

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

Resa O'Reilly  
Phone: (340) 244-3242  
Email: [info@projectpromisevi.com](mailto:info@projectpromisevi.com)

**PRESS RELEASE****PROJECT PROMISE'S CATERPILLARS PLANT TREES AS PART OF DAY OF SERVICE  
PROJECT TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands** (*January 15, 2018*) – Today, students from Project Promise's The Caterpillar Project (TCP) program joined thousands across the country, participating in a national day of service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. The Caterpillars planted over 40 coconut trees across a St. Croix beach in an effort to help restore some of the local agricultural life destroyed when Hurricane Maria devastated the island last September. "After the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria, this project was a great opportunity for our Caterpillars to participate in the restoration of our community. The planting of these local trees will help to bring back the beauty of our islands for many years to come," said president, Resa O'Reilly.

The Caterpillars were joined by Project Promise volunteers and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard who wanted to take part in the students' service project. "I believe in what Project Promise is doing for the youth of St. Croix. I believe that what is being done will impact the future of the island and the future of these children. I think it is an awesome program. I am proud to be a part of this program and that Project Promise allowed me to be a part of it," said Malcolm Osteen of the U.S. Coast Guard. Osteen is here on island assisting in the recovery process along with other U.S. Coast Guard members.

Every month, the Caterpillars take part in a community service project as part of their commitment to making a difference to those around them. Today's National MLK Day of Service provided the students with the opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's teachings, in addition to their monthly service commitment.

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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 donate or learn more about Project Promise, please visit the website at [www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com).

