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# What Rain? Survivors and Supporters Participate in 23rd Annual Relay for Life on St. Croix; \$295,785 Raised

Community Center / **Published On October 29, 2023 06:55 AM /**

Staff Consortium **October 29, 2023**

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**Scenes of Relay for Life 2023 on St. Croix. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM**

Despite persistent rain, St. Croix's 23rd annual Relay for Life event, held at the St. Croix Educational Complex's track and field facility on Saturday, set new records in fundraising, emphasizing the importance of community unity in battling cancer. This year's theme, "Working Together to Find a Cure", was a testament to the collective dedication of the community.

The event had initially set a fundraising target of \$250,000, but thanks to the unwavering commitment of 43 participating teams and generous donations, the total soared to an impressive \$295,785. The continuous efforts hint at the possibility of reaching the \$300,000 mark by the

close of December.

Highlights of the event included the Parade of Teams, the gathering of Family and Friends, the Survivor's Dinner, and the touching Candlelight (Luminary) Ceremony.

Chairperson of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life 2023, Yvonne W. Pryce, expressed her appreciation, stating, "I would like to say thank you, a big thank you, to everyone who has donated and to all the hard-working teams." She specifically acknowledged Team Sunshine, which led the fundraising effort with a collection of \$15,734.00. Pryce added, "Every penny we raise remains in the Virgin Islands, assisting cancer patients in alleviating the expenses of airfare, medication, and accommodation."

Community member Vasudave Boodoosingh, a testament to the support of Relay for Life, shared, "Relay for Life has been steadfast in supporting individuals affected by cancer. My commitment to this organization is unwavering, and I plan to continue backing their initiatives."

The Relay For Life executive team, known as the "Fabulous Five", also played a pivotal role in this year's success. The team, comprised of Chairperson Yvonne Webster-Pryce, Co-chair Urylee Burke, Coordinator for survivors Patricia Sage, Coordinator for teams Martha Mills, and Coordinator for luminaries Luz Rodriguez, received accolades from the National American Cancer Society for their dedication.

The global Relay for Life movement has its roots in Tacoma, Washington, where colorectal surgeon Dr. Gordy Klatt, in May 1985, single-handedly raised over \$27,000 in 24 hours. Over the years, the event has grown to become the premier global fundraising event dedicated to cancer research and support.

For those wishing to support this cause, donations are being accepted until the end of December. Contributions can be made through the official website [here](#).

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