

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

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info@projectpromisevi.com**Project Promise's Salt River Bay Program Enters its 9th Year**

ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (MARCH 15, 2023)—Project Promise, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of at-risk youths in St. Croix, has kicked off its 2023 Salt River Bay Program. This program gives local fourth graders the opportunity to visit and learn about the incredible history of the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve.

First launched in 2015, the three-part Salt River Bay Program was designed by Project Promise Executive Director and Founder Resa O'Reilly. In Part 1 a park ranger comes to the school to provide an introduction to the park. Part 2 is the field trip to the park, including a ranger-led nature hike and a fun scavenger hunt. In Part 3 the ranger returns to the school for a post-experience visit, reviewing and reinforcing what was learned.

"We are very excited," Resa shares, "to be working with the National Park Service once again. Ranger Vegas has been working alongside Project Promise since its inception, bringing his extensive knowledge and wonderful energy to every class. He makes the park's history come alive, with stories about Columbus' landing, the famous skirmish between Europeans and indigenous people that took place at the Cape of Arrows, teaches students about Salt River Bay's natural resources, and more."

After having switched to a virtual or hybrid format during the pandemic, this year all elements of the program will be conducted in person. All costs of the program, including transportation to and from the park, will be paid for by the remaining funds in the \$6,000 Open Outdoors for Kids grant that Project Promise received from the National Park Foundation in 2022.

Resa anticipates that over 300 fourth grader students from five area public schools will participate in 2023. "This program provides many students' first trip to a national park," Resa shares, "and the kids' excitement at being able to explore the park is always palpable. It is an eye-opening and horizon-expanding experience for them."

ABOUT PROJECT PROMISE

For more information about the Salt River Bay Program, 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.

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