

## Media Release

Contact:

Dee Baecher-Brown  
President  
CFVI  
Phone: (340) 774-6031  
Fax: (340) 774-3852  
Email: [dbrown@cfvi.net](mailto:dbrown@cfvi.net)

March 30, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL DRURY FUND  
“COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS”

**(St. Thomas, V.I.)** – After careful consideration, the Drury Fund Selection Committee has chosen the recipients of the “Community Impact Grants” from the Drury Fund at CFVI. A total of **\$20,270** was awarded to individuals and organizations working to implement innovative projects in the areas of public education, children’s well being or youth sports in St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John or Water Island, announced CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

Community Impact Grants of up to \$5,000 were awarded on a competitive basis to individuals and organizations that submitted applications. The first recipients of the Drury Fund “Community Impact Grants,” ranged from Boy Scout troops to youth organizations.

The first of five groups to receive a grant is Boy Scout Troop 156, which received a **\$5,000** grant. Troop 156 is the oldest, continuous Boy Scout troop on the island of St. Thomas. One of its primary goals is to broaden its member’s knowledge about the Caribbean. The grant will help buy uniforms and equipment for the 14 boys, ages 12-14, which make up Troop 156.

**\$3,715** was awarded to the Garden School and the Eulalie Rivera Professional Development School in St. Croix for their Reading Enhancement Project that targets more than 40 elementary school children from kindergarten to fifth grade. This pilot program’s goal is to improve the reading and comprehension skills of children from the areas of Mon Bijou and Grove, Frederiksted. The funds will be used to help cover the costs of supplies needed for the program.

The Michael J. Kirwan Terrace Youth Steel Orchestra, a project created by the Residents Council, received a grant of **\$2,025** that will benefit 20 participants, ages 8-18. This program was designed to provide a safe

environment for cultural, educational and skill building activities. The grant will be used to pay for an instructor and to purchase materials.

“Daddy, Read Me a Story,” a Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility program was granted **\$4,530**. This program will impact more than 60 inmates and their children. It hopes to foster and strengthen parent-child relationships by encouraging active participation in learning activities and improving inmate literacy skills. Educational materials and supplies for the inmate literacy program and for their children will be purchased with the grant money received.

The Ministerio Evangelístico El Es, Inc. received a grant of **\$5,000** for their Christian Family Center Teen Outreach Program. The focus of the project is to provide workshops and activities for Hispanic youth to help them successfully deal with health and developmental issues. An additional objective is to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) to parents in order to facilitate their communication with the school system for the benefit of their children. The grant will help pay for the activities, seminars and the ESL classes.

The criteria used to select the recipients included clear and organized project descriptions, volunteer involvement in the project, use of creative strategies and activities, measurable and substantive outcomes, and a realistic budget with an efficient use of funds.

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands was established in 1990 to serve the children and families of the Virgin Islands. Currently there are close to 80 named funds at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. Last year, CFVI provided **more than \$1.25 million** in grants, scholarships and program support in the USVI.

CFVI accepts donations year round; if you would like information on how to make a contribution to your community please call CFVI at 774-6031.

XXX