



# Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

SUMMER 2013

## Report from the Annual Meeting of the Community Foundation, June 28, 2013

For the sixth consecutive year, the Community Foundation has provided **more than \$1.5 million** in grants, scholarships and services in the U.S. Virgin Islands and in **2013 awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships** to Virgin Island students. Since giving our first CFVI scholarship in 1996, the Foundation has provided more than \$2 million in scholarships!

For almost 25 years, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has supported programs committed to youth, learning, family support and the environment. We are a leading advocate and supporter of programs that give children the best starts possible while ensuring opportunity and sustainability for our community in the future.

One of the most important ingredients in the success of the Community Foundation is the **CFVI Board of Directors**, new and returning members as well as past directors, who provide the leadership needed to take the work of the Foundation forward. These distinguished volunteers are tireless in their commitment to advancing the goals of the Community Foundation and to bringing positive change to our Virgin Islands.

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2013/14 election of officers: **Chairman George H.T. Dudley, 1st Vice-chair Alda Monsanto, 2nd Vice-chair Victoria B. Saunders, Secretary Trudie J. Prior and Treasurer William L. Graham.**

Four new directors were also elected to the Board: **Scott Barber, Angelina Daswani, Letty Hulsman and Mark Robertson.** The new directors began their 3-year terms of service immediately following the annual meeting.

**Ricardo J. Charaf**, who stepped down after serving as CFVI Chair for the past 12 years, was named Chairman Emeritus by a unanimous vote in recognition of his moving the Foundation to new heights during his tenure.

At the meeting the Board also honored three board members who had completed the maximum service of nine years: **Vivek Daswani, Betty Saks and Marie ThomasGriffith.**

*Dee Baecher-Brown, President*



*Satish and Alisha Alwani & Matt Hagen*

## Thank You Angels!

The 2013 Angel Gala was hosted by Trudie and Neil Prior and Josefina and Ricardo J. Charaf at the Charaf's Estate Sherpenjewel home perched high above Magens Bay. Over 170 Angels enjoyed the evening's festivities in the beautiful setting. During the 2013 season, Angels gave to CFVI more than \$360,000 which directly benefit the children and families of our community.

Annual Angel gifts, \$500 and up, help underwrite the work of CFVI's staff and support all CFVI funds, programs, and services. CFVI

currently manages over 100 named funds and scholarships, as well as seven fiscal sponsorships such as Dancing Classrooms VI, Patient Assist VI, Smith Bay Community Action Group and HUGS VI. Angel gifts also support CFVI's ongoing yearly outreach programs. CFVI charges NO fees for the establishment, maintenance and administration of CFVI's funds, so that 100% of a fund donor's contribution goes towards the purpose of the fund!

To make a contribution, call CFVI at 774-6031 to donate by Visa/ MasterCard, mail your check to CFVI, P.O. Box 11790, St. Thomas, VI 00801 or donate via PayPal by visiting [www.cfvi.net/donate/donate.php](http://www.cfvi.net/donate/donate.php).



*Susan Anderson & Ed and Amoret Foerstel*

## The Family Connection Center

**Read Across America/Dr. Seuss' Birthday** – On March 2, TFC participated in the nationwide Read Across America event which celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Volunteers chose their favorite Seuss story to read to 40 eager young listeners. Participants enjoyed mixing up some Oobleck and shared cup cakes and Yink Ink. Children were given a book, activities to take home, and a tooth brush which was donated by East End Medical Center.

**TFC and Oswald Harris Court** – TFC continues to strengthen its connection to the Virgin Islands Housing

Authority and its residents. TFC gave support to a parent café hosted at Oswald Harris Court by providing on-site activities for children which enabled the adults to participate in the workshop, while the children were happily engaged.



## LET US HOST YOUR FIELD TRIP

### To All Child Care Centers and Preschools

For a fun experience, schedule a field trip to our center.

TFC offers:

- ✿ Play activities in a fun and relaxed environment.
- ✿ Developmentally appropriate materials suitable for early learners.
- ✿ Resources on how to set-up a quality learning environment and how to support children's learning.
- ✿ A lending library with a diverse categories of books.
- ✿ Free books.

**Call us at 777-0990!**

## Community Cafés

With a focus on strengthening families, representatives from both private and public agencies serving children and families received training in how to conduct "Community Cafés." The cafés are parent-to-parent conversations guided by trained hosts in which parents share their experiences, challenges, and rewards of being a parent. Participants learned how to promote the Strengthening Families protective factors approach to keep families strong, build parent leadership skills, and host successful Community Cafés.

## Best Beginnings

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Best Beginnings Early Childhood Conference was held in May and sponsored by The Department of Human Services, Department of Health, University of the Virgin Islands, Lutheran Social Services, and CFVI. The theme of this year's conference was, "What a trauma-informed perspective can teach us about challenging behaviors in young children." Professional trainers from the Institute of Family Professionals in Pennsylvania conducted a workshop designed to raise participants' awareness of the pervasiveness and impact of trauma, understand the neuroscience that underlies responses to trauma and its consequences, appreciate the impact that they can have on healthy brain development, and begin to understand responses that prevent a traumatized child from being "triggered." Participants learned how to promote healing, and consider how we can better prevent relational trauma.

## Policymakers Summit

Policymakers Summits on early childhood investment were held on both St. Croix and St. Thomas. National experts presented information on early brain development and economic research supporting the importance of investing in quality care and education of our youngest children, from birth to age five. Local presenters provided information on the status of our young children and the need to act on their behalf to improve outcomes and ensure they are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten. The summits were co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee of the Governor's Children and Families Council and the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

**2013 Scholarships Awards**

CFVI awarded 85 scholarships for a total value of \$200,390.

Among the many institutions that our scholarship students will attend are Yale University, Xavier University, University of the Virgin Islands, University of Pennsylvania, Johnson & Wales, Spellman College, Northwestern University, Lincoln University and



American University.

Recipients will major in a variety of fields of study, including Nursing, Hospitality Management, Biology, Economics, Environmental Studies, Aeronautical Science and Pharmacy.



**Junior Philanthropists At Work**

This year the JPs held their annual tennis tournament and raised \$15,000 for educational and youth programs. In addition, they received a matching grant of \$10K from the Henry U. Wheatley Fund for a total of \$25,000. The JPs awarded grants to: Friends of the VI National Park (VIERS); Sadhu Vaswani Mission; Pistarckle Theater; The Family Connection; St. Thomas Racquest; Next Generation Scholars; and John Hopkins CTY.



**Laws of Life Essay Winners**

CFVI awarded monetary gifts of up to \$500 to students who wrote winning essays in this year's Laws of Life contest which was open to all public high school students in the Territory. Eighty two winners were selected from over 600 submissions by students from Grades

9 through 12. Essay winners were chosen by 30 judges based on their ability to write about personal experiences that have had some impact on their lives. A total of \$20,850 in monetary awards was distributed. Funding was provided by the Peter & Patricia Gruber Foundation.

**The Forum Expands its Outreach Activities**

Through a grant from the Lana Vento Charitable Trust, The Forum was able to expand its activities to include partnering students with visiting artists. The Rising Stars performed with the Puerto Rico symphony; students at IEKHS and CAHS participated in workshops with guest artists; and students at various public and parochial schools created a musical piece and performed it with visiting guest artists, Classical Jam.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**Jazz in the Park**

Friday, July 26

5:30 – 10 p.m.

Roosevelt Park

Featuring Marcus Printup, lead trumpeter for the Wynton Marsalis Band.



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**Summer Reading Challenge**

The Family Connection Book Bank is working in collaboration with the Governor's **Summer Reading Challenge** again this summer by providing additional books for children to continue to their build literacy skills and prevent the "summer slide." The TFC Book Bank collects gently used picture and chapter books for children ages birth through third grade and distributes them to children throughout the community.

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Join us at **TFC** in **TUTU PARK MALL** and get your **free book!**

Free Books READINGS Activities

Special Guests Refreshments

**Saturday Readers' Theater**

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

May 25, 2013

June 15, 2013

July 6, 2013

July 27, 2013

August 17, 2013

September 7, 2013

Crafts Games

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**Calling all CFVI Scholarship Alumni**

This year we have begun the CFVI Scholarship Alumni project to get in touch with as many of CFVI past scholarship recipients as possible.

If you know any of these people, please ask them to contact CFVI at 340-774-6031.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George H. T. Dudley, *Chairman*  
 Alda Monsanto, *First Vice-Chair*  
 Victoria B. Saunders, *Second Vice-Chair*  
 Trudie J. Prior, *Secretary*  
 William L. Graham, *Treasurer*  
 Scott Barber  
 Filippo Cassinelli  
 Angelina Daswani  
 Letty Hulsman  
 Lawrence Kupfer  
 Catherine L. Mills  
 Mark Robertson  
 Margaret Sprauve-Martin  
 Claire Starkey

## Founders

Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman†  
 Charlotte Kimelman

## Chairman Emeritus

Ricardo J. Charaf

## Directors Emeritus

Henry L. Feuerzeig  
 Penny Feuerzeig

## CFVI STAFF

Dee Baecher-Brown, *President*  
 Esther Caraballo, *Admin. Asst./Network Coord.*  
 Celestina Carey, *Programs Assistant*  
 Beverly Chongasing, *Foundation Director*  
 Leah George, *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Eleanor Hirsh, *TFC Director*  
 Denaulia Rouse, *Administrative Assistant*

## Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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## About CFVI . . .

In 1990 the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) began with a \$540,000 gift from Henry and Charlotte Kimelman. Since then, hundreds of local residents have added their gifts, and CFVI has given away more than \$14.5 million. Today, CFVI's assets are at \$7.5 million.

Anyone can help. Your gift to CFVI can help meet the community's immediate needs, and because CFVI has many permanently invested funds, your gift or fund can grow to meet tomorrow's challenges. You can make a difference by establishing a new fund, making a gift to an existing fund, naming CFVI as a beneficiary of your estate plans through the Mahogany Legacy program or becoming an annual CFVI Angel supporter.

**For Good. Forever!**

## KIDS COUNT Data Book 2012 Released

On June 20, 2013, CFVI released its annual USVI **KIDS COUNT Data Book** which reveals new findings in family structure and economic well-being for children in the Territory. Data used was from the **2010 US Census**, the most recent available for the Territory.

Compiled by CFVI for the thirteenth year, the USVI Kids Count Data Book is part of a national initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to measure child trends and well-being in the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the USVI.

Find 70+ measures of VI child well-being at the USVI KIDS COUNT online Data Center at **www.cfvi.net** (click on Kids Count). The Data

Center also provides data by year, by island district, and offers comparisons with the same measures nationally and in other states.



## Findings Snippet

- Fewer children were being born.
- Poverty rate for families with children was 31%.
- By the end of third grade, 48% of students scored below grade-level expectations for reading, the skill most essential for learning from 4th grade onwards. By 11th grade, 62% of students had reading skills below grade level.

- 75%** child-based families in poverty headed by a single mother
- 35%** VI children enrolled in paternity support cases
- 51%** VI children received SNAP federal nutrition assistance
- 27%** VI children lacked any health insurance coverage
- 51%** incoming kindergarten students had language skills below expected age level
- \$21,362** per capita income for individuals in the USVI

P.O. Box 11790  
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