U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF HEAD START

DILSA CAPDEVILLE HEAD START CENTER

(FORMERLY BOLONGO BAY HEAD START)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

USVI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HEAD START

CUSTOM BUILDERS

Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Center

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

ORDER OF CEREMONY

10:00 AM

MASTER/MISTRESS OF CEREMONY
Ryan Nugent & Masikia Lewis

INVOCATION
Pastor Davin Scarbough, Agape Seventh Day Adventist Church

NATIONAL ANTHEM & VI MARCH
Shikima Jones-Sprauve, St. John Administrator

WELCOME
The Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services

ENTERTAINMENT
Savan Head Start

REMARKS
Jerry Otto, Senior Project Manager Custom Builders VI

Rueben Jennings, Acting Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works

Adrienne Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery

ENTERTAINMENT
Semone Ray-George

REMARKS
The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Delegate to Congress, Esq.

The Honorable Milton E. Potter, Senate President, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq., Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States

REMARKS
The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States

BENEDICTION
Pastor Davin Scarbough, Agape Seventh Day Adventist Church

RIBBON CUTTING



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

What a wonderful day for our children, our families, and the Virgin Islands' future! Today, we proudly celebrate the opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility, an exciting milestone for early childhood education in our Territory. This occasion is made even more meaningful as we honor a remarkable woman whose life and work made a lasting difference in our community.

For my administration and the Department of Human Services, reaching this milestone is a proud accomplishment. The completion of our $42 million federally funded initiative represents years of planning, partnership, and hard work to strengthen early childhood education across the Territory. Seeing these efforts come to fruition is especially rewarding when I think about the children who will walk through these doors, the teachers who will nurture their potential, and the families who will benefit for generations to come.

There is something deeply meaningful about honoring Dilsa Capdeville in a place dedicated to giving children a strong start in life. She devoted so much of her life to advocating for the well-being of women, children, and families, and her contributions deserve to be remembered. To her family and loved ones, I hope today fills your hearts with tremendous pride, knowing her name will continue to inspire future generations of Virgin Islanders.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Department of Human Services, our federal partners, and everyone whose commitment helped make this moment possible.

Today, we celebrate a promise fulfilled, a legacy honored, and a new generation of Virgin Islanders whose possibilities are just beginning. I cannot think of a better reason to celebrate!

Sincerely,

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

I am pleased to welcome all attendees to the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility. Today, we proudly celebrate the opening of this newly constructed structure, as it marks the completion of new Head Start facilities undertaken by the Bryan-Roach Administration.

Formerly named the Bolongo Bay Head Start, this new facility is one of six Head Start projects constructed simultaneously in the Virgin Islands and funded through a grant from the Office of Disaster Recovery. This state-of-the-art facility features a dedicated training center and administrative building, making it one of the largest of the newly constructed spaces, expertly designed to accommodate 80 students.

The commitment to completing these Head Start facilities demonstrates an understanding that providing the children of our community with the appropriate support for the foundation of their educational journey is paramount to their later educational success. The completion of these facilities is, therefore, a call for celebration by all who are invested in the educational infrastructure of the Virgin Islands.

The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services has shown exceptional leadership in overseeing the Head Start project developments Territory-wide and in bringing this administration's vision to life. I applaud Commissioner Averil George and her dynamic team for preparing a safe, nurturing facility to welcome our young learners.

I pray for God's guidance and protection for the Head Start students, facilitators, and families, and I extend best wishes to all for a successful program year and beyond.

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor

NO. 315 PRINCE STREET, FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX, USVI 00840 ♦♦ Tel: 340.773.6449 ♦♦ Fax: 340.773.0330
NO. 5049 KONGENS GADE, CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, USVI 00802 ♦♦ Tel: 340.774.2991 ♦♦ Fax: 340.774.6953
www.ltg.gov.vi

The Capitol Building
Charlotte Amalie, United States Virgin Islands 00802
340.774.0880

Golden Rock
Christiansted, United States Virgin Islands 00820
340.773.2424

St. John Annex
Cruz Bay, United States Virgin Islands 00830
340.776.6285

CHAIRMAN
Committee of the Whole

VICE CHAIR
Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure, and Planning

MEMBER
Committee on Rules
Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services



MILTON E. POTTER

PRESIDENT

36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands

MESSAGE FROM SENATE PRESIDENT MILTON E. POTTER

It is with great pride and pleasure that I extend congratulations to the Department of Human Services, the Head Start community, and the people of St. Thomas on the ribbon-cutting of the newly named Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility.

Today marks more than the opening of a new building. It represents a meaningful investment in our children, our families, and the future of the Virgin Islands. These modern Head Start facilities provide our youngest Virgin Islanders with safe, nurturing, and enriching environments where they can learn, grow, develop confidence, and begin building a strong foundation for their future. I commend the Department of Human Services and all who contributed their vision, dedication, and hard work to bringing this important territory-wide initiative to completion.

It is especially meaningful that this facility bears the name of Dilsa Capdeville, a respected social work icon whose life reflected compassion, service, and a genuine commitment to children, families, and our community. Her contributions have left an enduring mark on the Virgin Islands, and honoring her in this way ensures that her legacy of caring for others will continue to inspire generations to come.

Every child who enters these doors will have an opportunity to learn, discover, and dream. In that way, this facility will not only honor Mrs. Capdeville's name, but will carry forward the spirit of service and hope that defined her life's work.

May the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility be filled with the laughter, curiosity, and dreams of our children, and may it remain a place where families find support and children are encouraged to reach their fullest potential.

Congratulations on this significant milestone. May this beautiful new facility serve the children and families of St. Thomas for many years to come and stand as a lasting tribute to the remarkable legacy of my dear friend, Dilsa Capdeville.

With warmest congratulations,

Milton E. Potter
Senate President
36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands



STACEY E.
PLASKETT
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN STACEY E. PLASKETT

On behalf of the Members of the 119th Congress and my office, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS), the Head Start family, and the entire St. Thomas community on the dedication of the **Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility**.

For six decades, Dilsa Capdeville has devoted her life to the children and families of the St. Thomas–St. John District. Her service began when she was a high school student working at the former Department of Social Welfare. Ms. Capdeville went on to help build the Women's Resource Center, now the Family Resource Center, and to found KIDSCOPE, a place where children who had endured unspeakable harm were heard with dignity and compassion. She worked alongside law enforcement, health professionals, and educators, often around the clock, to ensure no child faced their darkest moments alone.

It is fitting that a building devoted to the earliest years of a child's life now bears her name. Head Start has always been about more than early education. It wraps families in support so that every child can begin life on solid ground. Ms. Capdeville has spent her career making that same promise to children across the Virgin Islands. Every child who walks through these doors will carry her legacy forward.

This dedication also marks another milestone in DHS' territory-wide initiative to build six modern Head Start facilities across our islands, made possible by a $42.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I commend Commissioner Averil George and the DHS team, our Head Start teachers and staff, and the 36th Legislature, which honored Ms. Capdeville through Act No. 9094. I will continue to advocate for the federal resources that make programs like Head Start possible.

To Ms. Capdeville: thank you for your courage, your faith, and your unwavering love for the children and families of these islands. May this building stand as a reminder to the next generation of caregivers that one person's service can change countless lives.

Congratulations, and may God continue to bless the children and families of the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

Stacey E. Plaskett

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

ST. CROIX DISTRICT OFFICE
60 KING STREET
FREDERIKSTED, VI 00840
(340) 778-5900
FAX: (340) 778-5111

ST. THOMAS DISTRICT OFFICE
9100 PORT OF SALE MALL, SUITE 22
ST. THOMAS, VI 00802
(340) 774-4408
FAX: (340) 774-8033

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority
1AH Estate Diamond, Suites 1&2
Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00820
Phone (340)202-1221

Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority
8000 Nisky Center, Suite 1
St. Thomas, VI 00802
Phone (340)202-1221

October 19, 2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE USVI OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

The opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility, formerly Bolongo Bay Head Start, marks the completion of the Territory's Head Start rebuilding initiative. The USVI Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) congratulates the VI Department of Human Services on this significant milestone.

Funded by $42 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Head Start following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, this initiative delivered six facilities across the Territory in Cruz Bay, Lindbergh Bay, Concordia, Anna's Hope, Minnetta Mitchell, and now Dilsa Capdeville. This investment supported the reconstruction of critical early childhood education facilities, restoring essential infrastructure and advancing the Territory's long-term recovery. The completion of these projects demonstrates how federal grant funding can help rebuild public facilities, restore vital community services, and strengthen the Virgin Islands' resilience. These are not just buildings, but safe modern places where our youngest Virgin Islanders will learn and grow.

It is fitting that this center honors social work icon Dilsa Capdeville. For more than six decades, beginning as a teenager at the former Department of Social Welfare, she has protected the territory's women and children. She founded Kidscope, helped establish the Virgin Islands' first child abuse task force, and helped shape its first child abuse statute.

Today's ribbon cutting is the result of a joint effort among the Departments of Human Services, Property & Procurement, Public Works, and Planning & Natural Resources. It exemplifies the shared goal of "building a resilient Virgin Islands" that will strengthen our communities for generations to come. Thank you to everyone involved for your unwavering dedication.

Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." Today, we honor that truth by opening these doors to the next generation.

Sincerely,

Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien
Director

"Building a Legacy of Resilience"

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner



Averil E. George
Commissioner
VIDHS

On behalf of the Department of Human Services, it is my distinct honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the grand opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility on St. Thomas. This historic occasion marks the ultimate culmination and crowning achievement of our territory-wide initiative to rebuild and transform early childhood infrastructure across the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The opening of this magnificent facility at #9 Frenchman's Bay Quarter represents the final and sixth major Head Start center to open its doors under our comprehensive rebuilding campaign. Funded through a transformative $42 million investment from the federal Office of Head Start Disaster Recovery Funds, this milestone completes a massive territory-wide undertaking alongside our previously completed facilities in Cruz Bay, Lindbergh Bay, Concordia, Anna's Hope, and Minetta Mitchell.

To see all six state-of-the-art facilities fully realized, rebuilt from the ground up, and now serving our families is truly monumental—a testament to what we can achieve when we refuse to let post-disaster challenges define our future.

The establishment of this center stands on the unwavering commitment of the Office of Head Start, DHS, the Bryan-Roach Administration, community leaders, parents, educators, and all those who worked tirelessly to make this day a reality. Most fittingly, this culminating facility proudly bears the name of Dilsa Capdeville—a legendary trailblazer whose six decades of relentless child advocacy, foundational social work, and pioneering spirit have paved the way for the safety and protection of our most vulnerable. Early childhood education is the bedrock upon which we build a thriving society, and this Head Start center reflects our dedication to providing the best possible start for our youngest learners. With this final facility completed, we continue to affirm our belief that every child, no matter their circumstance, deserves access to high-quality education and resources that will set them on the path to lifelong success.

To our Head Start teachers, staff, Head Start Administrator, Assistant Commissioner, and all who have contributed tirelessly to this historic achievement, I express my deepest gratitude for your passion, hard work, and dedication to shaping the minds of our future leaders through every obstacle. I would also like to extend our deepest thanks to the Office of Disaster Recovery, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Property and Procurement, and all supporting staff and agencies who played an instrumental role in bringing these six projects from vision to triumphant reality. To the parents, thank you for placing your trust in this program and investing in your children's bright future. And to the children who will fill these classrooms with curiosity and joy, we look forward to watching you grow, learn, and achieve great things under a roof named for one of our greatest local heroes.

The Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility is more than just a building—it is the triumphant finish line of a massive $42 million journey, a symbol of unbreakable hope, and proof of the boundless potential that lies within our community. Congratulations on this magnificent and historic achievement!

Averil E. George

Warmest Regards,
Averil E. George
Commissioner of Human Services
Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Knud Hansen Complex STE 1 • 1303 Hospital Ground • St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6722 • (340) 774-1166
3012 Golden Rock • Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820 • (340) 718-2980

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner



October 26, 2026

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN GOOD ORDER!
The Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility is a reality!

Dear VIDHS, Partners and Well-wishers:

Heartfelt congratulations to Administrator Masikia Lewis, Assistant Administrator Michael Richards, our Head Start Management team, and all Head Start staff on this remarkable achievement.

The road to this moment has been long, requiring hope, commitment, partnership, and trust. We are deeply grateful to CPH/CVS, Custom Builders, DPW, DPP, ODR, WAPA, DOF, our other sister agencies, and the agency heads who went to bat for us through every moment of urgency. We also thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, for its support and partnership.

This is the accomplishment of our village. We did this together. By living out the DHS motto, "Working Together to Make a Difference," we transformed a shared vision into a beautiful reality.

Our children and community now have a beautiful, multifunctional space that, prayerfully, will serve us, enrich our experiences, and add value to our lives for generations to come. Thank you to everyone whose dedication helped bring us to this proud moment.

With gratitude and congratulations,

Carla E. Benjamin, MA Ed, MSW, CPM, LMSW
Assistant Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Human Services

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Office of Head Start



Message from the Head Start Administrator

Today, we celebrate more than the opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility. We celebrate the power of faith, perseverance, and a shared commitment to the children and families of the Virgin Islands.

This facility, which will serve as a training center, administrative hub, and learning environment for 80 students, stands as a symbol of hope and opportunity. It also honors the remarkable legacy of Dilsa Capdeville, whose lifelong dedication to protecting children, strengthening families, and uplifting communities continues to inspire us. Her compassion and advocacy have touched countless lives, and we are proud that this facility bears her name.

As we mark this milestone, we also celebrate the successful completion of other transformational Head Start projects across our Territory, including the Cruz Bay, Concordia, Lindbergh, and Anna's Hope facilities, as well as the Minnetta Mitchell Nutrition and Administrative Building. These accomplishments reflect what can be achieved when vision, teamwork, and service come together.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Bryan-Roach Administration, Commissioner Averil George, Assistant Commissioner Carla Benjamin, the Department of Human Services leadership team, the CPH/CVS Consulting Team, Custom Builders, architects, engineers, community partners, and all who contributed to making these projects a reality.

Most importantly, thank you to the Head Start staff and leadership whose dedication to children and families gives meaning to this work every day.

As we open these doors, let us remember that our greatest achievement is not the building itself, but the lives that will be nurtured, supported, and transformed within it. May this facility serve as a lasting reminder of what is possible when compassion, faith, and service guide our work.

To God be the glory for all that has been accomplished and for the blessings yet to come.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Masikia Lewis

Masikia Lewis, MA Ed., CPM
Administrator
Office of Head Start

HONOREE BIOGRAPHY & LEGACY: DILSA CAPDEVILLE

Dilsa Capdeville is a legendary, pioneering social worker and child advocacy trailblazer in the U.S. Virgin Islands who has dedicated over six decades to protecting vulnerable children and women. Her visionary leadership has fundamentally transformed the social service landscape of the territory and established models of care recognized across the wider Caribbean.



Her extraordinary career is defined by foundational milestones. As an institutional founder, she established Kidscope in 1997 as the first specialized child abuse advocacy center in the Caribbean, while also co-founding the Family Resource Center and the Nana Baby Home emergency shelter for foster children. Serving as the territory's first official child abuse specialist, she created the first local child abuse task force and played a central role in developing the USVI's first child abuse statute. Her regional impact reached far beyond local shores when she organized the first Caribbean Conference on Child Sexual Abuse, drawing over 600 regional and international attendees.





Naming the facility at #9 Frenchman's Bay Quarter after Dilsa Capdeville is a profound tribute to a lifetime spent standing in the gap for the territory's most vulnerable populations. For generations, Ms. Capdeville's tireless advocacy has provided safety, healing, and a voice to children and families facing unimaginable hardships.



In May 2026, the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands passed Bill No. 36-0114 to officially honor her extraordinary legacy. Signed into law by the Governor, the legislation renamed the newly rebuilt Bolongo Bay Head Start facility on St. Thomas to the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility.



Having her name grace this state-of-the-art early childhood center bridges her historic legacy of protection with our community's future. Just as Ms. Capdeville spent six decades building safety nets and secure environments for children, this facility stands as a modern, secure haven designed to nurture our youngest learners. It serves as a daily reminder to our staff, families, and community that education, safety, and unwavering advocacy form the bedrock of a thriving, resilient U.S. Virgin Islands.

USVI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HEAD START

Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Center

The opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility marks the culmination and final milestone in a territory-wide Office of Head Start initiative to rebuild and elevate our early childhood infrastructure.

Together with the previously completed Cruz Bay facility on St. John, the Anna's Hope and Concordia facilities on St. Croix, as well as the Lindbergh Bay and Minetta Mitchell facilities on St. Thomas, these developments account for all six new Head Start projects funded through a transformative $42 million investment from the federal Office of Head Start Disaster Recovery Funds. Seeing this grand vision brought to life across every island is a testament to what we can achieve when we refuse to let post-disaster challenges define our future.

This milestone reflects a deep commitment to strengthening our island communities by prioritizing the education, safety, and overall well-being of our youngest residents—building long-term resilience and opportunity from the ground up.

From the administrative offices, nutrition centers and hubs, to the modern classrooms, every newly constructed space stands as a beacon of hope and a promise that the children of the U.S. Virgin Islands will always have access to world-class learning environments designed to help them thrive.

A strong educational ecosystem requires modern, secure, and inspiring spaces designed specifically for our children and staff. Located at #9 Frenchman's Bay Quarter on St. Thomas, the new Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility provides a state-of-the-art environment tailored to deliver high-quality early instruction and family support.

For years, dedicated staff and families have navigated challenging post-disaster conditions to ensure our children on St. Thomas continued to receive critical resources and early learning opportunities.

This purpose-built facility center honors their hard work, strengthens program outreach and ensures that staff are equipped with the resources and space necessary to support hundreds of families across the district efficiently and effectively.







USVI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HEAD START

6
MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS

$42M
DISASTER
RECOVERY FUNDING



CRUZ BAY



MINETTA MITCHELL



ANNA'S HOPE



CONCORDIA



DILSA CAPDEVILLE

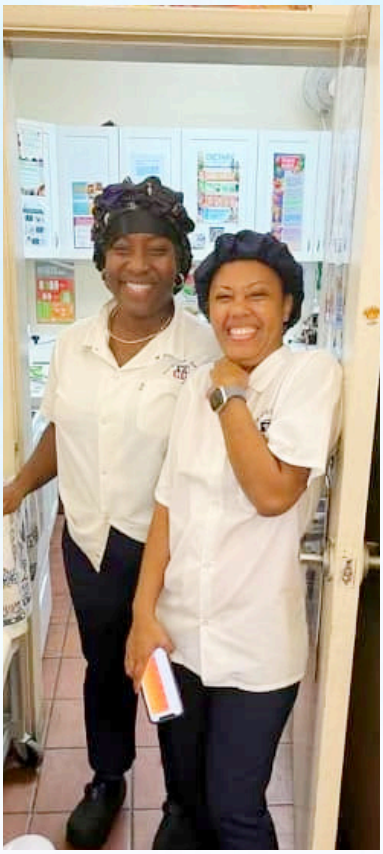


LINDBERGH BAY


you
THE PERFECT IMAGE















Thank you!

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE: To everyone whose dedication, hard work, and collaboration made this historic milestone a resounding success: this monumental achievement reflects the true strength of our community when leaders, partners, and dedicated public servants unite behind a shared vision for the Virgin Islands.

Special recognition goes to the Bryan-Roach Administration, the Office of Disaster Recovery, Department of Public Works, the Department of Property and Procurement, the Office of the Governor, Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, and Custom Builders VI, for their essential leadership and unwavering support throughout this massive territory-wide rebuilding journey.

We also extend our most sincere thanks to Head Start Region II, the Administration for Children and Families, Former Commissioner Kimberley Causey-Gomez, our dedicated Head Start Administrators, Teachers, and Staff, and the entire Department of Human Services team. Your collective devotion, resilience through every post-disaster challenge, and daily commitment to our families continue to build a brighter, more secure, and infinitely more resilient future for our children and our entire community.



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



USVI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HEAD START
CUSTOM BUILDERS