



*Wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years to all friends of The St. George Village Botanical Garden!*

*Our own Amy Parker DeSorbo helped bring Sata to the children of St. Croix. Thanks Amy!*

This Christmas, more than 300 children affected by the devastating impact of hurricanes will receive some holiday cheer thanks to two cooperative partnerships between Cane Bay Cares (CBC) and both Project Promise VI and the St. George Village Botanical Garden, according to Cane Bay Partners VI LLLP co-founders David Johnson and Kirk Chewning.



Since being established in September, Cane Bay Cares has distributed more than 25,000 pounds of food and other aid — 20,000 bottles of water, 4,000 freezer packs for medical use, 800 inflatable solar lights, 44 generators and more — to St. Croix. For Thanksgiving, CBCs distributed holiday-themed food to the community and delivered turkeys to organizations that were cooking meals. Cane Bay is operating in fiscal partnership with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

But that was for the adults, who have been shouldering the enormous burden of rebuilding and surviving in the wake of two catastrophic hurricanes. Meanwhile, the children have been dealing without a fully functional educational system and getting by with no power, and Cane Bay Cares wanted to make sure they had at least one present to open this Christmas

The children are often the neglected sufferers in disasters like this. With no power and no full schooling, that means a lot of down time while parents are busy cleaning debris and getting around having a damaged infrastructure,” said David Johnson, co-founder of Cane Bay Partners. “So, we really wanted to do our part and make sure they, at the very least, have a joy-filled holiday.”

Therefore, CBC partnered with Amy Parker De Sorbo from the St. George Village Botanical Garden, who wanted to help fill the void caused by the Toys for Tots program not being on island this year. She set a goal of being able to bring toys to 500 kids, ages birth to 16.

CBC created an Amazon Wishlist with age appropriate toys and asked its network of organizations to help purchase toys. Fifty-seven donors stepped up and purchased a toy through this drive, and when the shipping deadline approached, CBC purchased an additional 229 toys for this drive. De Sorbo has already been able to deliver hundreds of toys to children in Frederiksted, Christiansted, local schools and organizations like the Women’s Coalition. Toys included items like the OWI T4 Transforming Solar Robot, xylophones, fairy princess dress up, super hero dress up, Lego sets and more.

“It’s been so overwhelming to experience the generosity of Cane Bay Cares and the donors on Amazon to help Santa deliver toys and keep the Christmas spirit alive on this hurricane-ravaged island,” said De Sorbo. “We have been delivering toys to people that don’t have transportation and others. The appreciation from the children has also been overwhelming and many were brought to tears and said thanks through hugs.”



Cane Bay partners coordinated the donation of more than 300 toys through the St. George Village Botanical Garden and Project Promise VI to bring holiday joy to children impacted by hurricanes.

CBC also partnered with Naita Salmon of Project Promise VI to help get gifts to children participating in the Caterpillar Project and their siblings. The Caterpillar Project seeks to improve the lives of at-risk young people on St. Croix through empowerment initiatives, cultural programs and family services. Donors generously purchased 14 gifts through the wish list, and CBC purchased an additional 17 gifts after the shipping deadline. Gifts purchased included sneakers, super hero dolls, coloring books, jewelry making kits and clothes.

“Project Promise’s Caterpillar Project is extremely grateful to Cane Bay Cares for organizing this toy drive for our caterpillars and their siblings. If it was not for this effort, some of our children would not have received gifts this year,” said Salmon.

Cane Bay Cares is still accepting donations to cover the costs of the gifts; donations can be received through this [PayPal link](#):  
General donations to support Cane Bay Cares and all of its relief efforts can be made through this [PayPal link](#):

For more information on CBC’s fundraising campaigns, how to donate or to [sign up](#) for updates through its [email](#) newsletter, go to [www.canebaycares.org](http://www.canebaycares.org).