

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands Celebrates its Seventh Annual Fathers' Night Out

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) is celebrating its seventh annual **Fathers' Night Out on Wednesday evening, June 14th**, announced CFVI's President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

Join us on Fathers' Night Out and host a group of your friends and their sons. You can arrange to pick up free "Ten Tips for Fathers" t-shirts from CFVI for the men in your group.

The topics that will be discussed at this year's Father's Night Out include the roles of men in the family and the greater community, and the choices that men are making. According to the U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2005, 35% of children in the USVI - 11,649 boys and girls – are living with a female single parent, in homes without a man present. Children with involved, loving fathers are more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

The "**Ten Tips for Fathers**" are: Be there; Listen; Support your partner; Disagree appropriately with your partner; Know and be known in your child's world; Know and be known to your children's friends and their parents; Play with your children; Teach by example; Discipline with love; and Keep your sense of humor.

Individuals, young and old, who would like to give their fathers a t-shirt this Father's Day are also welcome to come to the Foundation and pick one up. Shirts are provided through funding from the Kenneth and Leitner Greiner Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

Richard Brown, CFVI's Fatherhood volunteer, explains that the Foundation is focused on fathers because "Involved fathers have a huge positive impact on their children and on our community. Father's Day celebrates the men who are fulfilling their responsibilities to their children,

families and the community. Fathers Day is also a reminder that too many men are not as involved as they should be.”

To host your own group, pick up a free t-shirt or for more information about Fathers' Night Out and the Fatherhood Collaborative please call CFVI at 774-6031.

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