

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands Awards \$25,000 to Community Organizations

The Driehaus Community Development Fund II at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) awarded a total of \$25,000 to five community organizations that offer after school and summer youth programs on St. Thomas, announced CFVI's President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

Each of the following organizations received \$5,000 to support their youth programs:

- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for their St. Andrew's Sunny Saints After School Program
- Junior Firefighters Corps
- St. Thomas Reformed Church
- V.I. Christian Ministries for their Youth and Family Center and Youth and Family Center After-school Program
- Methodist Education & Outreach Services.

"We believe that youth development programs are a fundamental part of community development. These organizations are providing a wide range of out-of-school activities such as tutoring, SAT preparation, computer skills training, and martial arts classes. We are delighted to provide these grants to community partners who are doing such important work to create and improve opportunities for our youth," explained Mr. Dale Pudrycki of Driehaus Capital Management (USVI) LLC.

Young people left on their own or only with peers have a significantly greater chance of becoming involved in high-risk behaviors than their counterparts involved in activities under responsible adult guidance. The task, then, is to turn the out-of-school hours into attractive, growth-promoting opportunities for all young people, according to Carnegie

Corporation's publication, *Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century*.

"The conclusions from Carnegie Corporation's publication *Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century*, confirm that support for out-of-school programs is crucial to the healthy development of children and youth and our community needs to support such programs," expressed Dee Baecher-Brown, CFVI President.

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands was established in 1990. The Foundation has close to 80 funds created by individuals and businesses to support educational, environmental, social and cultural initiatives in the Virgin Islands. CFVI has grants for community organizations, teachers, scholarships and summer and out of school programs available on a regular basis. For more information, please call 774-6031.

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