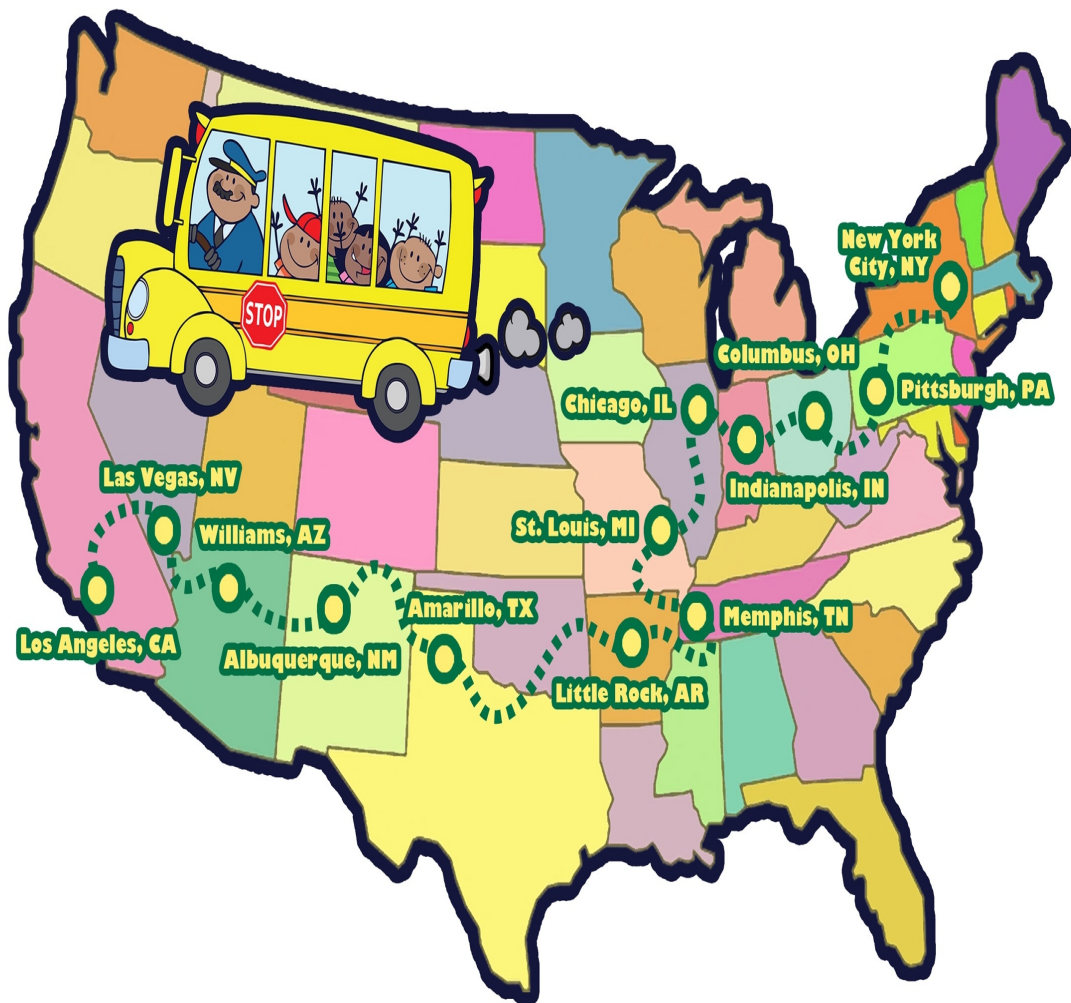


The Virgin Islands Consortium

In Summer Of Service Initiative, Project Promise Students Will Travel To Several States Beginning Thursday

VIC News / **Published On July 29, 2019 11:33 AM /**

Staff **July 29, 2019**



ST. CROIX -- Project Promise's Caterpillar students are driving across America this summer to make an impact on communities outside of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

According to a release the nonprofit issued late Sunday night, the caterpillars will touch down in New York on August 1, where they will rehabilitate the El Sitio Feliz community garden in East Harlem. The group will then head west with stops in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California, and undertake various service projects that include

helping at a food bank, a home for the elderly, a homeless shelter, a refugee family, a children's home and an animal shelter.

Every month since the Caterpillar Project was started, the students have completed community service projects locally, nationally and even internationally, said Project Promise. It said community service is one of the nine components at the core of the Project Promise program, and founder and president Resa O'Reilly came up with the idea in order to expand the students' outlook.

"This opportunity of a lifetime will allow the caterpillars to experience first-hand the history, sights, and sounds of the mainland U.S. while helping their fellow US citizens in the process," said Ms. O'Reilly. "We will work alongside individuals and organizations that we have formed connections with over the past five years, as well as, connect with new organizations to complete our service projects."

Project Promise's Summer of Service is sponsored by Virgin Islands Lottery, Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, Spirit Airlines, Banco Popular, the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, Island Toyota, Island Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, VI Industrial Services, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority, and TEAM Consultants. Students and parents have also been fundraising for the event since September 2018 by hosting numerous water sales, bake sales and by selling their hand-crafted bracelets.

The road trip wraps up in California. The Caterpillars then fly back to St. Croix on August 22.