spend money on early education for returns of up to \$16 for every \$1 spent.
- ◆ Sara Watson, director of the Partnership for America's Economic Success at The Pew Charitable Trusts presented successful models used in other communities mobilizing businesses to advocate for proven investments in young children.

Those who would like more information about the Business Summits or would like to get involved in the follow-up activities, contact CFVI at 774-6031.

Haitian Relief Fund

The Haitian Relief Fund was established at CFVI in January, two days after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and has collected more than \$160,000 since its inception. It was determined early on that the majority of donations received would be steered towards the health sector— with flights of medical supplies and personnel immediately following the earthquake. Now that the emergency flights have ended, a committee has been appointed by CFVI to serve as advisors to this fund: Yanick Bayard, Hans Oriol, Claire Starkey, Donnalie Edwards-Cabey, Michele Baker and Carmen Partridge.

The Committee has prioritized health, food, housing and education as the essential areas to continue to support. Some specific projects included:

- ◇ Continued support of capacity building efforts at The Haitian Community Hospital,
- ◇ Support for a youth-program in Haiti provided by the YWCA, with schooling and psycho-social assistance to children, and
- ◇ A partnership with Fintrac, USVI, to implement a project with a farmer's group to help increase their crop's yield, and food availability and incomes in the area.

CFVI Highlights: Programs, Funds, Grants & Scholarships

CFVI awards record number of academic scholarships in 2010...

At the annual meeting held June 18th at Columban Hall in St. Thomas, CFVI awarded 90 academic and summer scholarships totaling \$242,095 to Virgin Islands students pursuing degrees in higher education, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, and for high school students to attend summer enrichment programs. Among the awards given were 5 newly established scholarships.

◆ A group of St. Thomas physicians who were graduates of the Charlotte Amalie High School, established the **CAHS PHYSICIAN ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP** of \$5,000 per year to be awarded to a CAHS graduate who has been accepted to, or attending an accredited U.S. medical school. This scholarship was awarded to Malori Callender who is a 2004 graduate of CAHS and a 2008 honor graduate of UVI. Ms. Callender is pursuing her M.D. at Boston University School of Medicine and is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

◆ The **CYNTHIA DE HAYNES HEALTH SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP** in the amount of \$3,000, was established to assist any Virgin Islands student pursuing graduate studies in alternative medicine, pharmacy or nursing. The 2010 recipient of this award is Ali Kareem. Mr. Kareem is a '04 graduate of St. Croix Central High School and a '09 graduate of UVI with a B.S. in biology. He is pursuing a Masters of Pain Research Education from Tufts Medical School and a Masters of Acupuncture from the New England School of Acupuncture. Mr. Kareem plans on returning to the Territory upon graduation.

◆ Two **RICHARD NOEL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIPS** in the amount of \$1,000 each to be awarded to graduating seniors, GED graduates or undergraduate college students pursuing a degree program in public relations, ministry or communications. Recipients of these awards were Haley Allick, a 2009 graduate of St. Croix Educational Complex and Kandace Mitchell a 2010 graduate of Antilles School. Allick is attending Stetson University in DeLand, Florida and Mitchell will be attending American University in Washington DC this fall.

◆ The **VIRGIN ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS (VIALA) SCHOLARSHIP**, established to provide a \$1,000 educational scholarship to a graduating high school senior with financial need, was awarded to Asha Joseph, a 2010 graduate of CAHS who will attend Emory University to study pediatrics.



Norma Levin Presents Award to Re'Neesha Thomas



CAHS Jazz Musicians

In addition to these new scholarships, CFVI was very happy to announce that the sponsor of the two **A9/VI Recycling Scholarships** had doubled their scholarship awards to \$5,000 each. The recipients of these awards are Dylan Jobsis-Rossignol of STT, a graduate of Antilles School who will be attending the University of Miami and Lynisha Farrell of STX, a graduate of Central High School who will be attending UVI.

A treat was provided for all at the Annual Meeting by four talented CFVI award recipients who entertained the crowd with their jazz performance. The quartet featured students Jonte Samuel who is headed to Berklee College of Music, Malachi Thomas - Oberlin University and Kai Richardson - New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. The fourth member was CAHS Junior, Tabari Lake who was awarded a grant to attend the Interlochen Jazz Summer Program.

St. Croix Scholar Awards Luncheon

Thirty two St. Croix students pursuing degrees in higher education were the guests of CFVI at a luncheon on June 22nd at Tutto Bene Café in St. Croix where they were presented with various

academic scholarships. Guest speaker at the Luncheon was Dr. Roderick Moorehead who reminded the students that "In the long run, character is more important than intellect". He urged the recipients to stay true to basic core values such as honesty, loyalty and dependability. Awards were presented to the students by Lt. Gov. Gregory Francis, CFVI Board Secretary Victoria Saunders, and CFVI president Dee Baecher-Brown.

More New Funds at CFVI...

- **J. Raymond Jones Fund** provides financial support to foster excellence in the field of mathematics and the natural sciences for resident students and teachers of the Virgin Islands.
- **John Arthur Swinson Family Fund** will provide monies to support the building of a chapel at the new All Saints Cathedral School campus.
- **Milan & Alik Glumidge Scholarship Fund** will provide scholarships to students pursuing an interest in the hospitality and/or the culinary arts.



Lt. Gov. Francis, Jahdel Jules

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Caribbean Philanthropy Network (CPN) Symposium Wraps Up Ford Foundation Project

Representatives from some of the region's leading organizations met on St. Thomas for a three-day symposium on promoting and enhancing philanthropy throughout the Caribbean. The project was the culmination of a two year initiative made possible through a grant to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands from the Ford Foundation.

CPN papers presented at the Symposium included:

Philanthropy, Civil Society and NGO's - an overview of the dimensions of the NGO/civil society sector in the insular, English-speaking Caribbean, Aubrey W. Webson; Perkins School for the Blind. Webson stressed that we must find a way to reconnect with Caribbean peoples who left during the 60's and 70's so that they may contribute to the development of their homelands in the Caribbean

Philanthropy, Civil Society and the Diaspora in the Caribbean, a look at the Diaspora and its role in philanthropy in the Caribbean, written by Karen Johns and presented by Sonia Barnes Moorhead, who gave an overview of the Caribbean Diaspora and the active involvement in "giving back."

Philanthropy, Civil Society, and Law in the Caribbean. a preliminary overview of the legal framework supporting philanthropy and the nonprofit sector in the insular Caribbean prepared by Judith A. Towle, William S. Moody and Adrian J.L. Randall. Judith Towle, Island Resources Foundation vice-president and Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellow, Bill Moody, discussed the need for creating a legal framework for philanthropy applicable throughout the region. The framework should include good governance techniques, financial sustainability provisions and codes for accountability and transparency.

The Caribbean Philanthropic Status Report which was completed during the first year of the CPN project by Eugene Miller, Center for the Study of Philanthropy, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York. The report has since been shared with more than 300 organizations who had participated in the study as well as other interested parties.

Other participants and presenters at the symposium included Douglas Rutzen, President of International Center for Not-for-Profit Law; Tom Olsen, UNICEF country representative Barbados and Eastern Caribbean; Debra Morris, Assistant Director of Legal Studies at Cayman Islands Law School; Michael O'Neal, former President of Lavity Stout College, BVI; Arlene Bailey Franklin, Executive Director, Anguilla Community Foundation; Allison Haynes Wilson, Deputy Executive Director of Servol, Trinidad and Tobago; Nicole W. Sharpe former Executive Director, University of the West Indies Development & Endowment Fund; Tiphane Yanick, author; USVI participants included CPN Board Chair Catherine L. Mills; Donnalie Edwards-Cabey, president of YWCA; Lana and Gail Vento of the Vento Charitable Trust; Claire Starkey of Fintrac; Henry U. Wheatley, Wheatley Realty Corp; Ellie Hirsh, Director, TFC; and Dee Brown, CFVI President.



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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 \$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!