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Family Resource Center's Peace Maker Gala Set for July 11 Amid Federal Funding Delays

Amid delayed federal funding, the Family Resource Center will hold its annual Peace Maker Gala on July 11 at Victor's Hideout, honoring Elma V. Brathwaite and Mr. Pash while raising funds for services supporting survivors, youth and families in need.

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ST. THOMAS — Amid delays in federal funding, the Family Resource Center, Inc. will hold its annual Peace Maker Gala on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Victor's Hideout, with proceeds supporting services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held under the theme, "Honoring the Stars in Our Community." This year's honorees are Ms. Elma V. Brathwaite and Mr. Pash of the Indian Association of the Virgin Islands.

Each year, the Family Resource Center recognizes community members whose contributions have supported the Virgin Islands and helped advance the agency's mission. This year, the organization said it will honor Ms. Brathwaite and Mr. Pash for their dedication to service.

The gala comes as the Family Resource Center says it has faced significant challenges because of delays in federal funding, a difficulty also affecting many nonprofit organizations serving the St. Thomas community. Despite those setbacks, the agency said it has remained committed to keeping its doors open and continuing to provide services to people seeking refuge from domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

"For more than 45 years, the Family Resource Center has been a beacon of hope in our community," said Executive Director Anya Stuart. "We provide lifesaving services to victims fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community and our dedicated staff, who are truly our real superstars."

In addition to crisis intervention services, the Family Resource Center offers parenting classes, anger management classes, emergency court advocacy and educational outreach. The agency also operates a small transitional home for women and children rebuilding their lives after abuse.

The Peacemaker Gala is the agency's largest fundraising event of the year. The evening will include a silent auction featuring jewelry, artwork, vacation packages, dining experiences and other items donated by businesses and community supporters.

The event will also include the agency's "Fund the Mission" segment, which directly supports programs and services for youth, survivors and families in need.

Event Coordinator Mrs. Therese Thomas encouraged the community to attend and support the organization's work.

"We invite the entire community to join us for this special evening as we honor two remarkable individuals while helping ensure that critical services remain available for the most vulnerable members of our community. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and act of generosity helps us continue our mission of providing hope, safety, and healing."

Individuals and businesses that wish to support the gala may donate through the Family Resource Center's PayPal donation link available on its Facebook page or by visiting www.frcusvi.org. Gala tickets may also be purchased through the website's donation link.

Supporters may also contact the Family Resource Center directly at (340) 776-3966 for ticket information or to make a contribution.

The Family Resource Center also thanked the individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the agency over the years through financial contributions and in-kind donations, including clothing, food, household items and other essentials used to help survivors and their children rebuild their lives safely.

The agency said it looks forward to celebrating this year's honorees while continuing its mission of providing hope, healing and safety.

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