



*Believe...*

# St. Croix Foundation

2022 Newsletter

## Rooted in Purpose: A Message from Our President



Over the course of SCF's 32 years of service, we have remained steadfast in our mission: *to encourage philanthropy; to marshal resources; and to catalyze change.* With a broad wingspan that has encompassed diverse programmatic priorities and investments spanning policy, holistic nonprofit supports, and new systems of resilience, we have amassed a steadily growing list of achievements nationally and locally. That success, of course, has been wrought with a fair share of trials - all of which represented invaluable lessons that exerted the kind of pressure that molds diamonds! ***Ultimately, the equity-centered Vision of our Founders continues to be our unfailing North Star.*** By prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved, and by directing resources at the ROOT of the issue, St. Croix Foundation is accomplishing increasingly impactful (and sustained) *systems-based* social change. Today, as we celebrate yet another anniversary, one of the greatest lessons I am

leaning into on my personal leadership journey was offered by a dear friend and brilliant systems change expert: *Relationship is the Resolution!* As SCF witnesses every day, people deeply connected in purpose (and Love), can move mountains!

## SCF Receives 2022 HUD Secretary's Award!

St. Croix Foundation is incredibly honored to report that three years of innovative grantmaking, direct programming, and advocacy to build Community Resilience Hubs in the wake of the 2017 hurricanes has been nationally recognized! This past June, President Deanna James was presented with the 2022 HUD Secretary's Award by Housing and Urban Development Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development, Peter Kahn, in a virtual ceremony in recognition of St. Croix Foundation's impact.

**This national award highlighted the Foundation's post-hurricane investments, including our Farm Tienda Project, our Solar-Supported Community Centers & Workforce Development Initiative, and the renovation of the Alexander Theater.**

As we seek to catalyze social change through progressive models of civic leadership and sustainability, the Foundation is grateful for our community partners who continue to inform and inspire our work. In fact, this recognition would not be possible without the collaboration of our countless nonprofit partners on St. Croix, all working together to nurture resiliency and help our community thrive. Ultimately, the Secretary's Award is testament to the impact of Place-Based Philanthropy working in full alignment with Civil Society.

***One of only 5 organizations chosen in the nation to be recognized, our Community Resilience Hubs were made possible through investments of time, talent and treasure from FEMA, Global Giving, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), and numerous other community stakeholders.***



Support the Foundation's work today by visiting [www.stxfoundation.org](http://www.stxfoundation.org)!

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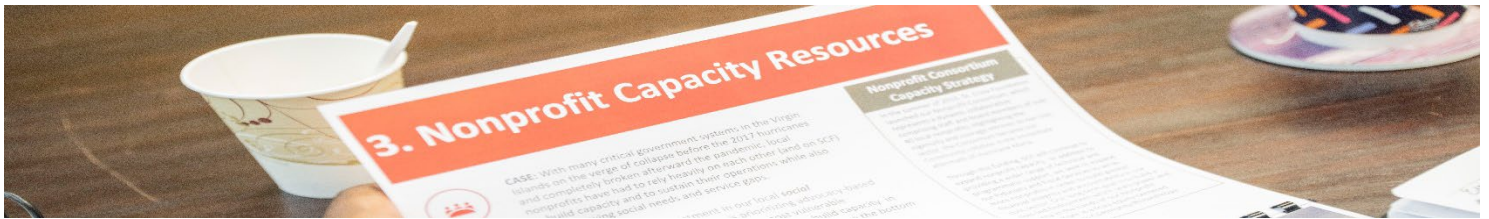
## AmeriCorps VISTA Unites with SCF to Serve St. Croix!

OUR CURRENT AMERICORPS VISTA TEAM:  
Building Capacity for nonprofits across the island



AmeriCorps VISTA is here to stay!! The Foundation and our St. Croix AmeriCorps VISTA Partners are excited to announce that **we've been selected to be the sponsor of St. Croix's AmeriCorps VISTA Team.** Despite COVID-19, we continue to work closely with our nonprofits and our talented VISTAs to cultivate powerful relationships that are building capacity across the civic sector. Mackenzie (far left), a VISTA serving St. Croix Montessori, has already secured over \$50,000 in grants for the small (but

mighty) school. And Kevin, serving as the Foundation's VISTA member, has extended his term for another year to document, distill and distribute vital information to the public about the nonprofits in our community who are doing the heavy lifting! SCF has brought a total of 11 VISTAs to St. Croix since we first re-established the program in 2019. We currently have VISTAs serving such Community Assets as the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls and St. Croix Landmarks Society, helping our nonprofits to reach even more community members with meaningful resources. **With more VISTAs to recruit to fulfill our capacity as a 17-member team, we invite you to spread the word!** For more information or to apply, please contact us directly at 340.773.9898.



### The Nonprofit Consortium... Building on 6 Years of Achievements!

Since 2016, St. Croix Foundation has witnessed our Nonprofit Consortium (NPC) grow into a model of social impact and influence, coalescing the most progressive minds in the Civic Sector! **Celebrating 6 years of collaboration in August, Consortium members have touched the lives of 10,000 residents.**

Owing to its broad success, the NPC will be hosting its **Third Bi-Annual A-Political forum on September 28th, a closed space for a direct and honest conversation with the 2022 political aspirants.** The Civic sector will be and empowered in its demands to participants for strong governance and transparency from its own sphere of individual influence and reach.

**At the heart of this event is the spirit of change,** from the participants and the civic sector alike, aligned, regardless of individual positions by the united vision of creating a better St. Croix for future generations to come. It all starts with a conversation.

### MEET OUR 2022 NONPROFIT CONSORTIUM!

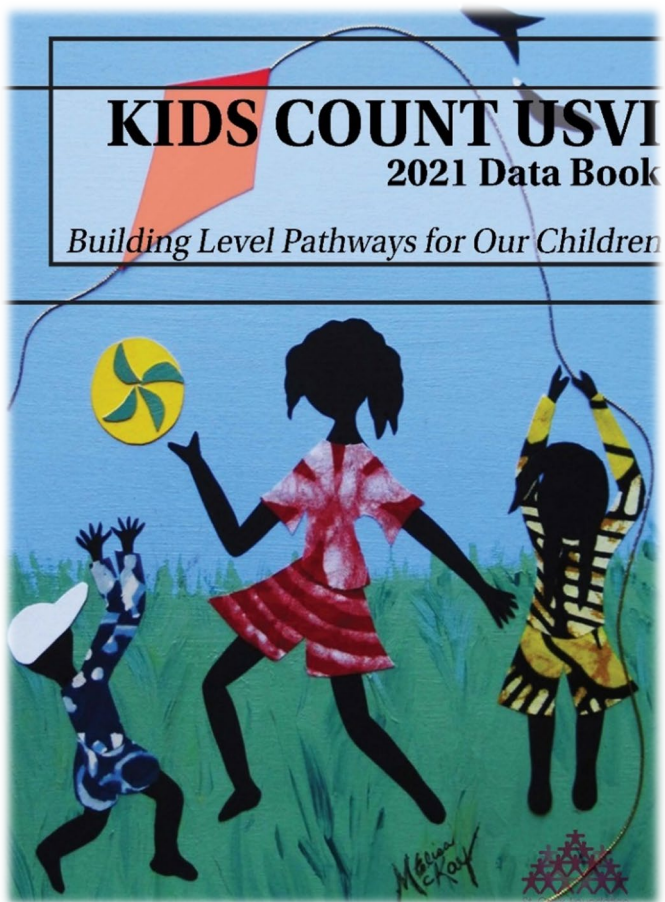
Health & Human Welfare ✧ Crucian Heritage & the Arts  
The Built & Natural Environs ✧ Youth & Education

Caribbean Center for Boys & Girls of the VI  
Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts  
Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT)  
Frederiksted Health Care, Inc.  
Fueling Youth Reading is Leaders in Training  
Helping Ordinary People Every Day (HOPE)  
Liberty Place  
Lutheran Social Services of the VI  
Music in Motion School of Higher Dance  
Per Ankh  
St. Croix Council of Elders  
St. Croix Environmental Association  
St. Croix Landmarks Society  
St. Croix Long Term Recovery Group  
VI Breast Cancer Project  
VI Domestic Violence and Assault Council  
VI Good Food Coalition  
Women's Coalition of St. Croix  
World Ocean School  
Yvonne A. Galiber Foundation, Inc.

Support the Foundation's work today by visiting [www.stxfoundation.org/](http://www.stxfoundation.org/)

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## SCF and 9 Government Agencies Sign on the Dotted Line for **KIDS COUNT!**

Change anywhere takes time and systems as vast as those that support our children are intricate and often siloed from one another. Since being named as the new KIDS COUNT grantee in 2020, St. Croix Foundation is pleased to report that in July, we finalized our first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding with 9 government agencies: the Bureau of Economic Research, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation, University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Police Department. This agreement will last through 2024 and details the shared commitment to collecting, reporting and sharing data for KIDS COUNT.

The Foundation's ultimate goal is to combine accurate data with strong, cross-sector partnerships in order to advocate for resources, programming, and informed policy that enables our children to thrive. As our first official data book, the [2021 KIDS COUNT® USVI Data Book](#) was released in December of 2021. The Data Book assesses the lives of the Territory's children in highlighting Bright Spots, such as existing programs and

services that are successfully supporting families and children. The Databook also delves illuminates Hot Spots, including the fact that 30% of our ninth graders are being retained in school. To read the 2021 KIDS COUNT USVI Data Book, please visit us at [www.stxfoundation.org](http://www.stxfoundation.org). SCF will release the **2022 KIDS COUNT USVI Data Book this fall.** Stay tuned!

## The Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund **Reaches Back,** **Re-Commits, and Re-Inspires!**

This year was special for the Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund! Working in close collaboration with the donor, our Grants Review Committee decided to reach back to our 2021 scholarship recipients after learning through student surveys and interviews with past awardees that ongoing support for our young people while they progress through their academic careers is critical as federal aid decreases and coursework intensifies. The results of this year's awards were compelling!

When our 2021 awardees set off for their respective colleges last year, they were armed with a passion for their field of study and their belief in higher education as a pathway to personal and professional success. However, in an honest series of video applications, our scholarship recipients expressed feelings of doubt and despondency as they navigated the very real challenges of new environments, intense courses, and the fear of failure. The Foundation's unexpected scholarship awards offered a warm sense of reassurance, reaffirming their commitment to persevere and to continue their academic journey. **Established in 2018, the Fund has cumulatively contributed \$59,000 to St. Croix Students' educational success.**



*Abigail Valery (Temple University, Music Education); Caliyah Helliger (Howard University, Biology); and Sanaa Burke (University of Delaware, Meteorology) are persevering despite ongoing challenges with the continued support of the Williams Opportunity Fund.*

**Support the Foundation's work today by visiting [www.stxfoundation.org](http://www.stxfoundation.org)!**

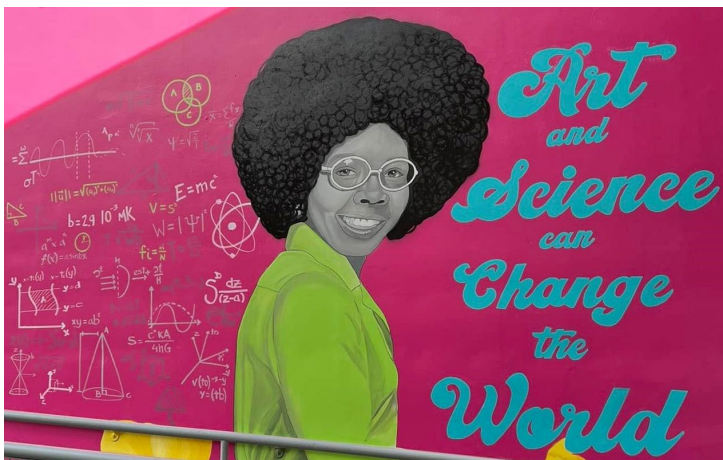
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## SCF Grants Over \$1.3 Million to Frontline Nonprofits Serving through COVID-19

Over the past year, St. Croix Foundation granted over \$1.3 million to 26 nonprofit organizations, ensuring that their doors stayed open, and programs continued operating (or expanded) amid the backdrop of COVID.

With funding from Global Giving, through our CARE Fund, the Foundation granted 11 nonprofits a total of \$175,000. Emphasizing collaboration, flexibility, and innovation in the face of COVID-19, application had to demonstrate a commitment to creating new partnerships or deepening existing ones in order to build organizational capacity while expanding services.



And through our COVID-19 Education Relief Grant, made possible by Federal funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, SCF granted another 15 organizations a total of \$1.3 million to deliver emergency education services to the children of St. Croix! Grants ranging from \$6,500 to \$100,000 were awarded in a competitive process to grassroots projects and established nonprofits delivering arts education, social emotional learning, academic intervention, leadership development and arts programming. From afterschool music programs, schoolwide murals (above), and reading programs for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to small neighborhood learning centers, this grant program has truly built capacity within the civic sector!

## BY THE NUMBERS



### 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS+

In 2021 and early 2022, SCF granted \$1.3 million to support organizations serving on the frontlines of COVID-19. Grants supported targeted education relief, cultural academies, and robust nonprofit capacity building.

### 1 OF 5 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NATION

SCF was 1 of just 5 organizations in the nation to receive the 2022 HUD Secretary's Award for Public-Private Partnerships. In testimony to our work and approach to holistic community development, this award represents our most recent national recognition.



### 125+ NONPROFIT PARTNERS

In the past year, SCF has directly impacted over 125 nonprofits through our grantmaking, fiscal sponsorship, Nonprofit Consortium, KIDS COUNT USVI, and AmeriCorps VISTA Program! We have over 60 nonprofits across the territory in our KIDS COUNT Network alone; we currently serve as the fiscal sponsor for another 25 nonprofit partners, we have granted critical funding to 30 organizations, and we collaborate with 20 nonprofits through our Nonprofit Consortium.



### 9 PUBLIC PARTNERS

In July, SCF received the incredible news that the territory's first official Memorandum of Understanding for KIDS COUNT USVI was fully executed by SCF and 9 government partners! Each partner is critical to our ability to report real-time data on the wellbeing of our children and the MOU represents a commitment to collaboration.



### Welcoming Our New Board Member: Mr. Shawn Williams

The Foundation is pleased to welcome Mr. Shawn Williams to our Board! A St. Croix native, Shawn comes with a love for the Territory and for the betterment of his community. With decades of experience in project, product, and program management in a variety of fields including banking, retail, pharmaceutical, airlines, and manufacturing, the Foundation is excited to put Shawn's expertise and passion for St. Croix to work as we spearhead some of our most comprehensive projects in the Organization's history. Please join us in *welcoming Shawn aboard!*

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