

Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DISTRIBUTES DICTIONARIES TO THIRD GRADERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) will distribute dictionaries to 3rd grade public, parochial and non-public elementary schools students in the Territory, announced CFVI's President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

In the last three years, more than **5,000 dictionaries** have been provided **territory-wide** to public schools through the **Dictionary Project Fund at CFVI**.

The dictionaries are purchased each year by the **Dictionary Project Fund at CFVI**. In partnership with the not-for-profit community on St. Thomas and St. Croix, CFVI distributes the dictionaries to all the 3rd grade students. This year assistance in distribution will be provided by individual volunteers as well as representatives from East End Lions Club, Rotary Mid Isle, Rotary Sunrise, Rotary II and the St. Croix Foundation. Other distribution assistance was provided by First Bank Virgin Islands, St. Thomas Title & Abstract LLC, and Innovative Communications Corp. CFVI appreciates the assistance of all those who donate their time for such an important project, said CFVI's President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

The media is invited to attend the dictionary distribution at:

- **Juanita Gardine on St. Croix: Wednesday, October 11th at 10:00 am**
- **Yvonne Milliner-Bowsky Elementary School on St. Thomas: Thursday, October 12th at 10:00 am**

"In our fourth year of providing dictionaries to Virgin Island third graders, we are thankful for the generosity of our donors and grateful for the enthusiasm of our volunteers, most of whom are joining us for the fourth consecutive year," said Gretta Moorhead, founding donor of the Dictionary Fund. "We hope that students and teachers continue to benefit from the use of these dictionaries both in school and at home."

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Gretta Moorhead, a former English teacher in the St. Thomas public schools, established the Dictionary Project Fund in 2002 as a permanent fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. The goal of the Fund is to distribute dictionaries annually to third grade students in the U. S. Virgin Islands schools. Third grade was identified as an ideal time to capture and focus a child's excitement and curiosity about words and language. Children at this age have the reading maturity to use a dictionary as a learning tool; they are becoming independent learners.

Currently there are 80 named funds at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands providing scholarships, grants and supporting programs in the USVI. CFVI sponsors the Fatherhood Collaborative to focus on the importance of responsible fatherhood for our children and our community, and produces the annual KIDS COUNT report on the status of children and families in the USVI. Individuals or businesses wishing to know more about CFVI or interested in establishing a fund should call 774-6031.

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