



Believe...

St. Croix Foundation

From the President's Desk... "Leaning In"



As the Foundation closes out our Pearl Anniversary Year this September, still navigating the surreal landscape of the pandemic, still supporting our community through a protracted recovery from the 2017 hurricanes, I can attest that, while daunting, these are truly evolutionary times! From day one of the pandemic, my charge to my Team has been, "*Lean In!*" Yes, we are traversing destabilizing world events, and yes, we don't know what the future holds. But, we have to trust in our resilience and in our innate innovative Spirit to shape the path forward. While the scope of our work has expanded, we really have leaned into this brand-new *virtual* world through which we are nurturing and deepening relationships like never before. We've also invested the time to interrogate the 'why' of our work in order to refine the 'how.' Equally important, we've intentionally prioritized self-care, and balance. The outcome of our *Lean* is

that over the past year, since ushering in our 30th year of service to the Virgin Islands Community, SCF's organizational culture and programmatic agenda are evolving in more adaptive, intersected and progressive ways! Today, we are proud to report that the Foundation is becoming a regional leader around high-impact, place-based philanthropy. And, all signs now affirm the wisdom and vision of our Founders who, 30 years ago, dared to be different; dared to center *nonprofits* and *equity* into our philanthropic framework; and dared to *BELIEVE* that a tiny little grassroots idea, could catalyze **so much good, for so many, for so long!** Of course, we do nothing alone. We live in service and gratitude to our family of nonprofits, our donors, and our community partners, who make the work possible! The past three decades are testimony to the true power of *Philanthropy* (with a capital "P")! *But, rest in assurance, our Lean has just begun...*

\$65K in Mini Grants Awarded to 13 Organizations for Covid Response through the Momentum Fund

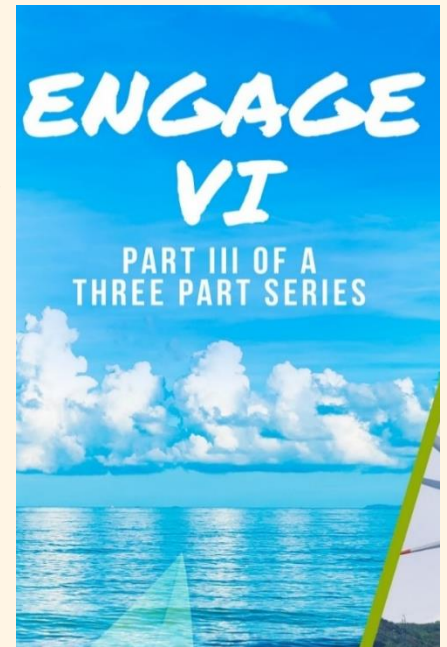
As the world and our islands contend with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we've been busy working with and supporting our Nonprofit Consortium to help those most in need. A cross-sector coalition of 30 nonprofits sharing a unified position and vision for St. Croix, Consortium members were invited to apply for a new grant opportunity in November 2020 through our CARE Fund. Made possible by a grant from United Philanthropy Forum's Momentum Fund, the Foundation awarded \$65,000 in mini grants to 13 members of the Consortium, including Crucian Heritage & Nature Tourism, Clean Sweep Frederiksted, World Ocean School, St. Croix Montessori, Music in Motion, Liberty Place, Caribbean Center for Boys & Girls, CMCArts, St. Croix LTRG, Lutheran Social Services, VI Good Food Coalition, St.



Croix Environmental Association, and FYR is LIT. Awards supported initiatives that provided housing for the homeless, virtual arts and literacy opportunities, and PPE among others. One grantee, Music in Motion Dance Academy (MIM), was awarded a \$5,000 Open Door Mini Grant to move into a permanent location to improve access and serve low-income children of color. MIM's studio was damaged in the 2017 Hurricanes, but with collaboration and strategic grants, continues to impact our children's lives through the healing of arts & culture.

SCF Nonprofit Consortium's Environs Sector Leads High Stakes Community Conversations around Environmental Justice in Response to Refinery Emissions

Our Nonprofit Consortium Environs Sector, in partnership with SCF, hosted a series of town halls this summer to address environmental hazards spurred by the reopening of Limetree Bay Refinery and Terminals. The focus was for *Community Voice* to take center stage and to create space for open, honest and transparent dialogue between regulators, stakeholders, and residents. Three town halls were hosted in May, June, and July with themes on emergency response, environmental justice and impacts on agriculture, and reimagining the future. Panelists over the three-month period included high ranking executives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, VITEMA, VI Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources, VI Dept. of Health, VI Dept. of Agriculture, the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, VI Economic Development Authority, UVI Research and Technology Park, and the Partnership for Southern Equity. Our town halls represent the Foundation's unwavering commitment to EQUITY, community organizing and above all, sustainable and holistic Community Development. Resources and more information on the town hall series can be found at engagevi.org.



SCF Solarizes Second Community Center, Adds 6000 KW of Sustainable Power to St. Croix

In December 2020, the Foundation completed solarization of a second community center at the Flamboyant Gardens Senior Living Facility. Along with the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls, (completed in January 2020), both sites were solarized by students who participated in the Foundation's Solar Supported Community Center Project and will serve as *community resiliency hubs* and relief distribution sites during times of disaster. Flamboyant Gardens serves 56 senior citizens and is now fortified with a solar system which will save approximately 60% in overhead. The center has pledged to reinvest their savings into programming for residents. Both community centers have committed to tracking savings and reporting on usage to help monitor and measure the return on investments.

As of June 2021, Flamboyant Gardens has reported \$500 in energy savings and the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls, another \$2500. This program is a model for creating solutions at the intersections of resiliency, energy justice and economic development!



"Farm-Tienda" Farm Stands Aid Local Farmers, Provide Access to Fresh Food

Through a partnership with Coca-Cola and Global Giving, the Foundation is happy to share that all seven Farm Tiendas are now operational and continue to serve as *community resiliency hubs* throughout the pandemic. Strategically located across the island, Farm Tiendas are in proximity to under-served neighborhoods and are outfitted with solar panels, water buffalos, and WiFi. These community assets will continue to serve residents in the event of a crisis by providing secure food and charging stations.

To allow farmers the flexibility necessary to enhance their infrastructure, in January, the Foundation, in partnership with Tides Foundation, awarded each farmer a \$1000 mini-grant. Funds are already supporting new shelving units, stainless steel tables, point-of-sale systems like cash registers, and vital infrastructure. Below, New Breed Farm shows off the extra bounty of cucumbers made possible by a new water pump to support additional crop rotation.

The Foundation will continue to collect data on the impact of the Tiendas while assessing how they perform during an active hurricane season.





As reflected in the artwork chosen for this Snapshot, entitled Ujima Journey by Marcus Anderson, Kids Count USVI is not just about data-- it's about a journey of Collective Work and Responsibility to lift up equitable pathways for all of our children so that they may live happy, healthy, and productive lives. It's about the prosperity—and the future of not only our children—but of our entire Village! ~ Kids Count USVI 2020 Snapshot

St. Croix Foundation Releases First Kids Count USVI Snapshot

On May 1, 2021, SCF released our 2020 Kids Count USVI Snapshot entitled [Building Level Pathways for Our Children](#). The Snapshot outlines SCF's strategy as the new stewards of the U.S. Virgin Islands' Kids Count Initiative and sets the stage for our 2020 Kids Count Data Book, slated for a Fall release.

An initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count is one of the largest data repositories in the U.S. focused on the status of children and families and is seen as a vital resource about child well-being for many federal, state, and local government agencies.

The Snapshot lays the foundation for a strong focus on the Territory's 'Opportunity Youth'-young people ages 16 through 24 years old. In light of the untenable loss of young lives due to gun violence in the Territory, SCF is using Kids Count data to build a profile of our seemingly invisible youth population. Our goal for future Kids Count publications is to map the full spectrum of our children's lives, tracing the pathways they take to adulthood to identify hotspots and bright spots among quantitative and qualitative data indicators. SCF is excited about the opportunity before us to adjoin all sectors of our community around a cohesive and collaborative framework for nurturing ALL the Territory's children!

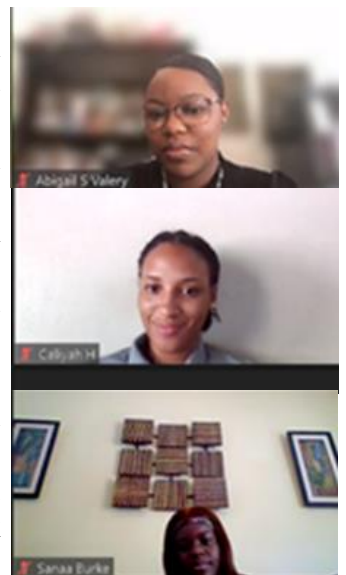
Patrick & Amelia Williams Fund & Foundation Scholars Fund Award \$15,000 to Three Students

The Foundation is pleased to announce \$15,000 in scholarships awarded to three amazing students through the Patrick and Amelia Williams Fund and Foundation Scholars in a virtual presentation this summer! This year's scholarship recipients persevered despite extraordinary trials throughout high school, including enduring Hurricanes Irma & Maria, a global pandemic, and ongoing economic uncertainty.

Armed with passion for their field and a recognition that higher education can be a pathway to personal and professional success, these St. Croix Central High Students are on their way: Abigail Valery (Temple University, Music); Caliyah Helliger (Howard University, Biochemistry); and Sanaa Burke (University of Delaware, Meteorology)!

The Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund was established in 2018 by Junior Gaspard, a St. Croix native and graduate of Central High School, to honor his grandparents, Patrick and Amelia Williams.

To date, the Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund has provided \$47,000 in scholarships to 11 students. Today, all past awardees continue to pursue their course of study, with members of the Fund's first cohort now preparing to graduate. It truly takes a village! To donate to this special fund, please contact the Foundation directly.



Meet our New, Incredible VISTAs!

The Foundation and St. Croix AmeriCorps VISTA Partners are excited to onboard two new VISTA Service Members which brings our total to 7! Our newest VISTAs Jahnyah Brooks (serving the Caribbean Center for the Boys and Girls of the Virgin Islands) and Kevin Moolenaar (serving the Foundation) joined this summer!

Jahnyah joined the AmeriCorps VISTA program as an avenue to reconnect with the community and support a nonprofit he once worked with in the past. Kevin (below) is no stranger to the Foundation team, having worked with us on numerous videography and PR projects specifically to support the Nonprofit Consortium. We are excited to have Kevin on our team and look forward to both VISTAs' contributions in their respective service roles.



Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming two new Directors to the Foundation's Board; St. Thomas attorney, Ron Belfon, Esq., and St. Croix native, Gladys Krigger Washington. Ron joins the Board while continuing a legal career which includes past service as Board



member, Executive Director and most recently, Senior Attorney for Legal Services of the VI. Prior, Ron served the Public Services Commission and Department of Education as Hearing Officer and Mediator, and as counsel for Coastal Zone Management. Gladys joins the Board of Directors after recently retiring as the Deputy Director for the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation in Winston Salem, NC. While at Babcock, Gladys oversaw the Foundation's work in 11 Southern states. Gladys has received numerous service awards throughout her career, most recently, the Berea College Service Award. Gladys also serves on the State Voices Board and the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative.

SCF President Joins Southeastern Council of Foundations Board of Trustees

Our network on behalf of nonprofits is growing! Foundation President Deanna James was elected to serve on the National Board of Trustees for the Southeastern Council of Foundations for a two-year term that began in December 2020. The Foundation became members of SECF in 2018 as part of an effort by the Council to include US Territories as an expansion toward serving the Global South. These efforts underscore our own mission to advocate for greater inclusion on the national philanthropic stage!

“The opportunity to connect with and build capacity for organizations serving underserved, under-resourced communities, particularly in the rural South, was irresistible ... I'm also intent on identifying and connecting with small place-based philanthropies that are building innovative practice around how to do philanthropy differently – more intrinsically rooted in community.

~ Deanna James, President

Thank you for the past 30 years!

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As a certified 501c3 all donations to St. Croix Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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