PRESS RELEASE

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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DHS TO HOST GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE DILSA CAPDEVILLE HEAD START FACILITY ON ST. THOMAS

— Historic Event Marks the Triumphant Final Milestone and Closing Chapter of the Territory-Wide $42 Million Head Start Rebuilding Initiative —

ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands - The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (VIDHS) Office of Head Start proudly announces the official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility**, located at #9 Frenchman's Bay Quarter on St. Thomas.

The celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on **Monday, October 26, 2026**, bringing together territory leaders, community partners, families, and honored guests to celebrate a historic achievement for early childhood education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This monumental occasion marks the ultimate culmination and crowning milestone of a comprehensive, territory-wide initiative to rebuild and elevate early childhood infrastructure from the ground up. Funded through a transformative $42 million investment from the federal Office of Head Start Disaster Recovery Funds, the completion of the Dilsa Capdeville facility represents the sixth and final modern Head Start project delivered under this landmark rebuilding campaign.

The newly realized St. Thomas center stands alongside its sister facilities—including Cruz Bay on St. John, Anna's Hope and Concordia on St. Croix, and Minetta Mitchell and Lindbergh Bay on St. Thomas—completing a visionary network of state-of-the-art learning environments designed to withstand future challenges and provide world-class resources for generations of young Virgin Islanders.

Most fittingly, the center proudly bears the name of Dilsa Capdeville, a legendary social worker and child advocacy trailblazer who has dedicated over six decades to protecting vulnerable children and women in the territory.

"The opening of the Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility is more than just the completion of a building; it is the triumphant finish line of a massive $42 million journey to secure the future of our children," said DHS Commissioner Averil E. George. "To see all six state-of-the-art facilities fully realized, built for ultimate resilience, and named in honor of a living legend like Ms. Capdeville is a testament to what we can achieve when our community unites behind a shared vision."

Join the Department of Human Services leadership, local dignitaries, and invited guests as we celebrate this historic milestone in early childhood education and community resilience. The ceremony will be livestreamed on the Government Access Channel and the Department of Human Services' official social media channels.

Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information. For general information, please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi or on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs).

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