

What is a Community Foundation?

The many community foundations throughout the nation share an understanding that every community has the potential to raise and invest funds, using the earnings as grants to enhance the well-being of their community.

The **Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI)** began in 1990 with \$500,000 in start-up money to create a permanent investment fund to benefit the VI people and nonprofit organizations. Today, after hundreds of local citizens have added their gifts, our assets have grown to over \$5 million. Within the past year, CFVI provided grants, awards and scholarships of **over \$1.2 million** to the people of St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island.

Anyone can join in. Perhaps you have an area of special interest or concern? Your gift to CFVI can help meet today's needs. And those donors choosing to create a permanently invested fund will empower their gift to grow and meet tomorrow's needs too — thereby becoming a legacy for the territory's future.

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Newsletter

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands
CFVI

December, 2006

Message from the Chairman and the President

In 2006, new initiatives, programs, and an additional \$1.5 million in CFVI assets have all strengthened our outreach and impact in the community.

We've been active this year!

CFVI donated \$1.2 million to help address needs throughout the territory, benefiting thousands of Virgin Islanders:

- **\$140,000+** for **scholarships, student internships and mini-grants** to USVI residents throughout the territory
- **\$150,000+** in **direct grants to teachers, schools and libraries:** the *Public Education Partnership* at Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School, a renovated parent/teacher meeting room at Charlotte Amalie High School, the annual *Laws of Life* awards to high school students, *Anderson Teacher Grants*, and *dictionaries and thesauruses* for USVI 3rd and 7th graders
- **\$300,000+** in **grants and services for community projects:** *Habitat for Humanity*, *Magens Bay Watershed Preserve*, *Charlotte Amalie Restoration Effort*, *Caribbean Genealogy Library*, *USVI Directory of Community Organizations*
- **\$110,000+** in **grants for health:** *family emergency grants, cancer patient and elderly assistance, pediatric equipment, the Charaf heliport* at Schneider Regional Medical Center
- **\$375,000+** in **grants and services for youth and family programs:** *after-school and summer activities, enhanced foster care, advocacy work for children and families, early childhood education, including The Family Connection.*



Donation of multi-functional wheelchair from the Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund

For all the support from our friends and donors, CFVI is deeply appreciative!

Ricardo J. Charaf, chairman
Dee Baecher-Brown, president

Upcoming Events for 2007

Mini-grant applications - February	Anderson Teacher Grants applications - August
Scholarship applications - February	Kick-off of 2008 Angels Drive - Fall '07
Thesauruses to 7th graders - March	Drury Impact Grant applications - October
Angels "Thank You" reception - April 14th	Dictionaries to 3rd graders - October
Laws of Life awards - May	KIDS COUNT '07 presentation - December
Father's Night Out - June 13th	
CFVI annual meeting - June 22nd	
CFVI annual report - June	

CFVI Ongoing Initiative: KIDS COUNT 2006

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has a number of initiatives designed to engage community partners in finding effective solutions to areas of need in the territory. We have a long-term commitment to these initiatives, and to their potential to address root causes of ongoing community concerns.



The 7th annual USVI **KIDS COUNT Data Book 2006**, titled **“Our Children Now! Prosperity in the Future,”** was published in December 2006.

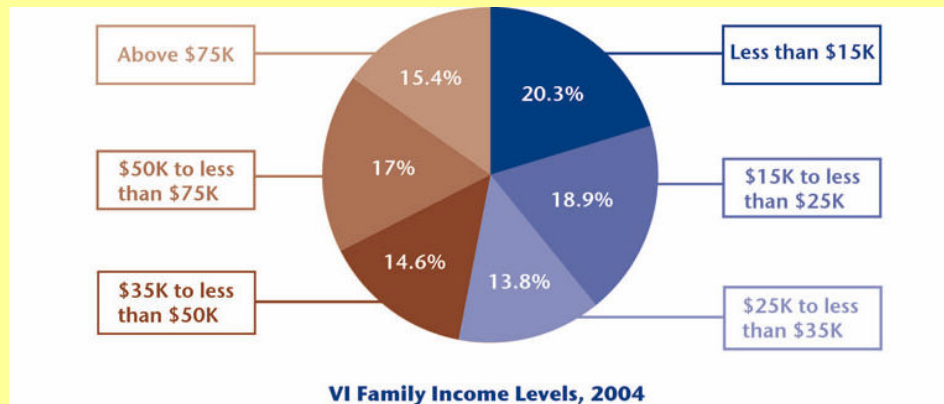
Brand new charts provide a multi-year snapshot of VI children from the 1990’s to 2004, and trends in USVI child well-being are documented: the good news, as well as challenges.

Through KIDS COUNT, CFVI is working with community partners to move child and family advocacy in the USVI from a field that relied primarily on anecdote and ideology, toward strategies driven by facts, evidence, analysis, results, and heightened standards of political and public accountability for children and families.

Q: Why does persistent child poverty in the USVI matter?

Children growing up in impoverished households are at higher risk of family stress, abuse and neglect, and of falling behind in school. They are at higher risk of teen pregnancy, chronic medical conditions, depression, substance abuse, violent crime, low workplace skills, and welfare dependency.

Economic Well-Being of Families



Community Foundation
of the Virgin Islands

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

phone: 340.774.6031
fax: 340.774.3852

email: dbrown@cfvi.net

www.cfvi.net

For your free copy of the **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book 2006** call CFVI (340-774-6031), or access the report on our website, www.cfvi.net.

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book 2006** is also available online at www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi (also known as **CLIKS**), an interactive online database of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** is part of a national initiative, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to create a detailed community by community picture of the condition of children nationwide.

CFVI New Program: The Family Connection Center



CFVI Board member Alda Monsanto, in front of the TFC Center entrance

We have something new to celebrate!

The Family Connection (TFC) was initiated in 2003 by the CFVI Board of Directors. The long-term goal of TFC is to enrich the early childhood environment of the Territory. **On October 14th, CFVI celebrated the opening of The Family Connection Center** in Vitracó Mall, St. Thomas. The work of TFC has begun!

The TFC Center is designed to provide training programs, networking and resource tools to early child care providers, early education professionals and parents of young children. The TFC Center's professional staff and consultants offer planning and workshop assistance to enhance daycare providers'

knowledge and professional understanding of child development. They will also provide assistance to caregivers working on their Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) and in attaining national accreditation through the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The first NAEYC meetings have already taken place in both St. Thomas and St. Croix.

At the opening celebration of the TFC Center, **Hop, Skip and Jump** donors were recognized for their vision in supporting this initiative. The **Jump** donors recognized were: Josefina and Ricardo J. Charaf, Driehaus Capital Management, J. Epstein VI Foundation, Betty Saks and Bart Kavanaugh, Trudie and Neil Prior, and Henry U. Wheatley; the Cassinelli Family and A.H. Riise were recognized for **Two Skips and a Hop**; Penny and Hank Feuerzeig, Ursula and Bill Graham, and Kim Holdsworth and Bob Schmidt were acknowledged for their **Skip** donations; and Alexander A. Farrelly Milestone Fund, B & W Realty, Dee and Richard Brown, FirstBank Virgin Islands, Sharon and Fred Hupprich, Marylee and Joe Papa, and Topa Properties were recognized for their **Hop** donations. Many **Buddy** donors were thanked as well for their donations to the TFC Center.

The **TFC Center** has a book, toy, teaching-aid and video lending library, and teaches the materials' use in local daycare settings. The **TFC Center** offers use of its technical equipment, a start-up database of VI child care providers, and a venue for child care providers' networking and training sessions. The **TFC Center** is supported by community-raised funds and most resources are provided free.

Please contact the TFC Center at 777-0990 for more information.



TFC Center 's Library



At The Family Connection Center opening on October 14, 2006, CFVI chairman Ricardo Charaf, (left) presents a **Jump Donor** award to fellow Board member Betty Saks (center) and Bart Kavanaugh (right) of South Bay Partners. Beth Marshall (rear) is the director of the TFC Center.

Interested in helping The Family Connection Center make a difference in the community?

CFVI is seeking pledges from donors who can Hop, Skip or Jump!

Jump donors:
\$50,000 a year for 3 years

Skip donors:
\$10,000 a year for 3 years

Hop donors:
\$5,000 a year for 3 years

Buddy donors:
Up to \$5,000 a year

Contact:
CFVI
340.774.6031

or

The Family Connection Center
340.777.0990

or speak to any CFVI Board Member (listed on page 6)

2006-2007 Directory of Community Organizations

The 2006-2007 Directory of Community Organizations, made possible by the South Bay Partners Fund, is now available at CFVI.

The Directory serves to connect the vital services provided by non-profits and other community organizations to the people of the Virgin Islands.

To obtain a copy, please contact CFVI at 774-6031 or visit our website, www.cfvi.net

How to establish a Fund at CFVI

A named fund may be established by a family, individual or corporation with a gift of \$10,000 given once, or over five years. The process and paperwork are straight-forward, and donors report that the results are tremendously satisfying.

You decide the fund's grant-making purpose and if the principal may be distributed. From here, CFVI works to make your philanthropy worry-free.

CFVI takes care of grant paperwork, auditing, accounting and reporting. Most importantly, you will have joined hundreds of others who have ensured that their giving will benefit our community in perpetuity.

To discuss opening a fund, please call
Dee Baecher-Brown
at 340-774-6031.

CFVI Highlights: 2006

CFVI has expanded outreach throughout the year. Allocations from our 80+ named Funds have supported active, broad-based annual undertakings, and directly supported specific projects and grants benefiting the Territory's residents. Generous gifts made in '06 by CFVI Angels provided supplemental grants and community-based services, and have underwritten the staff support behind all CFVI's work.

Clearwater Fund for Youth

Charlotte Amalie High School received a \$20,000 donation in June for the purchase of athletic equipment. "We chose CAHS as our beneficiary because a couple of our employees are CAHS grads, and they helped us see the school's need," said Chief Operating Officer of Clearwater Consulting Concepts, Kirk Boeger. The Clearwater Fund is dedicated to helping USVI youth.

Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund

The NOH Fund, which honors the memory of 11 year old Nigel O. Hodge, celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 19th at a gala talent and recognition luncheon held at the Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort.

In June, the NOH Fund donated and delivered a \$2,325 multi-functional wheelchair to a 15 year old young woman with multiple disabilities. "We are very excited because we know she will be able to get around a lot more comfortably and safely," explained the fund donor, Mrs. Josephine Hodge.

The Fatherhood Collaborative

Two seminars in October brought members of community health and social service agencies together to learn "The Importance of Including Fathers in Children's Health."

Attendees learned how to improve communications with fathers and remove existing barriers to getting fathers involved in the lives of their children. Held on St. Thomas and St. Croix, the seminars were sponsored by partners *Virgin Islands Perinatal Inc. (VIPI)* and *The Family Connection*, in association with CFVI's Fatherhood Collaborative.

C.A.R.E. Fund (Charlotte Amalie Revitalization Effort Fund)

In November, a hedge of *Ficus* trees was planted along the south edge of Western Cemetery, enhancing a long portion of busy Veteran's Drive and providing more privacy for residents making visits to the cemetery. The

landscaping project is a commitment of CARE, a community group spearheading restoration, beautification, and economic revitalization efforts in St. Thomas' historic downtown.

Habitat for Humanity USVI Fund

The fund, created in 2004, supports some of Habitat for Humanity's operating and other expenses that will help make possible the first Habitat for Humanity home in the Virgin Islands. On November 4th, Habitat volunteers and community members gathered to break ground for that home in the Garden Street area.

Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation Fund

Formerly the Peter Gruber Foundation Fund, this fund is now named for Peter and Patricia Gruber. Chairman Peter Gruber explained that he wanted the Foundation name to reflect the collaborative philanthropic work of the husband and wife team. This fund sponsors the annual *Laws of Life* essay contest in public high schools in the USVI.



First Place Laws of Life winners from St. Croix Central High School
(photo courtesy of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation)

Vivienne and Richard Silver Fund

A new fund created in November 2006, the general purpose of the fund is to provide monies to enhance the educational, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the residents of the Virgin Islands. Donors Vivienne and Rick Silver have a special interest in the area of child advocacy.

CFVI Highlights continue on page 6

What is a CFVI Angel?

Angels are the Foundation of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

CFVI charges NO fees for the establishment, maintenance and administration of CFVI's funds, so that 100% of a fund donor's contribution goes to the purposes of the Fund!

Generous **Angel** contributions support *all* of the funds, as well as the ongoing work by CFVI's staff to initiate and support programs and services that meet the diverse needs of the people of the US Virgin Islands.

Angel gifts support all we do in the community. *CFVI counts on our Angels!*

Who are CFVI Angels?

Angels are those essential people in the life of CFVI who make annual gifts of \$500 or more. People from all walks of life are CFVI **Angels**.

All CFVI's Angels for 2007 are invited to be honored at a gala evening of celebration, the Angel 2007 Spring Reception



2006 CFVI Angel Reception

Angels make possible:

- Management of **over 80 named funds**, with combined endowment of over \$5 million
- Development and administration of **\$1.2 million in grants, scholarships and direct services**, with more than 1,000 grants impacting thousands of Virgin Islanders. Grants range in size from \$25 to \$50,000
- Development and administration of **13 grant programs and 11 scholarship programs**
- Planning and oversight of **15 community projects** addressing needs such as building homes for low-income families, building a playground at a foster children's home, renovating a high school's teacher/parent room, creating a Caribbean genealogy library
- Addressing community challenges by identifying and implementing long-term solutions, such as the **KIDS COUNT USVI Data Book**, and **The Family Connection** for early childhood learning enhancement.

Can we count on you as a CFVI Angel?

- \$10,000 **Ten Carat Diamond Angel**
- \$7,500 **Diamond Angel**
- \$5,000 **Platinum Angel**
- \$2,500 **Gold Angel**
- \$500 **Silver Angel**

Our Angel numbers continue to grow:
 hundreds of community members were our much appreciated Angels in 2006!

How does 'Planned Giving' work?

Generally, planned gifts are made through a bequest in a will, a charitable trust or annuity, a gift of real estate, personal property (stocks or bonds), or life insurance.

Including CFVI in your planned giving provides you the opportunity to strengthen the territory's families and children.

A planned gift can empower an individual to make a larger gift than originally thought possible. Often, current income and estate taxes can be reduced.

Planned gifts can be designated by the donor directly to CFVI, or to a chosen fund endowment.

Giving for Life: The Mahogany Society

The Mahogany Society recognizes donors investing in the community by naming CFVI as a beneficiary of their estate plans.

Estate plan funds can benefit the territory in perpetuity, becoming a legacy for our community's future.

We will be honored to add your name.

Board of Directors

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 Aurea Anderson
Financial Administrator
 Michelle Joshua, *Office Manager*
 Doris Pomeranz
Director, Operations & Programs
 Maria C. Santos
Director, Donor & Public Relations

CFVI Highlights (continued from page 4)



**Students at Central High School
 reap the benefits of a 2005
 Anderson Teacher Grant**

**Anderson Family Fund
 for Education**

In November, \$20,328 was awarded in Anderson Family Teacher Grants to 34 St. Thomas and St. Croix public school teachers.

The annual grants are for special projects and programs designed to expand and enrich student learning in the teachers' classrooms.

In the five years since its creation the Fund has awarded over **\$100,000** in grants to public school teachers in the USVI.

JMP Foundation Fund

This donor-advised fund was created by Joe Papa and Marylee Pratinicki in 2006 to enhance the educational, physical, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the U. S. Virgin Islands.

VI Junior Golf Fund

This field-of-interest fund was created in 2006 to support golf programs for public school students. A summer junior golf program provided transportation for children where this was a barrier to participation.

**Judith A. Towle Environmental
 Studies Fund**

The fund supports environmental studies and activities addressing shared environmental issues in the Eastern Caribbean. The 2006 Judith A. Towle Environmental Studies Grant was awarded to the Friends of the VI National Park to support the Virgin Islands National Park's 50th Anniversary Conference on Marine and Terrestrial Scientific Research.



**Community Foundation
 of the Virgin Islands**

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

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