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PROJECT PROMISE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2015 The results of the Community Needs Assessment Survey conducted by Project Promise earlier this year were released today. Officials from Project Promise announced the findings from its January 24th Christiansted survey. The Needs Assessment questionnaire specifically targeted the challenges of youth, and it was distributed by email to residents and business owners in the Christiansted downtown area. Volunteers and board members from Project Promise also went door to door to conduct surveys and collect the completed questionnaires. One hundred and seventeen (117) people responded to the survey.

Some of the key findings from the Community Needs Assessment include:

- The majority of respondents (57%) ranked "educational programs" as the most urgent need for youth in the community and another 27% ranked these programs as second most urgent.
- Forty percent (40%) ranked "lack of parental involvement" as the most urgent problem facing youth.
- Nearly 80% of respondents agreed that adolescent males are at greater risk of dropping out of school than adolescent females.
- A total of 98% of respondents agreed that more "career exploration programs" for youth are needed.
- Approximately 95% of respondents believe that if there were more alternative programs available for youth, there would be fewer adolescents entangled in the juvenile justice system.

Project Promise is committed to addressing the challenges facing at-risk youth in the St. Croix community. The main goal of conducting the survey was to find out what the community is doing right, and where improvements are needed when it comes to providing services for the at-risk youth population. The findings of the Needs Assessment reinforced many of the non-profit board's ideas, and were instrumental in helping to shape Project Promise's program design. "It was very important for us to conduct the survey because we wanted our programming to reflect the expressed needs of the community. We hope these findings will be a useful tool for educators, policymakers and administrators", said Project Promise President

Resa O'Reilly.

To access and download the survey results, please log on to our website at www.projectpromisevi.com.

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 the organization, please visit the website at www.projectpromisevi.com.

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