



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

In this Issue: Directory of Community Organizations
Liberty Foundation Grants | Scholarships Available | Ready4k
Mahogany Legacy Society Profile: Anita Davis-Sedlak
Grantee Highlights | And much more!

[Visit our Website](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

Six Grants Totaling \$50,000 Awarded for Education, Social and Health Well-being, Culture, and Environmental Protection

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has awarded \$50,000 in grants to six USVI nonprofit organizations with funding from the Liberty Foundation:



- My SISTAHS Keeper, Inc. - \$10,000
- St. Thomas Historical Trust - \$10,000
- YWCA USVI, Inc. - \$10,000
- Entre El Pueblo, Inc. - \$9,000
- Friends of Virgin Islands National Park - \$7,000
- Virgin Islands Trail Alliance - \$4,000

The funding supports operational needs and projects that provide direct services and opportunities within Liberty Foundation's focus areas of education, social and health well-being, culture, and environmental protection.

Liberty Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Liberty Communications, which serves mobile customers in the U.S. Virgin Islands since the acquisition of AT&T's operations in the territory in October 2020.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

2022-2023 Directory of Community Organizations

CFVI announced the release of its highly anticipated **2022-2023 Directory of Community Organizations**, a



comprehensive listing of USVI entities that serve the community and work for public service, not for financial gain.

The 2022-2023 version is the eighth edition since the directory was originally published in 2004, and the first one since the 2016-2017 volume.

Prior to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, CFVI had produced the directory every two years.

To access the directory via a print/PDF version, or to be included in the directory, visit <https://cfvi.net/local-nonprofit-directory/>. To request a hard copy of the print version, contact general.info@cfvi.net.

A spreadsheet version is also available online, which provides a breakdown of organizations by island, service index, as well as listings for Rotary organizations, licensed child care, and preschool centers, and Virgin Islands government services. The spreadsheet version is updated on a regular basis.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

CFVI Announces 2022 Scholarship Availability

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 20, 2022

Applications for CFVI's annual academic scholarship cycle for graduate and undergraduate students are now available online. Consistent with the Foundation's mission to enhance the quality of life for children, youth, and families in the territory by making enriching opportunities attainable, funds for the scholarships are provided through generous donors to CFVI.



CFVI has awarded a total of \$3.6 million in scholarships since the program's inception. In 2021, CFVI awarded more than \$139,065 in scholarship awards to 58 Virgin Islands students.

[To learn more about available scholarships and apply, click here.](#)

\$734,580 Distributed to 13 USVI Organizations for Emergency Food and Shelter Programs in the Territory

Reimbursements and future estimated expenses totaling **\$734,580** were distributed to 13 USVI organizations that have provided or will provide emergency food and/or shelter programs in the territory from November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2023.



The funds are distributed directly to the agencies by the national EFSP. CFVI administers the program in the USVI and serves as chair of a 12-member local board that reviews the applications and recommends awards. To be eligible, applicants had to be nonprofit organizations, churches, or units of government that have demonstrated the ability to deliver emergency food and/or

shelter programs.

The first round of funding, finalized in January of this year, resulted in the distribution of \$578,970 in reimbursements to 12 organizations throughout the USVI.

Both rounds of funding were provided through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the federally-funded Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) based on the following phases/funding cycles:

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

Mahogany Legacy Society Profile

Beloved St. Thomas Broadcaster Anita Davis-Sedlak Leaves Gift to CFVI

Anita Davis-Sedlak was often described as a “beautiful soul” whose hope was just to make the world a better place. The popular St. Thomas radio personality was known as a friend and advocate to many.



Davis-Sedlak enjoyed helping others in her role as community outreach manager with V.I. Next Generation Network (viNGN). She was a strong advocate of the nonprofit organization, and also supported the Long Path Garden Street Community Center and Friends of the St. Thomas Public Libraries.

“The example Anita set through volunteering and mentorship inspired others to build an even brighter future for our Virgin Islands,” said CFVI President Dee Baecher-Brown.

While Davis-Sedlak’s untimely passing last October leaves a void in the spirit of our community, her love and commitment endures through her gift to the CFVI Mahogany Legacy Society by naming the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. The Foundation plans to set up a permanent fund in her honor that will carry on her legacy of helping others.

“It’s a truly fitting tribute to a wonderful human being,” said Baecher-Brown. “And while we were not aware of Anita’s plans prior to her passing, it is so very consistent with her loving and generous spirit.”

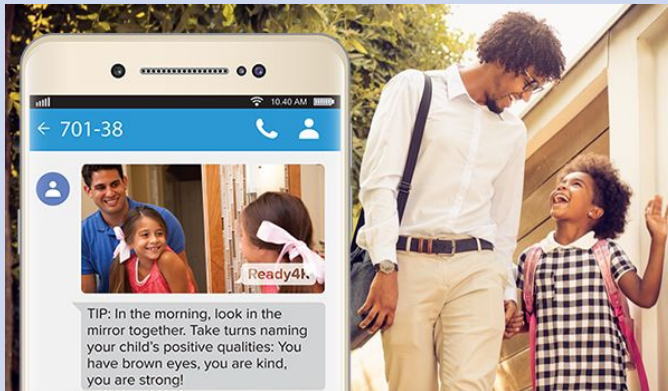
The Mahogany Legacy Society at CFVI recognizes and thanks individuals and families

who plan to leave a gift to the community through a bequest, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable annuity. Members of the Society care about the future of the U.S. Virgin Islands and realize that their gifts will strengthen the projects and programs of local nonprofit organizations and the people they serve.

To learn more about the **Mahogany Legacy Society**, view the [brochure](#) and [estate planning flyer](#). If you are interested in including CFVI in your future plans, please let us know by filling out and returning a [letter of intent](#).

Ready 4K Promotes Child Development

Text-based curriculum is available FREE through the end of the year



Developed by educational researchers, this text-based family engagement curriculum promotes child development from birth to fourth grade. The program is part of the Foundation's portfolio of efforts supporting children and families in the territory.

Each week, parents and caregivers receive three texts (one on Monday, Wednesday and Friday) that consist of fun facts and easy tips on how to promote their child's development by building on existing family routines such as pointing out letters on the cereal box at breakfast, counting the number of steps as you walk to the car, or making feeling faces in the mirror after you brush your teeth. The Ready4K curriculum covers the whole child from birth through 4th grade and is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

Join the families of more than 860 children in the territory already using Ready4K! Getting started is easy. Simply text the code **CFVI** to **70138** to start receiving messages today. By entering your cell phone number you agree to enroll in the program and receive ParentPowered text messages from 70138. While there is no cost for enrolling, data and message rates may apply. You can cancel the text messages at any time by texting STOP to 70138.

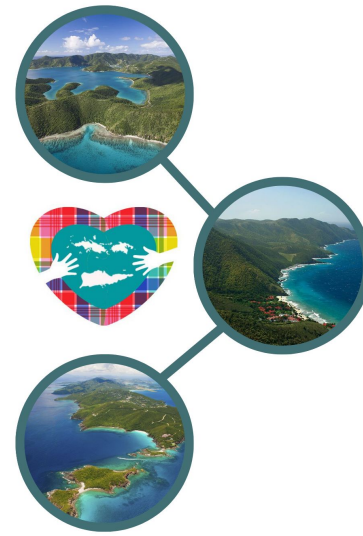
Building Forward to a Better Tomorrow

2022 Angels Giving Campaign

The CFVI Angels community is the largest philanthropic network in the territory. Since 1999, Angels have provided **\$7.3 million** in unrestricted funding from individual and business donors who contribute \$500 or more annually to the Foundation.

Angel gifts directly contribute to the well-being of our Virgin Islands community. Since the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020, CFVI has provided nearly **\$6.5 million** in grants and services to the territory.

Help us continue to bring positive change and enrich the quality of life in the Virgin Islands.



**Become a CFVI Angel Donor
Today!**

Together we can do great things.

[To learn more about CFVI Angels, click here.](#)

Grantee Highlights

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Thomas/St. John

CFVI awarded a grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Thomas/St. John to work with community residents and partners to ideate and implement recovery and resilience projects important to them in St. Thomas (Oswald Harris Court) and St. John, with funding provided by Cruzan Rum's Island Spirit Fund (via GlobalGiving). Grant funds were used to help clean up the common areas in two neighborhoods by hosting community cleanup events and placing painted containers for individuals to deposit trash. Volunteers also fixed and cleaned the community center used by many residents as a gathering space. Visit <https://bgcusvi.org/> to learn more.



[To learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs, click here.](#)

VI Village Academy

CFVI awarded a grant to VI Village Academy from the Friends and Family Fund to support their 2021 Family Connection Summer Camp addressing the learning loss experienced by students who were out of the classroom due to COVID. The five week in-person summer camp program included 30 students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Five days a week, for six hours, students received reinforcement in essential kindergarten skills



and ongoing classroom-support services while working in classrooms, outside, and at varied sites around the islands of St. Thomas and St. John. Funds were used to implement the program, including providing laptops to the students.

Nana Baby Children's Home

CFVI provided a grant to Nana Baby Children's Home, an emergency placement group home for children in crisis, with funding provided by Liberty Foundation. Funds were used to make major changes to the house to improve cleanliness and safety. Projects that were accomplished include a new kitchen, all new tile throughout the house, redoing the boy's room, girl's room, and nursery, a new play room, an updated storage unit, laundry room and attic, a redone living and dining area, and two updated bathrooms!



[To learn more about Nana Baby Children's Home, click here.](#)



My Brother's Workshop

CFVI awarded a grant to My Brother's Workshop, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to support a local caning artisan teaching chair caning - an almost extinct cultural skill - to help preserve the long tradition and historical significance of caning. Over 16 people learned the art of hand-caning and can now help to restore antique and new furniture with their newly

learned skills. More importantly, the people who took the class have taken up the mantle to teach others how to cane, preserving this traditional West Indian Art/Trade/Craft for generations forward.

[To learn more about My Brother's Workshop, click here.](#)

Ten Sleepless Knights

CFVI awarded a grant to the Ten Sleepless Knights, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to implement a virtual emancipation day celebration, with both local and visiting artists, and with narrative of the various artforms as it relates to the journey of quelbe and emancipation. The event celebrated emancipation from slavery and educated on its history as well as the musical journey of quelbe.



[To learn more about Ten Sleepless Knights,](#)

[click here.](#)

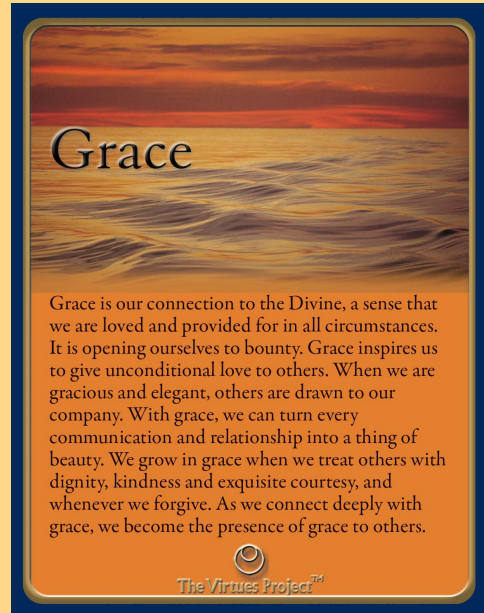
Want more grantee highlights? We post weekly on social media and our website!

Share Virtue of the Week with Others!

Do you know someone who would like to receive the Virtue of the Week? Simply forward this email to them and they can sign up by clicking on the button below.

The Virtues Project, a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, sparking a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity in more than 100 countries.

The Project defines virtues as "the essence of the human spirit and the content of our character." The mission of The Virtues Project is to inspire people of all cultures to remember who we really are, what we aspire to be, and to live by our highest values.



[Sign up to receive the Virtue of the Week!](#)

CFVI is an Amazon Smile Charity

Did you know that CFVI is an Amazon Smile charity?

Shop at smile.amazon.com, select Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands as your charity, and Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to CFVI—no fees, no extra cost. Same products, same prices, same service.

Experience feel-good shopping today at smile.amazon.com!



CFVI a Participating Charity in Combined Federal Campaign



The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions

of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season supports eligible non-profit organizations, like CFVI, that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

[To learn more about the CFC, click here.](#)

CFVI Combined Federal Campaign Information:

CFC Sunshine Zone 22

CFC# 45789

EIN 66-0470703

For Grantees: Grant Recognition Guidelines

We appreciate an acknowledgement of your grant from CFVI in whatever ways are within your organization's communications capabilities. We encourage you to send us press releases or copies of publications or media coverage that mentions your grant. Please refer to the [CFVI Grant Recognition Guidelines](#) for more information, or contact Sean Liphard, CFVI Communications Manager, at seanl@cfvi.net.

New Funds and Fiscal Sponsorships

St. John Film Society - Fiscal Sponsorship
David and Rhonda McCay - Donor Advised Fund
The Lawyers' Scholarship Fund
The Coal Woman Project - Fiscal Sponsorship



Spread the Good News!

Help us spread the word about the important work CFVI is supporting throughout our U.S. Virgin Islands. Forward this newsletter to your colleagues, friends and family, and invite them to follow us on social media and join our mailing list!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

We are proud to have earned Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency by sharing our key metrics and highlighting the impact we're making.

CFVI Staff

[Dee Baecher-Brown](#)

President

[Davica Brathwaite](#)

Grants & Programs Manager

[Susan Clark](#)

Accountant

[Sean Liphard](#)

Communications Manager



Tess Monsanto-Bailey
Development & Donor Relations Manager

Beth Nuttall
Executive Manager

Una Pascal
Staff Accountant & Office Administrator

We are proud to have earned the Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.



We are proud to be a vetted organization by GlobalGiving, which recognizes CFVI as a trusted partner and change-maker in the world.

CFVI is a proud member of the



CFVI Office Hours

Please call or email us before visiting the CFVI office as our hours fluctuate due to the ongoing pandemic.

5150 Dronningens Gade, Ste. 1, St. Thomas, VI 00802
cfvi.net | general.info@cfvi.net | 340.774.6031

Connect with us

