

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Plaza West Supermarket to fundraise for Queen Louise Home for Children

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Plaza Extra West By. Ernice Gilbert, VIC

ST. CROIX — Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands announced Wednesday that Plaza West Supermarket and the Hamed Family will host the 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Fundraising Sale to support Queen Louise Home for Children. Christmas trees will be on sale on November 30 and December 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. under the tent at Plaza Extra West, Lutheran Services said. All proceeds will benefit Queen Louise Home for Children.

Lutheran Services said the event is a great way to begin the holiday season with the families coming together to decorate trees. For Queen Louise Home the fundraiser will bring funds that help with maintaining a stable, secure environment for the children in our care, according to the release.

The event is part of the Hamed family commitment to the community—to show love and support to vulnerable children. Christmas carols and Santa himself will start off the celebration and volunteers from the Plastic Drop Off and Recycling Project will be helping shoppers pick out and load up their perfect tree.

The nonprofit said the event could not have come at a better time for Queen Louise Home and Lutheran Social Services of the VI which is celebrating 115 years of leading with a vision and strengthening the community.

“We are filled with gratitude for the outpouring of love during this significant time. The fundraiser by the Hamed family will make this anniversary special. It is a reminder that we are never alone” said Junia John-Straker, chief executive officer of LSSVI.

“A huge thank you for all the great people who showed their support last year.” said Wally Hamed, part owner of the supermarket. As proud Virgin Islanders, Plaza Extra West Supermarket and its affiliate locations in St. Thomas exhibit their commitment to local needs and environmental concerns. They helped to launch a plastic recycling partnership on St. Croix and St. Thomas that will be “keeping our home clean for generations to come,” said Wally Hamed. The family and its businesses also participate in the Farm to Supermarket Initiative with the USVI Department of Agriculture that supports local produce and local beef farmers and allows them to offer the widest selection of fresh produce, fresh meats and groceries in the community, Lutheran Services said.

Contributions to Queen Louise Home fund the costs of operating the program 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Children first come to Queen Louise Home through the VI Department of Human Services as a result of abuse, neglect, and/or displacement, or for respite care when needed. The program is a part of Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands —the largest private child and family services agency in the US Virgin Islands.