

Media Release

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June 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNOUNCES 2007 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) held its annual meeting on June 22nd at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort where CFVI's Chairman of the Board, Ricardo J. Charaf announced that the Foundation gave more than \$1,200,000 to the community during the past year in the form of grants, scholarships and services.

This past year the Foundation received additional monies from individuals, families and businesses to establish 16 new funds. In the past twelve months CFVI also awarded 42 mini-grants, 35 teacher grants and provided funding and support for a wide variety of community enhancement programs and initiatives. In 2006, CFVI also celebrated the opening of The Family Connection (TFC) Center on St. Thomas, published their 2nd bi-annual Directory of Community Organizations and their 7th annual KIDS COUNT report for the USVI, sponsored the 7th annual Laws of Life essay contest for high school students and distributed dictionaries and thesauruses to 3rd and 7th graders throughout the Territory. And the list goes on . . .

Ricardo J. Charaf delivered a report to an audience of more than 150 donors, supporters, and grant and scholarship recipients gathered at the Foundation's annual meeting at Frenchman's Reef.

Charaf announced that this year, thirty-eight university students were awarded 53,000 in scholarships by donor-advised funds, permanently established scholarships at CFVI, community members and organizations.

Thad Lettsome received the Coral World Scholarship, which awards scholarships to Virgin Island students pursuing science degrees at accredited colleges or universities, with a particular focus on students interested in the marine sciences.

Rhashaunda Charles of St. Thomas received the Artrelle M. Wheatley Scholarship, which grants one-year's full tuition to the University of the Virgin Islands.

The Theodore E. Sharp Scholarship, given to students who demonstrate community service, was awarded to Dynce Boyce of St. Croix.

The Tunick Family Business Scholarship was awarded to Erica Donovan to attend the University of the Virgin Islands.

The following 9 students received Anna Walsh scholarships of \$1,000 each for academic achievement: Shenelle Donovan, Alani Gregory, Amad Martin, Jacinda Palmer, Ebony Peterson, Laverne Francis, Theron Leonard, Jenel Murray and Jenelle Penha.

A scholarship for graduate studies – the NSL 80th Birthday Scholarship was awarded to Ashley-Ruth Bernier..

Charaf announced twenty-three scholarships that were created this month in response to an overwhelming number of applications received by the Foundation from an extremely talented pool of young people. These awards included two Charaf Family Fund scholarships, two from the Alexander A. Farrelly Milestone Fund, one from the Peter Gruber Foundation Fund, ten scholarships from the Lana Vento Fund for Youth, one from the McBride Family, two Isaac and Rebecca Paiewonsky Scholarship and the USVI Education and Assistance Fund awarded five scholarships this year.

The recipients of these scholarships are: Allysha Hansen, Keenya Holst, Liniqua Lindquist, Daena Charles, Priscilla Dixon, Joel James, Jaheem Joseph, Tenese Lockhart, Chivonne Soto, Jalesa Thompson, Estelle Andrew, Robelyn Greene, Tamara Simon, Sharifa Skelton, Brittany Valmond, Whiutney Smith, Re'Neesha Thomas, Simba Leonard, Jamiliya Chrostopher, Trinity Granger, Alia Joseph, Leanna Callwood, Tromoui Malone,

In addition to CFVI's long-standing tradition of awarding scholarships to university students, this year CFVI provided scholarships for summer enrichment programs to 45 deserving and well-qualified high-school students throughout the Territory. Grants of up to \$5,000 each were funded through an appropriation of \$150,000 from the USVI Senate. The grants covered a wide variety of programs, including Junior Statesmen Programs in Stanford, Princeton and Yale; Lead America Youth conferences in

Washington, D.C.; Broadway dance programs in New York City; a prestigious bio-medical internship at Harvard's summer school, a cultural exchange in China, a Shakespeare immersion program in Italy, and a variety of other programs at colleges such as Barnard, R.I. School of Design and Penn State University. The response to this first-time scholarship offering was overwhelming, garnering funding requests for over 70 different enrichment programs. Priority was given to applications that demonstrated a student's accomplishments both in school and in the community, as well as the quality and length of the program and demonstrated financial need.

Please find the profiles of student scholarship recipients attached. For more information call CFVI at 774-6031.