

## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS (CFVI)  
ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF USVI EDUCATION AND  
ASSISTANCE FUND

**(St. Thomas, V.I.)** – The USVI Education and Assistance Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has granted a total of **\$12,300** to two community organizations for programs that benefit public school students, announced CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

The USVI Education and Assistance Fund was established at CFVI in 2005 by VRBO International, LLC. This donor-advised fund focuses on children, youth and families in the Virgin Islands, with a special focus on enhancing the quality of public education and public libraries. Health and safety for residents of the Virgin Islands is another priority for this fund.

The first grant of \$4,800 was awarded to the Virgin Islands Institute for Teaching and Learning for their “Chess in the Schools Program.” The Virgin Islands Institute for Teaching and Learning is a non-profit organization founded in 1994. They established their “Chess in the Schools Program” to provide students in grades 3-7 with a quality recreational activity that helps to foster academic growth and achievement.

“The Chess in the School Program will provide students at Michael Kirwan Elementary School, Leonard Dober Elementary School, Ulla Muller Elementary School, and J. Antonio Jarvis School with the opportunity to take part in an activity that will help enhance their problem solving, logic and reasoning skills,” added CFVI’s President, Dee Baecher-Brown.

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The Pistarckle Theater received an award of \$7,500 to expand their “In-School Drama Immersion Program” to include public schools. This program will offer theater residencies and workshops at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, Ulla Muller Elementary, Peace Corps and E. Benjamin Oliver public schools. The program, piloted with a great deal of success at the Montessori School, exposes children to theater as a group activity, fosters self expression and encourages peer leadership within group activities.

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.

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