

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

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St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (February 12, 2023) – On Saturday, February 11th, Project Promise hosted its signature Havana Nights fundraising event; this year's theme was *The Culture & Arts of Cuba!* Project Promise was excited to bring this community favorite back for the seventh year in a row in support of its programs, and over 250 attendees enjoyed live Cuban music, authentic Cuban dishes, a Silent auction, a cigar rolling demonstration, and a chance to win a trip for two to Cuba. This year's raffle ticket winner was Mr. Wayne Caleb.

Havana Nights was once again held on the beautiful grounds of the Estate Whim Museum and Great House. Several highlights from the evening included a Salsa Dance presentation by Project Promise students, a \$23,000 check presentation by Viya for Project Promise's Empowered Me program, and the recognition of three high school students for their overall achievement. This year's Excellence & Leadership Awards were presented to St. Croix Central High School senior, Philbert Scotland, St. Croix Career & Technical Education Center senior, Keijhenae Petersen, and St. Croix Educational Complex senior, Lebron James.

Project Promise would like to thank all their sponsors for their support; especially their Platinum Sponsors- Viya, Diageo, The Department of Health- Family Planning Program and TEAM Consultants.

The proceeds from Havana Nights benefit Project Promise's Caterpillar Project (TCP), 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 and the new Empowered Me program. The Empowered Me program offers age-group-specific classes and activities that centers around seven programming pillars: Financial Literacy, Life Skills, Personal Wellness, Career Exploration, Creative Expression, Cultural Awareness and Community Service.

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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. For more information about Project Promise, please contact Resa O'Reilly Shearn at (340) 513-0446 or please visit the website at www.projectpromisevi.com .