



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
AND VIRGIN ISLANDS PERINATAL INC. HOLD SEMINARS ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING FATHERS
IN CHILDREN'S HEALTH

(St. Thomas, V.I.) – In partnership with Virgin Islands Perinatal Inc. (VIPI), The Family Connection at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) will sponsor two seminars, titled “The Importance of Including Fathers in Children’s Health,” on St. Thomas on Wednesday, October 4th at the Roy L. Schneider Hospital, 2nd floor conference room from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on St. Croix on Thursday, October 5th at the Juan F. Luis Hospital, 3rd floor classroom from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., announced CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

The seminars will be offered by Daniel Andrews, the principal of Andrews Training and Communications, a private human services consulting practice that specializes in the development of fatherhood curriculums, training, technical assistance and design and implementation of social marketing campaigns for non-profits and fatherhood programs. Andrews’ experience includes training more than 5000 Head Starts staff, parents and directors in the areas of male and father involvement and motivation of staff to reach their maximum potential. Andrews has also served as a keynote speaker at national fatherhood conference.

“The seminars will be identical, and will be offered on both islands to make it easier for all those interested in attending. Targeted primarily to persons working in community health and social service agencies, the seminars will cover the importance of fathers and how to assess whether your agency is father-friendly. Attendees will learn how to improve communications with fathers and remove

existing barriers to getting fathers more involved in the lives of their children,” said Barbara Lee Jackson, Executive Director of Virgin Islands Perinatal, Inc.

Virgin Islands Perinatal Inc. received a grant from the local government to establish the Healthy Families...Healthy Babies Initiative (HFHB), VIPI’s Healthy Start model on St. Thomas and continue its efforts territorially to reduce pre-term births which is the leading indicator in infant deaths. Through the HFHB Initiative, VIPI offers outreach and case management services to high risk prenatal women, has re-established the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Panel and is creating the framework for integrating fathers into the perinatal system of care.

VIPI invited CFVI to partner in this initiative because of CFVI’s work with responsible fatherhood through the Fatherhood Collaborative and through The Family Connection. The Family Connection’s mission is to strengthen the community child care and early education “infrastructure” in the U.S. Virgin Islands. “CFVI chose to focus on early child care based on our findings in six years of KIDS COUNT in the USVI, where we looked at the challenges facing our children, youth and families. Research findings demonstrate that for every \$1 a community invests in providing high-quality early childhood programs, \$17 are saved in welfare, special education and criminal justice costs. We believe that this type of investment makes sense for our community,” explained CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

To register for either seminar please contact VIPI in St. Thomas, 715-9748 or in St. Croix, 713-8083.

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