

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Local Nonprofit Supporting Survivors of Homicide Victims Receives National Crime Week Funding for Awareness Activities

Community Center / **Published On April 07, 2023 06:45 AM /**

Staff Consortium **April 07, 2023**



A local organization founded to support survivors of homicide victims has received funding from a U.S. Dept. of Justice grant program.

Every year, the National Association of VOCA Administrators (VOCA means Victims of Crime Act), in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime, disburses grants of up to \$5000 for organizations to raise public awareness of services available to victims of crimes, and the rights of said victims.

This year, the Issachar K.Tigre Chinnery Foundation, Victims United Inc., a USVI nonprofit, was one such grant recipient. Established in 2009, the organization was founded as a support program for the survivors of homicide victims, focusing on their needs against the stark reality of murder and its aftermath.

The funding will go towards supporting the foundation's program of activities in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, from April 23 to 29, 2023.

The nonprofit's executive director, Bernadette Gonsalves, welcomed news of the funding grant, saying that the support "will help Victims United Inc. help crime victims." Ms. Gonsalves urged members of the public to support victim assistance programs on a day-to-day basis, and to come out in numbers for activities during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

This year's activities are being held under the theme "Survivor Voices: Elevate, Engage, Effect Change."