



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

MISSION

The BVI Cancer Society is a voluntary, committed, and caring organization that spearheads cancer awareness throughout the entire British Virgin Islands. The organization's promotional activities aim to emphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle and to curb the ill effects of all cancers. The BVI Cancer Society is imbued with a sense of civic duty to educate the populace by heightening cancer awareness, and to raise funds to aid people who have been recently diagnosed with cancer or people who are cancer survivors. Our message is always profound "early detection saves lives."

GOALS

Listed below are our goals:

- To minimize the incidences of cancers through education, promoting healthy lifestyle, and reduction in the exposure of the public to air pollutants and other carcinogens.
- To offer funding to cover a wide range of services relating to cancer treatments such as cancer screenings, hospital and lab fees, air/boat fares to oncologists outside the territory, hotel accommodations for caregivers/family members, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments. In addition, donate equipment/s to the BVI Health Services Authority when possible.
- To create support groups for cancer survivors, their families, and their caregivers:
- To set up branches of the BVI Cancer Society throughout the major Sister Islands to enable everyone's participation in this worthy cause.
- To implement/promote wellness programs in all schools of the British Virgin Islands targeting early prevention of all chronic or related diseases; and
- To encourage the public specifically to access resources that are available at the BVI Cancer Society's office.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the BVI Cancer Society continue to be those embodied in our Constitution. The more prominent ones are listed below:

- To investigate the causes of all cancers, their symptoms, and treatment to find a cure:
- To collect, coordinate, and disseminate medical, scientific, or other resources, data, statistics, and information as to the causation, prevalence, distribution, treatment, or cure relating to cancer or any other data, statistics, or information as may seem expedient, and to establish a bureau for the collection and dissemination of such resources, data, statistics, and information as aforesaid. This is where a Cancer Registry comes in.
- To coordinate support groups for cancer survivors, their families, and caregivers.
- To aid needy people in obtaining funding for medical treatment
- To print, publish, and circulate brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, charts, diagrams, or other matters setting forth or dealing with or relating to medical or scientific investigation and research into all forms of cancer and the results thereof.
- To examine and watch the proceedings of medical, scientific, and other bodies, associations, and institutions in the Territory or elsewhere and to cooperate with such bodies:
- To hold or associate with, support, and attend periodical and other congresses, conferences, and public meetings calculated directly or indirectly, to advance the cause of cancer research and to issue reports concerning same:

- To institute public lectures in all parts of the Territory about cancer or any allied or other subjects; and
- To enlist the cooperation of the public press both in the British Virgin Islands and internationally.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For the year ending 31st October 2025, the BVI Cancer Society was under the leadership of President, Gloria Fahie. The Executive Committee Members stand as follows:

President	- Gloria Fahie
Vice-President	- Sarai Smith
Secretary	- Shakeema Vanterpool-Donovan
Assistant Secretary	- Faith Dawson
Treasurer	- Marcia Fredericks-Nicholson
Assistant Treasurer	- Sylvia Moses
Trustee	- Kamika Aisha Forbes
Trustee	- Sonjah Snith
Public Relations Officer	- Mellica McPherson
Assistant PRO	- Ebony Andrews
Committeeman	- Cyralene Samuels
Committeeman	- Joan Turnbull
Committeeman	- Trecia Vanterpool

The British Virgin Islands Cancer Society (BVICS) continues to encourage individuals and businesses within the Territory to become active members and to aid in our commitment to the cause of cancer awareness and prevention. At every opportune moment, we stayed laser focused by conducting community outreaches throughout the year.

The membership of the British Virgin Island Cancer Society is ninety-seven (97) persons. We have gained and lost members due to them not paying their membership dues or for other personal reasons. To become a member, a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) annual dues must be remitted to BVICS. We, the Society, are still committed and determined to grow our membership to adequately promote the cause of cancer awareness and its prevention.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Medical Financial Assistance – It is widely known throughout the world and here in the British Virgin Islands that the treatment of cancer is very costly. Throughout the year, BVICS continues to see an increase in requests for aid for cancer treatment. In addition, funds were distributed for the cost of overseas travel for treatments for diagnosed people, siblings, and caregivers.

Financial aid was also issued for chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and laboratory tests for cancer detection including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET Scan), mammogram, and sonograms for residents of the Virgin Islands. No applicant is denied help unless their bill has already been paid or that pertinent information is missing from the application. However, when the relevant information is resubmitted, the application is reconsidered and approved forthwith. We at the BVICS do not see race, face, ethnicity, sexual orientations, or age. All people are welcome and encouraged to seek assistance.

For the year 2024/2025, we have paid almost sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) in aid for people diagnosed with cancer. The dominant cancer was breast cancer but there is a change

as prostate cancer has gained dominance. We are seeing more applicants applying for assistance and that is a good thing. It indicates that the message is getting out there about the services offered at BVICS. The stigma of being diagnosed with cancer is non-existent. It is still considered a taboo subject, but I do see more people becoming more candid/open about their diagnosis. The hope is that one day soon **all** diagnosed people will realize that sharing is indeed caring and that it helps one emotionally and financially when they are able to share their cancer journey.

Dissemination of Educational Material – Education and information sharing are keys to bringing cancer awareness within the Territory. BVICS continues to provide educational literature on all forms of cancer. In addition to printed material, we embarked upon providing information on our Website, Facebook page, WhatsApp, word of mouth as well as on ZBVI through their Almanac feature, health fairs, and fundraisers. Presentations were made at various events and people/organizations were able to collect information from our office.

Breast Screenings – B & F Medical Complex Ltd. and Eureka Medical Clinic Ltd. continues to offer discounted mammogram exams for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In cases where people cannot afford them, the BVI Cancer Society will cover the cost or any related cancer procedures that are not affordable to cancer diagnosed people. It is imperative that **all** women in the Virgin Islands have access to mammograms/sonograms to detect breast cancer at an early stage.

Emotional Support – BVICS continues to provide emotional support 24/7, which can be accessed by calling the BVI Cancer Society hotline number 1-284-499-0022 or by contacting any member of the Society. We continue to visit patients that are hospitalized or to visit them at their homes to provide the much-needed emotional support to them and their families.

MAJOR MILESTONES



For the first time ever, Road Town Wholesale Trading Ltd. signature fundraiser event was Round Up Charity. This works by rounding up your change at the cashiers to the nearest dollar. This yielded a total of \$3,239.00. We applaud philanthropic efforts of RTW and are also grateful for their continued permission in allowing us to use their premises to conduct our bucket drives.

Sometimes there are earth angels residing here among us in the British Virgin Islands and we had one as an anonymous donor who donated \$55,500.00. This donation was for the specific purpose of purchasing of an MRI Breast Coil for the Oncology Department of the BVI Health Service Authority. We accepted the cheque kindly and later purchased the MRI Breast Coil and donated this vital piece of equipment to BVI Health Services Authority.

WORLD CANCER DAY



For World Cancer Day the BVI Cancer Society did something that we never did before. We surprised cancer patients for that day by covering all their costs. We paid for all their doctor visits, treatments, medications, and laboratory. It was an immense pleasure to see their smiles and show appreciation.

CIBC CARIBBEAN BANK



We are beyond grateful to the incredible Mr. Fabian Devonish and his team at CIBC First Caribbean Bank for their outstanding support and generosity towards the BVI Cancer Society. Through their remarkable effort, including hosting the Walk for the Cure, Hike for the Cure, Hunt for the Cure, Sunset Cruise for the Cure, Sip and Paint for the Cure and other fundraising initiatives in 2024, that raised a staggering \$67,00.00 surpassing last year's total of \$51,500.00. A sum of \$57,000.00 was donated to BVICS and \$10,000.00 for the Cancer Registry. Under the continued exceptional leadership of Mr. Fabian Devonish and the resolute team of the Tortola branch, CIBC Caribbean Bank has shown unparalleled

dedication to the cause. Their steadfast support has enabled us to expand our outreach programs and provide essential treatment to individuals and families battling this dreadful disease.

DONATION TO BVI HEALTH SERVICES

An anonymous donor donated \$55,500.00 to the purchase of the Coil Upgrade Injector for the BVI Health Services Authority. We are happy to report that the said equipment has been ordered and donated to the Oncology Department at BVI Health Services Authority of February 2025.

LIST OF DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sol - \$1,000.00	Nova Vita Apparel - \$380.00
Government of the VI - \$20,000.00	Stuffed Treasurers - \$600.00
Mourant - \$500.00	Potential Unlimited - \$500.00
Cecil A. Nibbs - \$300.00	Ernst & Young Ltd. - \$500.00
Dariel George & family - \$1,000.00	Vanterpool Enterprises Ltd. - \$3,000.00
H. Lavity Stoutt Community College - \$506.00	C & C Promotions - \$2,500.00
Social Security Board - \$3,000.00	Tropic Aisle Development - \$1,000.00
MSE CRESPI - \$500.00	Dion A. Stoutt - \$300.00
The Little Rainbow - \$1,000.00	NTGOG - \$2,000.00
BVI Social Security - \$3,000.00	Republic Bank (BVI) Limited - \$1,000.00
National Bank of the Virgin Islands - \$2,500.00	Oasis Seniors - \$250.00
Bethel Worldwide Corporation - \$1,000.00	

WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF SPREADING AWARENESS

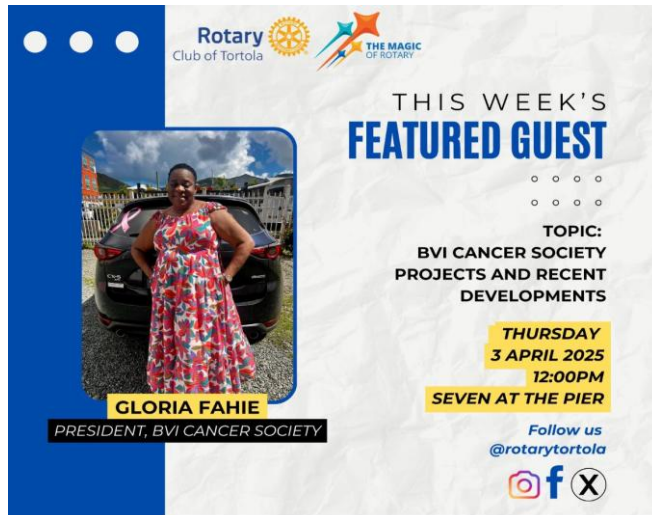
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The St. Paul's Episcopal Church in partnership with the BVI Cancer Society on Wednesday 5th February 2025 invited Dr. Arlene T. Penn, Dr. Nosa Omo-Igbinomwanhia and Gloria Fahie Wednesday 5th February 2025 to speak at their Cervical Cancer Forum. We are always delighted to impart knowledge at the churches.

BVI RED CROSS

We participated by sending members Dr. Knuckles and nurse Grethen Hodge-Penn to give brief talks at the 2025 Biennial Men's Health Fair & Prostrate Screening. This took place on Virgin Gorda at the Catholic Community Centre. We always try to have a presence at these screenings as prostate cancer is on the rise and we are trying to nip it in the bud before they become stage four (4).

ROTARY CLUB OF TORTOLA



President Gloria Fahie was the featured guest speaker on Thursday 3rd April 2025 at Rotary Club of Tortola. She presented on BVI Cancer Society's projects for the calendar year 2025 and other recent developments.

THE METHODIST CHURCH BVI CIRCUIT



Sometimes we can become discouraged because no matter what we say or do, it is impossible to encourage people to attend health fairs, seminars, or conferences even though they are free of cost. They are often poorly attended. One of our slogans at the BVI Cancer Society is "Never Give Up" so therefore it is in our DNA to keep trying until the masses take their health or wellbeing.

VIRGIN ISLANDS SHIPPING REGISTRY & MARITIME AUTHORITY

President Gloria Fahie delivered a presentation on Breast Cancer. She gave statistical evidence and shared her experience with the staff.

CANCER PREVENTION CONFERENCE – SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2025



BVI Cancer Society in collaboration with
BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA)
proudly presents

BVI CANCER PREVENTION CONFERENCE 2025

Topic :
"BVI, Are We a Cancer State?"



Register Now

www.bvihsa.vg/cancer/

CME Credits Offered
(Health professionals encouraged to attend!)

 **Saturday. 21st June 2025**

 **9.00 AM – 5.00 PM**

 **Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital – Main Lobby**



Gabrielle Joseph
Nutritionist



Dr. Dornick Frazer
Medical Director-NHI



Dr. June Samuel
Consultant Psychiatrist



Dr. Rabindranath Bachan
Consultant Oncologist



SPEAKER
Prof. Marvin Reid
Director, Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU), UWI



SPEAKER
Dr. Carika Weldon
Biochemist/Geneticist



SPEAKER
Dr. Joseph Lloyd Blidgen
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon



SPEAKER
Dr. Ian Bambury
Consultant Gynaecologic Oncologist



SPEAKER
Dr. Belinda Morrison-Blidgen
Consultant Urologist



SPEAKER
Dr. Mike Mills
Consultant Gastroenterologist



SPEAKER
Dr. Michelle Reece-Mills
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

The BVI Cancer Society burst at their seams with enthusiasm about collaborating with the BVI Health Services Authority to present the first ever of its kind, Cancer Prevention Conference on June 21st at Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital.

This was indeed a very auspicious event as we hosted eight (8) overseas doctors from Jamaica and Bermuda and three (3) local doctors from the British Virgin Islands. The Minister of Health & Social Services and the Hon. Premier Natalio Wheatley gave welcoming remarks. The Hon. Premier was so enthralled by the delivery of the doctors that he stayed until the very end. These doctors had a wealth of information and, as can be seen from the poster above, with their professions and academia.

Over three hundred people were registered and attended both in person and online. We heard the public cry to find out more information on whether bottled water, the environment, and your lifestyle, for example can cause cancer. They were not disappointed as the doctors imparted in-depth information and answered every question or concern that members at the conference asked. What is noteworthy also is that Dr. Weldon performed about 125 genetic tests and the Hon. Premier has graciously agreed to cover the full cost. It is noteworthy to mention this Cancer Prevention Conference cost the BVI Cancer Society \$28,159.00 which was fully funded by the Society.

BVI TOURIST BOARD



President Gloria Fahie held open and frank discussions with the staff of BVI Tourist Board.

TALKING POINT

President Fahie was a guest on Talking Point and she was given the opportunity share plans for the 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

OUR GEMS

Our valued gems are the senior citizens of the British Virgin Islands. Mrs. Dawn Corea visited the Oasis Seniors of Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church and President visited the Seniors at Long Look Community and held discussions about breast cancer awareness. They listened attentively and asked questions and expressed their concerns.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 2025

BVI CANCER SOCIETY CANCER AWARENESS ACTIVITIES 2025		
03 OCT	BUCKET DRIVE AT CIBC	04 OCT CIBCO SAIL FOR THE CURE BUCKET DRIVE AT RTW
05 OCT	CHURCH SERVICE EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	10 OCT BUCKET DRIVE AT NBVI
11 OCT	BUCKET DRIVE IN VIRGIN GORDA	17 OCT BUCKET DRIVE AT REPUBLIC BANK
18 OCT	BUCKET DRIVE AT CTL	24 OCT BUCKET DRIVE AT CIBC
25 OCT	CIBCO WALK FOR A CURE	31 OCT PAINT THE TOWN PINK
1 NOV	CAPTAIN MULLIGAN'S 6PM	BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

The above was the scheduled 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness activities. The calendar was scaled down this year but more people partnered as time passed.

CHURCH SERVICE AT THE OPENING OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Over the life of the BVI Cancer Society we have always worshipped at churches on Tortola. This year we decided to worship together on our sister island of Virgin Gorda at Emmanuel Baptist. We had a wonderful experience of worship and the message was on point about love and compassion for others.

FUNDRAISERS

We continue to do bucket drives at Road Town Wholesale, One Mart Supermarket, Bobby's Supermarket and Clarence Thomas Ltd on Tortola. Words cannot express how we appreciate these businesses for their continued support. In addition, this year we went outside the norm and did a bucket drive at Rite Way in Virgin Gorda as the picture below indicates. The Honorable Minister for Health and Social Development was one of the first people to donate and support this fundraiser.



Bingo Nights

During the year, we had successful Bingo Nights at Captain Mulligans. Special thanks to Randy for allowing us to keep our bingo games at his establishment free of charge. I would like to thank the donors who donated prizes and finally our customers who supported us.



WALK FOR THE CURE



The 14th Annual CIBC Caribbean Walk for a Cure in collaboration with BVI Cancer Society was a resounding success. Over five (five hundred) shirts were distributed with approximately two hundred walkers in attendance. We were incredibly happy with the continued support and commitment to the cause of cancer.

PAINT THE TOWN PINK

We continue to paint the town pink each year as we celebrate the month of October to raise breast cancer awareness and to schedule fund-raising activities. The BVI Cancer Society does not pay attention to breast cancer only but all cancers are emphasized.

As customary we placed different shades of pink ribbons on the poles from One Mart Supermarket area to Republic and on the highway ending at the Social Security Building. The display as customary garners attention from the populace.

TYPES OF CANCERS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024/2025

Prostate Cancer – 6 persons

Breast Cancer – 3 persons

Colon Cancer - 2

Gastric Cancer – 1 person

Cervical Cancer – 1 person

Throat Cancer – 1 person

Multiple Myeloma – 1 person

Myeloma – 1 person

Hodgin's Lymphoma Cancer – 1 person

Leukemia Cancer – 1 person

Salivary Gland Cancer – 1 person

A total of nineteen people applied for financial assistance. People applied more than once for assistance of they did not exhaust the \$3,000.00 maximum allotted to them. According to our statistical records, nineteen people attended BVI Cancer Society for assistance. Prostate Cancer has become the dominant cancer surpassing Breast Cancer. This is quite alarming because by the time they reach our office, most applicants are already stage four (4). We are sounding louder and louder, please get evaluated annually because early detection saves lives.

For patient support we disbursed \$63,404.00 during the period October 2024 – October 2025.

THANK YOUS

CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Republic Bank, National Bank of the Virgin Islands, One Mart Supermarket, Rite Way Supermarket, Bobby's Supermarket and Clarence Thomas Ltd for hosting our bucket drives and allowing us to sell our memorabilia.

ZBVI Almanac

Ms. Sandra Potter is very instrumental in getting the message across to listeners via radio station ZBVI. She highlights all relevant cancers for each month She does a phenomenal job, and we have received great reviews. We extend our gratitude and thanks to Ms. Potter and the ZBVI team.

CIBC Walk for a Cure in collaboration with BVI Cancer Society

This walk continues to raise awareness, and a considerable number of monies are raised yearly for the fight against all cancers. It is noted that a total of over 316,950 women worldwide in 2025 is projected to be affected by breast cancer in 2025.

Facebook/Web Page – Our Facebook page continues to increase in followers. We have over four thousand (4,000) followers. The Facebook page is garnering attention as we continuously update it with relevant information about various cancers and events. We are succeeding in keeping people informed and up to date. In addition, we have an active web page.

CHALLENGES

We continue to find it difficult in the face of what cancer really is. We are oblivious to the causes of cancer but continue to strive for the cure. Cancer can affect anyone at any time. It does not discriminate. At the BVICS everyone that comes to us is considered special, unique, and appreciated. We are here to help people financially and emotionally. Therefore, we continue to have aggressive cancer awareness campaigns in the hope that the message is heard, and that people will apply for needed aid to enhance their quality of life. Challenges that we met are listed below:

- i. The Virgin Islands Cancer Registry has commenced. It may have unavoidable hiccups with its implementation but hopefully soon all the kinks will be worked out with all stakeholders as this is imperative to chart a course for the study of information compiled.
- ii. Human Resources - like most non-profit organizations, membership consists primarily of full-time working people with little or no time to give adequately to the various organizational aims. Sometimes our focus is consumed up with administrative duties that can become distracting from the main goals of the BVI Cancer Society. We are overwhelmed and consider engaging a part-time person.
- iii. Absence of medical and research institute partnerships.
- iv. Establishing partnerships with the American Cancer Society and cancer research in the United Kingdom as well as regional societies and research institutes.
- v. Tapping into external funding resources
- vi. Increase in Operational Expenses - The Government should consider increasing their subvention of \$20,000.00. We pay \$12,000.00 rent alone plus other expenses such as power, internet services, telephones, products for the various outreaches, and water.

FUTURE PROJECTS

We would like to invite more guest speakers all year round to address the diverse types of cancers including lung, prostate, colon, and cancers that develop in children to mention. Listed below are that we hope to complete in the next calendar year.

- Hosting a “Relay for Life” in the Virgin Islands - we are still trying to get this off the ground, but it is hoped that 2026 we will see more progress.
- Fundraisers for Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke - we hope to partner with businesses in these Sister Islands and get the “ball rolling.”
- A “dollar drive” to encourage every resident of the Virgin Islands to donate one dollar to the BVI Cancer Society.
- To form partnerships with Government agencies to promote wellness.
- To set up partnerships with the farming community, this will encourage people to eat wholesome foods that are free from pesticides or other contaminants; and
- To continue to encourage public testimonials of the benefits derived from the services offered by the BVICS throughout the community.
- We would like to see more government officials get involved in activities, especially Heads of Departments and Members of the House of Assembly.

- We have over eighty (80) members, but less than ten (20) are actively taking part. I am beginning to feel physically drained, but I press on because cancer awareness is one of my main passions, I do not know how much longer I will be able to continue if I do not get the aid needed.

CONCLUSION

Too many people are diagnosed with cancer. Too many people are succumbing to this deadly disease but be assured that they are not alone. There is hope as the BVI Cancer Society endeavors to reach out to the public by making them aware of the services that we have available, which include information. We are also grateful and thankful to the donors to this cause in the fight against all cancers. The 2025 message for Breast Cancer Awareness month from the BVI Cancer Society is **“WE ARE IN THIS FIGHT TOGETHER!”**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Fahie".

Gloria Fahie
President,
BVI Cancer Society

7th November 2025