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# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## **Project Promise Launches “The Caterpillar Project”**

*Pilot Program Will Support 12 At Risk Fifth Graders For The Next Eight Years*

**St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (January 23, 2016)** Project Promise today announced the launch of its newest program, The Caterpillar Project (TCP). TCP is slated to begin January 25, 2016 with 12 selected fifth graders from the Lew Muckle Elementary School. It is a long-term program designed to make a significant difference in the lives of at-risk youth in St. Croix, which is the major goal of Project Promise.

Project Promise has partnered with the Department of Education to offer The Caterpillar Project to a pilot group of St. Croix students. The pilot program will initially be held after school on Lew Muckle’s school campus, with the goal of relocating TCP to Project Promise’s future home in downtown Christiansted. The students will meet with staffers after school on a daily basis through high school and into college, focusing on a number of different areas to give the students the necessary tools to be successful, well-rounded individuals. Those components include *Life Coaching, Mentoring, Personal Wellness, Tutoring, Career Exploration, Cultural Awareness, Creative Expression, Community Service, and Family Support Services*. Over time the Caterpillar Project will become a “support system” for these youth, with close ties to adults who take a personal interest in their growth and development. “We began working on this program a year ago and are so pleased with the support we have received thus far. The Caterpillar Project will give participants a variety of opportunities to broaden their horizons and reach their full potential,” said Resa O’Reilly, Project Promise founder and president.

Last year, Project Promise partnered with the National Park Service to offer Salt River Bay’s Ticket To Ride program, a program that exposed hundreds of sixth graders to the historical site and ecological preserve. That program continues this year. Project Promise also offered a Creative Expression Arts program afterschool at the Alfredo Andrews Elementary School in 2015.

For more information about The Caterpillar Project, or other Project Promise programs, please contact Resa O’Reilly at (340) 244-3242.

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 the website at [www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com).

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