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Kids First! partners with St. John Eyecare to Help the children of St. John

Kids First!, a VI based non-profit that supports education on St. John announced today that it has formed a partnership with St. John Eyecare to provide free eye care for needs based children on St. John. Kids First! has provided a \$2500 grant to fund this initiative.

Using this grant, St. John Eyecare will perform free eye exams for children both at its clinic and at St. John schools. If eye glasses are required and the parents are unable to pay, St. John Eyecare will use this grant to offset some or all of the costs.

Commenting on this program, Bruce Claflin, President of Kids First! said "Children face enough challenges mastering the skills necessary for school and beyond. That task becomes far more difficult when the student is burdened by problems with his or her sight. This program makes it possible for every child on St. John to enter school with the eyesight necessary for success".

Dr. Craig Friedenber, owner of St. John Eyecare said "It's great for me to be able to serve the community by going into the island schools and screening the children for eye diseases and vision difficulties. The first Mother whose child qualified for free eyeglasses under this program actually cried; tears of gratitude streamed down her face".

About Kids First!-- Kids First! a VI based non-profit, supports quality education on St. John, focusing on early learning initiatives (birth to age 5) and the initial years of formal schooling. In operation for over two years, Kids First! has provided over \$100,000 of grants to island schools and programs. To learn more about Kids First! go to www.kidsfirststj.org

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