

Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIGEL O. HODGE FOUNDATION FUND AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DONATES TREADMILL AND HEALTH EQUIPMENT TO THE LOCKHART SCHOOL

(St. Thomas, VI) - The Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) will donate approximately \$650 in equipment to the physical education department at Lockhart School on Monday, February 26 at 8:30 a.m., announced CFVI's President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

"The equipment includes a treadmill and two gazelles. Recognizing the importance of helping children stay active, we are very excited about being able to make this donation to the physical education department at Lockhart School. We will be presenting the health related equipment at the School's Black History Month Assembly on Monday at 8:30 a.m.," explained the Fund donor, Ms. Josephine Hodge.

Ms. Hodge added that, "An adult walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, February 24th starting at 7:00 a.m. where members, friends and supporters of the Nigel O. Hodge Fund will walk from Emancipation Garden to Brewers Bay Beach to commemorate Nigel's birthday."

Since its establishment in 1996, the Nigel O. Hodge Fund has provided information, support, and financial assistance to children afflicted with cancer and critical illnesses in the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. With the cooperation of American Airlines "Miles for Kids" and donations of "frequent flyer miles" from members of the community, the NOH Fund has also helped sick children and their families save thousands of dollars in travel costs to get medical treatments not available at home.

Nigel, a sixth grader had come home from school complaining of a lump under his arm. Two weeks later doctors diagnosed him with Hodgkin's disease. Just 38 days after his first symptoms appeared, Nigel was dead. After his death, it was determined Nigel was given repeated doses of the wrong type of chemotherapy. Determined Nigel's death would not be in vain, the Hodge family created the Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund at CFVI using monies from a wrongful death lawsuit.

Donations to the Nigel O. Hodge Fund will provide additional resources to help children with cancer and other critical illnesses in the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. The funds are used to provide support for medical treatment and transportation for treatment not available in the USVI.

If you would like to make a donation to the Nigel O. Hodge Foundation Fund or for more information about CFVI's more than 80 named funds please call CFVI at 774-6031.

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