

**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 MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR CUBAN SCHOOLCHILDREN**

**St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (March 1, 2020)** – When Resa O'Reilly, founder and president of St. Croix non-profit Project Promise, plans a vacation, she never makes it “just about her.” As someone who is absolutely dedicated to Project Promise’s vision of bringing about positive change in our world, she always looks for ways to make a positive impact on the local children while she is there. O'Reilly’s recent birthday trip to Cuba was an excellent example of this.

For this trip she planned to bring school supplies for local children. Thanks to the generosity of Project Promise’s staff members, who each contributed to the cause, she went to Cuba with an entire suitcase filled with over \$200 worth of school supplies. These were then donated to students at a Cuban elementary school. The school was also presented with a collection of English-language books, which they planned to use to start an English-language section in their library.

Over two hundred and seventy students in kindergarten through sixth grade at Escuela Primaria Camilo Cienfuegos were impacted by Project Promise’s giveaway. “Every student at the school either received something personally, such as pens, erasers and paper, or supplies for their classroom,” said O'Reilly.

The school allowed her to personally distribute the gifts and she was particularly touched by the children’s gratitude. “We fulfilled a need in such a simple way, and in return I witnessed so many different levels of appreciation. For example, one little girl was so excited to receive a pencil grip that she kissed it,” O'Reilly recalled.

“This amazing experience was another reminder of how easy it is to make a difference for others,” O'Reilly stated. “Impacting others doesn’t always have to be done in a large, profound way. Even something as small as a pencil grip can bring joy to a child, and a suitcase full of school supplies can positively impact an entire community,” continued O'Reilly.

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For more information about The Caterpillar Project, or to purchase tickets, please contact



10 ABC Queen Street  
Christiansted, VI 00820  
[www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com)

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).