



# Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

SUMMER 2012

## Message from the Chairman and the President

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to provide this semi-annual newsletter from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) to all our friends and supporters. Inside you will find some highlights of the past six months, with a special emphasis on the Community Foundation's work with non-profits across the Territory. At the Foundation's Annual Meeting on June 15, we were joined by representatives from more than 20 Community Organizations who provided information and displays of their work on behalf of the Virgin Islands. Much of our joy in the work of CFVI is the opportunity to partner with so many service providers and donors in our beautiful islands.

To the right are some photos from the Foundation's 2012 Thank You Celebration of our Angels. CFVI Angels are those individuals who provide annual gifts — ranging from \$500 to \$15,000 — which support all that we do. Thanks to Angels, the Community Foundation can administer children's programs and assist patients with cancer, support a theatre production or a marching band, purchase a wheelchair or help a struggling family with a rent payment. Because of Angels, CFVI is able to provide our services free of charge; help to establish many programs; provide administrative support to non-profits; manage over 100 funds and scholarships; and provide hundreds of grants for a wide range of community causes.

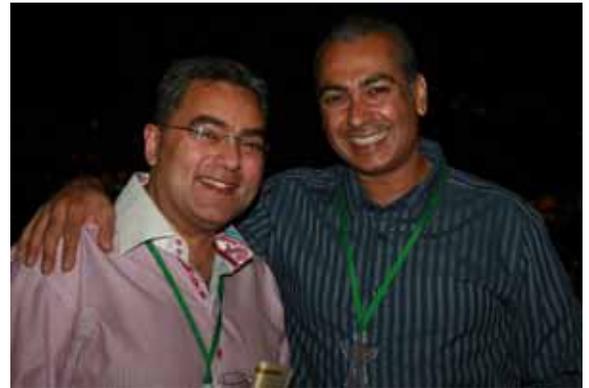
To understand the importance of CFVI Angels, you should know that in the first ten years the Foundation gave away a total of \$400,000. The CFVI Angels network started in 1999, and since then the Foundation has given away **more than \$14.5 million** in grants, scholarships and services. As our Angel network has grown, so has our ability to help. The Foundation's current giving level is **\$2 million a year**.

To be an Angel you can call CFVI or visit our website. Our 2013 campaign begins next month! Please do consider joining this wonderful network.

*Ricardo J. Charaf*  
Chairman of the Board

*Dee Baecher-Brown*  
President

## *Thank you* **2012 CFVI ANGELS**



*Haresh Mirpuri and Monesh Mohanani*



*Left to right: Kim Holdsworth, Jeri Flood, Billie Hodges, Varsha Mirpuri, Whitney Walter, Heenu Mohanani*



*Rev. Jeff and Mrs. Kelly Neevel*

*Choosing to Get Involved*

CFVI has been a leader in strengthening the community through our grants. Two of our long-standing programs — Mini Grants for 16 years and Anderson Teacher Grants for 11 years — have supported innovative programs in our community and in the classroom. To date, the Mini-Grant Program has provided \$426,620 to more than 660 projects of community organizations, schools and individuals who propose innovative programs that benefit children and families. This year the mini-grant program awarded \$21,800 in 30 grants. The programs included school gardening, workshops for the college application process, a volleyball clinic, CPR training, theater and art summer camps, and an intergenerational program where students work on sewing projects with senior citizens.

Anderson Teacher Grants have provided more than \$180,000 to public school teachers in grants which were used to enhance learning opportunities for students. Visit our website at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net) for an update on the availability of this grant.



*Ulla F. Muller School Gardening — St. Thomas*



*Coral Week Discovery UVI — St. Thomas*



*STAR Summer Theatre Program — St. Croix*

### Adaptive Tennis for Special Ed kids

Nonprofit Mary's Family offered its first tennis lessons for Special Education students at the Julius Sprauve School on Tuesday, thanks to a Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands mini-grant.

Caneel Bay tennis pro Eric Gessner was among Tuesday's volunteers.

Why tennis?

"It crosses the midline of your brain, allowing the brain to communicate properly and is considered one of the most successful adaptive physical education activities for kids with neuro challenges, says Martha Toomey, who spearheaded the idea for weekly lessons, and who has worked with disability groups in the past.

"I started adaptive sports programs in Virginia where our kids were in a ski program, but there's not a lot of snow on St. John."

Wanna help out? They're looking for volunteers to play, tennis balls, rackets and cold water for starters.

*Mary's Family Adaptive Tennis — St. John*

Approximately 200 donors, grantees, scholarship recipients and community partners attended the CFVI 2012 Annual Meeting & Community Organizations Fair on June 15 at the MCM Center at Antilles School on St. Thomas. Guests were invited to visit displays of the community organizations and encouraged to sign up to volunteer. Among the groups participating in the fair included: My Brother's Workshop, The Humane Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Therapy Association & Disabilities Advocate, Clear Blue Sky, Catholic Charities and the Environmental Association of STT-STJ.



*Christina Luton speaks to guests about the work of My Brother's Workshop.*

CFVI Chairman of the Board, Ricardo J. Charaf, reported that in the past year the Foundation distributed almost **\$2,000,000 in grants, scholarships and services**. Assets of CFVI currently total more than \$7.5 million. Since the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands was founded in 1990, more than \$14.5 million has been provided to the Territory — St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

Charaf noted that while we are facing economic turmoil at the local and national level, the financial position of CFVI remains strong, thanks to the generous support of CFVI Angels and Fund Donors. Katie Zaytoun, director of Dancing Classrooms VI, introduced a team of dancers from the Bertha B. Boschulte Middle School and spoke of how the Community Foundation had been able to step in and provide technical support at the start of this school year when her program lost critical funding. She credited CFVI with saving the program. Another highlight was the Virtues Project, an effort which the Community Foundation introduced 18 months ago. The Virtues Project is an international initiative focused on building peaceful and caring communities aligned to 52 virtues, such as "compassion," "integrity," "respect." Shawntay Henry, a college student and former CFVI Junior Angel, read a poem about Virtues which had been written by local a poet, the late **Jermaine "Ras Koniyah" Pemberton**.



*Tammy shows off a pet-in-waiting at the Humane Society display.*

Alda Monsanto, chair of the Governance Committee welcomed three new board members: **Filippo Cassinelli, Lawrence Kupfer** and **Trudie Prior**. Monsanto acknowledged the contributions of Judge Ishmael Meyers who has left the CFVI board, having served nine years — the maximum length of service.



*2012 Scholarship Recipients*

Marie ThomasGriffith, chair of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, announced the award of 85 academic scholarships totaling **\$271,803** to Virgin Islands students, including undergraduate, graduate and high school students participating in summer enrichment programs. CFVI also awarded three scholarships on behalf of the Government Employees Retirement System (GERS).

## The Family Connection

OUR ST. THOMAS TFC CENTER HAS MOVED TO  
TUTU PARK MALL

COME VISIT!

WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING!!!!

## 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*  
Filippo Cassinelli  
Vivek A. Daswani  
William L. Graham  
Lawrence Kupfer  
Catherine L. Mills  
Trudie J. Prior  
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*  
Esther Caraballo, *Executive Assistant*  
Beverly Chongasing, *Foundation Director*  
Leah George, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Laurel Nuschke, *Development Officer*  
Mona Quetel, *Office/Programs Assistant*

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## About CFVI. . .

In 1990 the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) began with a \$540,000+ gift from Henry and 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 \$14.5 million, over 24 times the value of our founding donation, in grants, awards, and scholarships. Today, CFVI's assets are at \$7.5 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!**

## Laws of Life

The 12th Annual Laws of Life Award celebrations were held in May. "Laws of Life" is a character education contest in the public schools, funded by a grant of \$36,000 to CFVI from Peter and Patricia Gruber. Students at each public high school — St. Croix Central, St. Croix Educational Complex, Charlotte Amalie and Ivanna Eudora Kean participated. Schools were encouraged to incorporate this program into their curricula, and students were urged to write about their personal laws of life — core values that transcend time, religion, culture and national boundaries. A total of 90 students received cash awards for their winning essays, selected by a panel of 30 anonymous judges on St. Croix and St. Thomas. Teachers also received cash prizes in recognition of their role in the program.

In past years, Laws of Life was a partnership between CFVI and the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation. In May 2011, the Grubers created the **Gruber Foundation at Yale University** dedicated to the advancement of science, support of young scientists, global justice, and women's rights. The Gruber Foundation will succeed The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation, originally established in the USVI in 1993.

It is an honor for CFVI to partner with the Grubers and their impressive local, national and global philanthropy.



*St. Croix Essay Contest Winners*



*St. Thomas Essay Contest Winners*



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