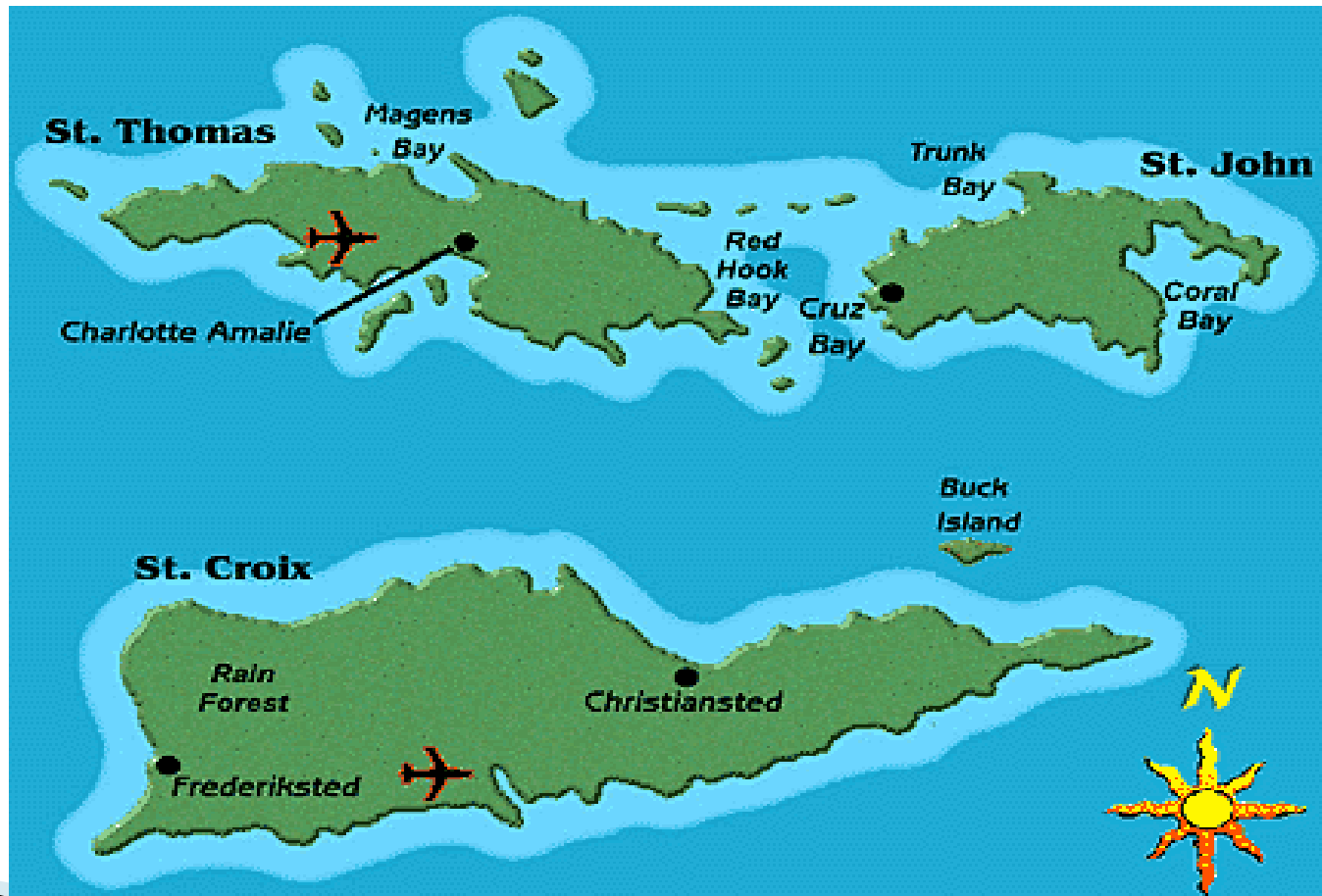


Self Advocacy Summit

US Virgin Islands



Map of the Virgin Islands US Virgin Islands (AKA US Paradise)



Self Advocacy Groups in the Virgin Islands

- ▶ Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD)
- ▶ Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands (DRCVI)
- ▶ Virgin Islands Developmental Disabilities Council (VIDDC)
- ▶ Virgin Islands Autism Network (VIAN)
- ▶ Virgin Islands Family Information Network on Disability (VIFIND)
- ▶ MGM Discovery Cove (MDC)
- ▶ Here to Understand and Give Support (HUGS)
- ▶ Center for Independent living (CIL)
- ▶ Ten thousand helpers
- ▶ St. Croix Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Support Group

Resource Chart

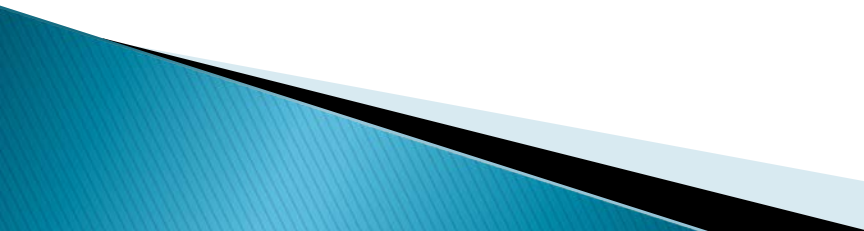
Name of organization	Who Provides the Resources	What Resource
VIUCEDD	USDHH, ADD	Federal Grants
DRCVI	USDHH, ADD	Federal Grants
VIDDC	USDHH, ADD	Federal Grants
VIAN	Hovensa	Grant
VIFIND	USDE	Federal Grants
VICIL	Dept of ED	VI Gov
Ten thousand helpers	VIDH/MH& Block Grant	Local
HUGS	Self Supportive	-----
MGM Discovery Cove	Self Supportive	-----

The Virgin Islands Self Advocacy Group has been trying to meet its objectives by doing the following things:

Territory wide conferences such as:

- Voices that Count
- Autism Conference
- Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation Inc
- Virgin Islands Disability Resource Center
- Monthly Parents Empowerment Meetings
- Participate in monthly self-advocacy meetings at the office of the Disability Rights Center of the VI

Challenges the Self Advocacy Groups Are Facing in the Virgin Islands:

- ▶ Money
 - There is no state funding
 - Federal funding is very limited
 - ▶ Limited transportation
 - ▶ Housing Shortage
 - There are about 800 on a wait list
 - ▶ Those who are involved are burnt out
 - ▶ Youth are not involved
 - ▶ Low employment of people with a disability
- 

Things That We Are Most Proud Of:

We just passed a new law called Act No 7320, Visitable Housing Design

Assistive Technology Loan Program:
We have given loans for about 100 people

New ADA Coordinator

Re-establishment of the V.I. Developmental Disabilities Council

Goals to Achieve to Make Dreams Come True:

There is a need for:

- Accessible and affordable homes
- Accessible and affordable transportation system
- More involvement from the community
- More support from the territory's Government
- Involving youth in disability related matters
- Encourage private business to be accessible
- Employment opportunities

Virgin Islands Delegates

- ▶ Dr. Yegin Habtes–VIUCEDD
- ▶ Ms. Andrea Plunkett–VIUCEDD
- ▶ Mrs. Edita Carty–Self Advocacy Adult
- ▶ Ms. Nina Garcia–Self Advocacy Youth
- ▶ Ms. Stephanie Brown–DD Council
- ▶ Ms. Stephanie Barnes–VIAN
- ▶ Mr. Jeffrey Toomey–Self Advocacy Youth
- ▶ Ms. Jill Singer–Self Advocate
- ▶ Mr. Archie Jennings, Esq. Managing Attorney– Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands