

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

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ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (NOVEMBER 12, 2024) – Project Promise, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youths on St. Croix is excited to announce that the sixth year of its popular Buck Island “Ticket to Ride” Program has come to an end. The Buck Island Program gives local public school fifth grade students the opportunity to visit and learn about the Buck Island Reef National Monument.

The three-part Buck Island program includes a field trip to the Buck Island Reef National Monument, thanks to the generosity of Steve Kammerzalt of Big Beards Adventure Tours, as well as two classroom visits by Ranger Benito Vegas. The program teaches students about Buck Island’s ecological significance and cultural history, and they get the opportunity to experience the island’s wonders first-hand from both land and sea.

Buck Island Reef National Monument supports a large variety of terrestrial and marine plants and animals, including endangered and threatened species. The Buck Island 5th Grade Ticket to Ride Program provides students with a great opportunity to learn about one of our island’s National Parks. The program started on October 1st and ended on November 7th.

During this year’s activities, Project Promise hosted 5th grade students from six public elementary schools, as well as St. Mary’s School. “This year 181 students and 26 teachers participated in our Buck Island Program, Project Promise Executive Director and Founder Resa O’Reilly Shearn shares. “The Buck Island Ticket to Ride program is one of our most popular programs and provides the opportunity for many students to attend this park for the very first time,” O’Reilly Shearn stated.

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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 .