

**For Immediate Release****For More Information, Contact:**

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## **PROJECT PROMISE SIXTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER HONORS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (February 24, 2022)** – On Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>, one hundred ticketed guests and sponsors attended Project Promise's sixth annual fundraiser in support of its Caterpillar Project (TCP) program. This year's theme was *The Tobacco Fields of Cuba!* Project Promise was excited to bring this community favorite back in-person, where attendees enjoyed live Cuban music, authentic Cuban dishes, an online silent auction, fun surprises, and a chance to win a trip for two to Cuba! This year's lucky winner is Tilda Rougier.

The Havana Nights event was held on the beautiful grounds of the Estate Whim Museum and Great House. In accordance with local safety protocols, Havana Nights was a fully vaccinated event, and guests' vaccination status was confirmed by the V.I. Department of Health (DOH) ahead of the event. All guests were also required to undergo COVID-19 rapid testing on the day of the event. In an effort to make our event safer, Project Promise partnered with the University of the Virgin Islands' School of Nursing to provide free drive thru rapid testing to all sponsors, guests and volunteers.

Officials from Project Promise once again combined the Havana Nights fundraiser with its annual Youth Recognition event to showcase three high school students and spotlight their accomplishments over the last school year. St. Croix Educational Complex senior Nicholas Girard, St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) senior Ti'Quan Hermon, and St. Croix Central High School senior Jolisa Giffit were all honored Saturday as this year's Project Promise Youth Recognition Award recipients. They were selected by school officials based on criteria provided to them by Project Promise. Each student received a \$500 scholarship, an award certificate, a custom-made handcrafted plaque, and a gift donated by Crucian Gold for their accomplishments over the last year.

The proceeds from Havana Nights benefited Project Promise's Caterpillar Project. The Caterpillar Project is a long-term program designed to make a significant difference in the lives of at-risk youth in St. Croix. TCP began on January 25, 2016 with selected fifth graders from the Lew Muckle Elementary School, the support of the Department of Education, and community partners. Project Promise would like to thank the community, its sponsors, and all the individuals who helped to make Havana Nights a success, over \$30,000 was raised during this fundraising event.

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For more information about The Caterpillar Project, please contact Resa O'Reilly at (340) 513-0446. Project Promise is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth on St. Croix by providing empowerment initiatives, cultural programs and family services.

**ABOUT PROJECT PROMISE**

Project Promise is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth on St. Croix by providing empowerment initiatives, cultural programs and family services. To learn more about Project Promise, please visit their website at [www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com).