

## Jeffrey Epstein: Supporting Education

Education is essential for a better tomorrow and brighter future for humanity. While the **Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation** initially provided support to educational programs that focused on science, it has since broadened its scope. In 2011 and 2012, the Foundation has supported a number of educational programs, as well as youth initiatives around the world, in economics, early education, social sciences, international affairs and many other fields..

### *Head Start*

Head Start is a federal program that dates back to 1981, when it was first enacted by Congress. Although Head Start programs are all over the United States, there had not been one in the Caribbean until now. The Foundation granted funding to Lutheran Social Services to support the Caribbean's first Head Start program in 2012.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is one of the oldest children's charities in St. Croix, in the US Virgin Islands. Although the charity was started in 1904 by the Princess of Denmark to combat infant mortality, it has since grown and now runs orphanages for children and provides support to the disabled and elderly in the Virgin Islands. Lutheran Social Services began its Center-Based Program of Early Head Start in 2003. The program is intended both for LSS orphans and for low income children living nearby.

Indeed, much of Epstein's Foundation work is focused on initiatives in the US Virgin Islands, where the foundation is based. The Foundation now provides support for a number of educational programs in the Caribbean. Epstein stressed the importance of funding for LSS's new Head Start program by noting that early education and development stimulates a young child's mind for a lifetime of learning and achievement.

Another program that has received funding from the Foundation is Kidscope, Inc. The mission of Kidscope, Inc. is to provide support to children under the age of 18 who have been victims of abuse or mistreatment in the Virgin Islands. The organization also supports children with anger management issues or children who are otherwise at risk. Kidscope, Inc. has provided crisis intervention services, expert family witnesses for courts, and support for kids and families through the court process.

In addition to supporting a program like Kidscope, Inc, Jeffrey Epstein has supported a number of youth sports organizations and performing arts programs. In 2011, the Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation supported the Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra on the island of St. Thomas. In the US Virgin Islands. He hopes that many more youth foundations will apply for funding from the Foundation over the next few years.