



MUSTIQUE
UPDATE
Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund
2023

This publication paid for with a gift from the Watson family



Rush Hour on Mustique photograph by Bonnie Dunn

OUR VISION

**YOU MAKE THE
 POWER OF YOUNG
 IDEAS POSSIBLE**



Hunter Watson

Where will the next great ideas come from? Who will provide the insight, inspiration and hard work to create a better tomorrow? Hunter's Fund believes young people hold the answers to these questions. Young people are using their talents and passions to find ways to improve the world. Their dreams are of things yet to be seen. While we don't know what tomorrow will bring, we do know that today's youth and their ideas will be propelling the changes to come.

Hunter's Fund has invested in more than 70 young people in St. Vincent, the United States and the United Kingdom who have shown talent, experience and passion. The grants you make possible reward innovation and reflect the talents and passions that Hunter Watson brought to his life. They honor his legacy, and provide support for young people who also approach life with powerful ideas. We hope these grants will carry on what Hunter inspired.

**OUR COMMITMENT
 TO YOU**

We are deeply honored that you have placed your trust in Hunter's Fund's work. We work hard to make the most of every dollar you donate by using volunteers and keeping overhead costs low. When you give to the Fund, you can give with confidence, knowing that most of your gift will help propel young people's dreams and help end distracted driving.

You Helped Fund These Young Entrepreneurs

Delivery Service



Hudson Adams

While Hudson was studying for his Bachelor of Science in IT Services at the University of the West Indies, he purchased a bi-

cycle and started an on-campus delivery service called "Cycle Runs." Operating Cycle Runs taught Hudson the ins and outs of the delivery business. Hudson says, "if it works on a campus, why not in the towns,"

DeliverCo Enterprise is the brainchild of Hudson Adams, an IT Officer at First Citizens Bank of St. Vincent. The business plan is modeled after InstaCart and is intended to provide a client/merchant service in St. Vincent – "you demand – we provide." Hudson used his IT experience to develop a cross-platform App (Apple and Android) as a real-time tracking bridge between clients and merchants.

With the Covid-19 Pandemic, many businesses were interested in the convenience of a delivery service in St. Vincent.

Hudson hired "Runners" to in-

crease his delivery reach. However, it was hard for Hudson to meet the demands with only Island buses and on-foot delivery options available.

Hunter's Grant enabled Hudson to purchase a scooter which will allow him to overcome his transportation challenge and take advantage of the market opportunity in his country.

Supply chain issues delayed the delivery of Hudson's scooter. With the recent arrival of the scooter, he is implementing his plan for enhanced services.

By rolling profits back into his business, he can purchase additional scooters and expand his business with more Runners.

When we last caught up with Hudson, he was preparing a series of Facebook ads to help build his delivery service brand and is excited about the future.

Sustainable Sea Moss Farming

Tavio Simmons' journey into entrepreneurship begins with a peculiar product: sea moss or Irish moss. The algae is commonly harvested to produce carrageenan – an ingredient used to thicken products like ice cream and plant-based milk. It's a valuable export to the coastal towns of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including the 7-square-mile island of Bequia, where Tavio lives.

A graduate of the University of Trinidad & Tobago, Tavio is the youth director of Constructive Solutions Inc.—an organization working to develop the "Responsible Sea Moss Farming and Production Project." The project's goal is to sustainably increase sea moss farming in

Bequia and financially empower locals in the community by training them to work in the sea moss trade.

Tavio is particularly interested in data science and collection and is determined to use data analysis to study the program's sustainability and influence sea farming policy.

"Though we have the knowledge and techniques needed to continue planting the sea moss, it won't be sustainable if steps aren't implemented to ensure the proper monitoring and evaluation of the program," Tavio says. "I grew up seeing the village men on my island going to the sea to reap this marine plant from corals. Now with the knowledge I have, I would like to turn this into an enterprise where the same villagers can benefit."



Tavio Simmons

Tavio's grant from Hunter's Fund will go towards investments in data collecting technology, including equipment that will increase the organization's capacity for data gathering.

HUNTER'S FUND UPDATE

MUSTIQUE 2023

OUR VISION

To live in a world where our youth may follow their hearts.

OUR MISSION

Hunter's Fund has dual missions in support of young adults. The first is to provide resources to help advance the dreams of passionate, curious young people.

The second is to reduce deaths and injuries from distracted driving by increasing awareness among young drivers and gaining their commitment to change.

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What are grant winners up to now?



Census Hinds

Tourism Company Grant

The 2021 grant from Hunter's Fund enabled Census Hinds

The Hunter's Fund Grant awarded to Julonna Peterson in the Spring of 2021 was used to purchase supplies for her company, The PERFECT Project.

Her goal was to create specially tailored kits, workbooks, and resources for special needs children, their parents, and teachers. Although passionate about The PERFECT Project Julonna also wanted to be professionally certified to diagnose individuals on the autism spectrum and develop

to buy additional equipment to expand services offered by Caraway, the tourism company he founded.

Things were going well until the COVID-19 pandemic brought travel to a near standstill. A quick thinker, Census pivoted to offer tourism experiences to locals living on the island, resulting in a more than three-fold increase in average monthly revenue.

"We live in a society where

tourism experiences and fun things have been reserved for foreigners," Hinds says. "But foreign travel just wasn't happening with COVID-19." "When we offered experiences, such as kayaking and diving tours to locals, they quickly took advantage of them."

Caraway continues to grow by enabling locals to have unique experiences within their own country and showing island inhabitants hidden gems of their homeland.

programs to support them.

The PERFECT Project inspired her to continue her education, and she was awarded a coveted scholarship to enroll in a master's program in the UK. While pursuing her degree, Julianna worked as a teacher's aide with students who are on the autism spectrum.

With a degree in psychology, she has expanded her PERFECT Project to support special needs children and is distributing educational materials to teachers to



Julonna Peterson

Special Needs Grant

create more inclusive learning environments for all types of students.



Kenichia Charles

Grant to support Biomedical Interest

Kenichia Charles was first awarded a grant to attend the University of Vermont as a biomedical intern. Working with techni-

cal engineers, she learned how to predict the life cycle of medical equipment and maintain it, and she gained critical procurement knowledge.

When she returned to St. Vincent, she noticed a severe lack of resources and attention to the upkeep, maintenance, and calibration of medical equipment, so she decided to use what she learned to improve safety and efficiency.

Kenichia says, "Preventative maintenance and performance inspection of medical equipment

contributes to prolonged equipment lifespan as well as reducing the failure rate of the equipment."

In 2020, Kenichia was awarded her second Hunter's Fund grant to purchase materials needed to calibrate biomedical equipment.

Today, as the Biomedical Engineer for the British West Indies, she is working on expanding her role to include advising hospitals and clinics on biomedical equipment purchases. She also wants to create a Regional Association of Biomedical Technicians.

Dumona Charles-Cyrus has never taken her eyes off the prize -- she's always wanted to be a doctor -- and she was determined not to let the high cost of a medical education deter her.

Dumona relied on her entrepreneurial skills to help move her dream forward.

Her plan was to start Miscellaneous, an online company for

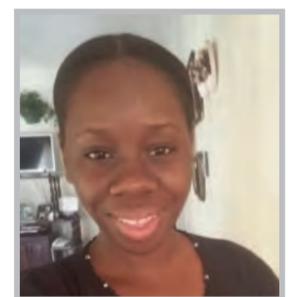
importing affordable goods, e.g., clothes, jewelry, and food items not usually available on the islands.

The Hunter's Fund grant in 2018 helped her do just that, and the revenue generated has enabled her to continue her medical studies while reducing her college debt.

Dumona is now an intern at the Milton Cato Memorial

Hospital in St. Vincent and, for the next year, she will be rotating through General Medicine, Surgery, Gynecology, and Pediatrics.

Dumona's husband, a software developer, has also become a retail entrepreneur and is managing Miscellaneous to permit Dumona to attend to her studies.



Dumona Charles-Cyrus

Online Store Grant to make Medical School Possible



Please help support the Young people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

DONATE SECURELY ONLINE

www.mustiquefund.org

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at:
www.mustiquefund.org

The Turtles of Mustique or "Why did the turtle cross the road?"



Rush Hour on Mustique photograph by Bonnie Dunn

Several of our readers have asked why we added a photo of a turtle crossing a road to the masthead of the Mustique edition of the Hunter's Fund newsletter.

We included the image because turtles are very much a part of Mustique's conservancy culture and peaceful coexistence with the natural world. Turtle watching was also a favorite Watson family activity when Hunter and his brother Ted were children.

Our land Tortoises require a tropical environment with frequent showers for the water they need.

After a shower, small puddles often form on dirt roads, and tortoise quickly surround them for a needed drink. It became our tradition to jump into a vehicle with the kids and strike out for a game we called "Tortoise Counting." Whoever spotted a tortoise first would add it to their count, and a competition was born.

As to the question, "Why did the tortoise cross the road?", on Mustique, we brake for tortoises, or we stop and gently move them from the road, and they seem to understand this! It almost seems that these gentle creatures intuit that on Mustique, they are safe from harm by humans and will not be hunted as food, sold as pets, or killed for their beautiful shells, as they are almost

everywhere else in the world. Sadly, all the world's known species of both land and sea turtles are currently considered endangered.

Mustique island is home to at least two species of land or "box" tortoises and two species of sea turtles. The tortoises inhabiting Mustique are two closely related species native to South America, known as "yellow-footed" and red-footed for the vividly colored red

or yellow spots on their legs. Both species need a tropical climate, a moist environment and shade to thrive. They are large in size, often growing longer than 20 inches, and can live between 25 and 40 years.

Interestingly, neither tortoise species is officially documented as inhabiting Mustique or any other Caribbean islands, nor is it known how these tortoises came to live on Mustique. One can surmise that ships stopping at Mustique carried the tortoises as food or to sell, perhaps hundreds of years ago.

While Mustique's land tortoises appear to be well adapted and healthy, its sea turtles are not as secure. Mustique is home to two of those species: the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), both endangered species. And occasionally green turtles.

After hatching, sea turtle young spend several years in the open ocean and return to or close to their original beach for egg laying.

These turtles face many threats throughout their lives; however, their situation is gradually improving. In 2017 a total hunting ban on all sea turtles was declared in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Since these turtles travel long distances between foraging spots and nesting beaches, it is



Red-footed Box Turtle



Yellow-footed Box Turtle

vital that all entities in the chain ban hunting of sea turtles.

To best help these migratory species, Mustique participates in WIDECAST, represented by Raven Hofland, the director of The Turtle Project in Mustique. WIDECAST is a network of spe-

cialists from over 40 Wider Caribbean countries sharing available resources for our sea turtle populations. The network promotes the concept that conservation must come from the belief that all living creatures, such as turtles and humans, can live in harmony.



Sea Turtle

You are Changing Young People's Lives, For Hunter

By *Madeleine Bunbury*



Madeleine Bunbury, member of the Founders Committee

I knew Hunter Watson all my life. We were friends as children, always playing games in the pool. We also played a lot of tennis and Hunter always beat me. I remember one year, as teenagers, we stayed up all night on New Year's Eve to watch the sunrise from Macaroni beach. We got into big trouble from our parents, but it was worth it!

When I learned of his death it felt like my heart broke. I knew the world had just lost a truly special person. Hunter was always interested in every person he met. He bent over backwards to make people feel welcome. He brought people together—through music, conversation and laughter.

So, now, it is fitting that he is continuing to bring so many of us together around a common purpose—the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund. It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve on the Fund's Founders Committee. I also provide mentoring and support to some of the grantees from Saint Vincent, including Dumona, whose dream is to be an entrepreneur and a doctor and Rishi, who received a grant to pursue his pi-

lot's license.

To all the donors who have supported the Fund, please know this: The young people you are investing in are amazing and they are deeply grateful. Without you, they would likely never have the resources to reach for those dreams. Through your donations, you are changing lives and investing in the promise of tomorrow.

I will always regret that I cannot watch another sunrise with Hunter. But he is with me in my heart and I know he is really proud of what you and I are doing to invest in the energy and passion of young people.

Madeleine Bunbury is an emerging equestrian artist with a studio in Dorset, England. She grew up on the Island of Mustique where Hunter's family vacationed each year. As they grew up together, Madeleine became one of Hunter's closest friends. She is a member of the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund Founders Committee.

Founding Committee

Each member of the Founders Committee was a close friend of Hunter Watson. Their encouragement led the Watson family to establish the Hunter Watson Memorial Fund (Hunter's Fund). Six years later, the organization has received hundreds of applications and funded more than 60 promising young people who could not have explored their passions without financial assistance. The fund has also established Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving on nearly 60 campuses.



Luigi Ambrosi
Milan, Italy



Abigail Breslin
Hollywood, CA



Madeleine Bunbury
Gillingham Dorset, UK



Liam Catto
Boulder, CO



Forrest Crane
Manhattan Beach, CA



Chris Dale
Washington, DC



Matt Kimm
Manhattan Beach, CA



Yannick Della Shavia
Santa Monica, CA



Ilana Dunn
New York, NY



Zack Green
New York, NY



Hanna Horvath
New York, NY



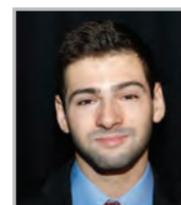
Hannah Kliot
New York, NY



Matthieu Menand
Dublin, CA



Jordan Parent
Arlington, VA



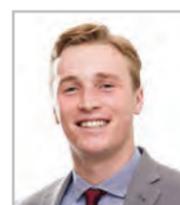
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New York, NY



Mark Ramsey
Great Falls, VA



Matt Salutillo
Fairfax, VA



Will Snape
New York, NY



Connor Sweeney
Denver, CO



Ted Watson
New York, NY

Can you Volunteer to Help?

You can help Hunter's Fund get our mission accomplished.

Grant Reviewers – This is a great opportunity to review applications twice a year for our grant awards. Everything is done online. Your help would be tremendous in making sure the best candidates are chosen.

Safe Driving Partners – As a volunteer partner, you would look for opportunities to encourage members of your community to sign Hunter's Pledge Not to Drive Distracted. Your club or church group are great places to start. Some of our supporters ask local restaurants to set up our tabletop displays so their customers can scan and sign a pledge online while waiting for their meal to be served.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Natalie Kwon at natalie@hunterwatson.org

The Commonwealth Walkways on Mustique



Bronze medals display the EIIR Royal cipher and crown.

The island of Mustique is situated between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and that duality along with its hilliness makes for breathtaking views and extreme variations in its terrain. With elevations close to 500 feet and 85 km of richly varied coastline, Mustique is a different island every way you look. Over the last 60 years, this geography has inspired the world's top architects to create villas of every style to highlight the dramatic ocean views and topography.

Mustique's varied landscapes also attract visitors who enjoy walking, running, and hiking. When the Mustique Company

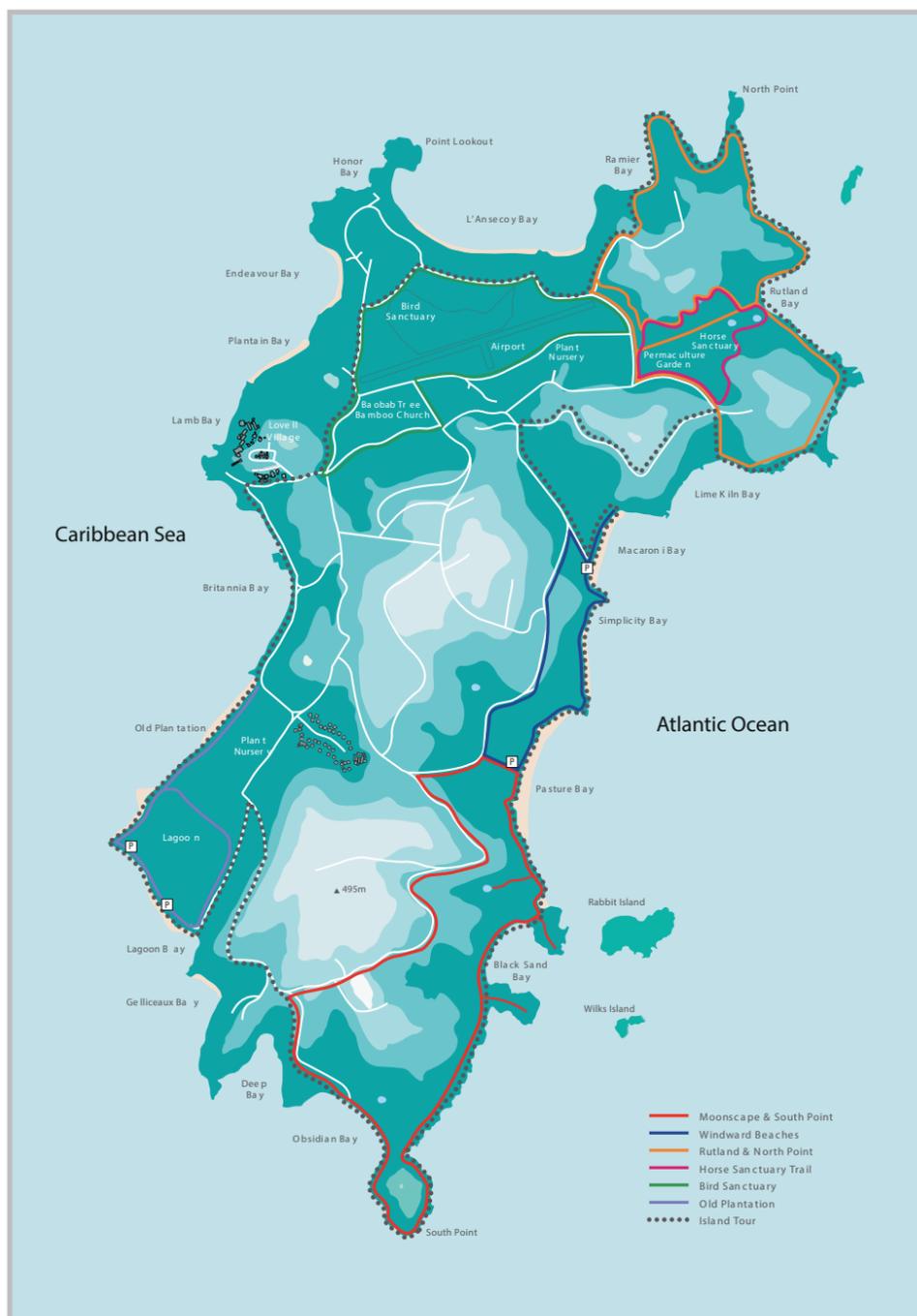
was established in the 1980s, the trails were largely unmapped and sometimes challenging to follow. Over time the Company has upgraded the trails, adding steps, benches, and guardrails. The walkways today are world-class, ranging in difficulty from family walks to challenging hikes. Walkers can observe island birds circle and dive, sea turtles and other creatures scurry through lush vegetation, and watch waves break over volcanic rock. The unspoiled paths are never crowded and the fresh sea breezes and breathtaking views are free of charge. A guide to the trails is displayed here.



Queen Elizabeth II during the unveiling of a panel marking the walkway in Buckingham Palace gardens, London, in relation to the Commonwealth Walkway project.

In 2017 Mustique accepted an opportunity to participate in a global wellness challenge by joining the British Commonwealth Walkway initiative. This program aims to symbolically link all the walkways of the Commonwealth and "provide a safe, accessible, and attractive place in every Commonwealth nation and territory where everyone can walk."

The walkways



of the Commonwealth countries have been symbolically connected by a 1,000 km walkable path linking 3 billion people to 2,000 points of significance, in 100 cities and 54 countries. The Queen launched the first completed Commonwealth Walkway at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Valetta, Malta.

The Commonwealth Walkways central leadership provides

route maps online for download and each location receives bronze medals displaying the EIIR Royal cipher and crown of The Queen to mark the heads of trails and points of significance. Walkers may register as Commonwealth Passport Citizens to collect stamps as they walk, and achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum certificates. To register, visit <https://www.commonwealthwalkway.com>.



Mustique Walkway

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at: www.mustiquefund.org

FOR NEW FRIENDS TO MUSTIQUE AND EVEN SOME OF US

Hunter and his friends were always eager to make new friends and share their special experiences about Mustique.

For those looking to explore this wonderful little Island in the West Indies, use this map to find your way around.



Finding Places on Mustique Points of Interest

1. Sweetie Pie Bakery
2. Bamboo Church
3. Basil's Bar & Restaurant
4. Beach Cafe
5. Coral Restoration Farm
6. Corea's Food Store
7. The Cotton House - Hotel/Boutique
8. Depot
9. Doctor/Clinic
10. Equestrian Centre
11. Firefly Guest House, Bar, & Restaurant
12. Fish Market/Fisherman's Village
13. Garden Nursery
14. Jetty/Harbourmaster
15. Library (Internet Service)
16. Mechanical Services (M.M.S)
17. Mustique Company Office - Administration, Villa Rentals & Property Sales
18. Mustique Museum
19. Old Plantation Nursery
20. Petrol Station
21. Permaculture Garden
22. Pink House
23. Playground
24. Police Station
25. School
26. Snorkelling
27. Spa & Fitness Centre at the Cotton House
28. Sugar Mill Ruins
29. Purple House
30. Tennis Club
31. Village Church
32. Yoga Pavilion
33. Watersports/Sailing Picnic & Beach
34. The View (Lisa's Bar)



MAP KEY

Moonscape & South Point

5.5 km - 1-2 hours (Advanced Hike)
Park and Start at Pasture Bay, Picnic Hut 2

Windward Beaches

3 km - 1 hours (Moderate Hike)
Park and Start at Macaroni Beach

Rutland & North Point

5 km - 1 - 1.5 hours (Moderate to Advanced Hike)
Park and Start at the entrance to Rutland Bay (please do not park at the beach)

Horse Sanctuary Trail

1650m - 20 mins (Family Walk)
Park and Start at the top of Rutland Bay

Bird Sanctuary

3.5 km - 40 mins (Family Walk)
Park and Start at the Bamboo Church

Old Plantation

2 km - 20-30 mins (Family Walk)
Park and Start at Old Plantation Beach

Island Tour

2 km - 20-30 mins (Family Walk)
Park and Start at Old Plantation Beach

Charity Begins on Mustique

The proverb, charity begins at home, dates to the time of the Roman comic playwright, Terence (about 190-159 BC). Over the years, the definition has evolved. In 1383, John Wycliffe wrote: "charity should begin at himself." Five hundred years later Dickens said, "charity begins at home, and justice begins next door." The Cambridge Dictionary definition is "you should take care of your family and other people who live close to you before helping people who live further away or in another country."

Charities on Mustique are the embodiment of this proverb and are engaged in a variety of activities to serve different needs of the local population. Hunter's Fund applauds their work while it continues its focus on: saving lives through its distracted driving campaigns and encouraging entrepreneurship through its grant programs. Here's a list of the charities which are actively working to improve the lives of the local population:

Basil Charles Educational Foundation - started in 1996. The Foundation started a scholarship program to help offset the cost of secondary education and make it more accessible to those in need. Additionally, funds support early childhood education and a stem summer program. Most of the funding comes from the revenue generated by the annual Mustique Blues Festival.

Mustique Charitable Trust - founded in 2008 and funded by the homeowners of Mustique. The mission is to improve the opportunities of children, young people and vulnerable adults while supporting the development of sustainable local communities throughout SVG. The Trust aims to coordinate and enhance the charitable giving of the Mustique community.

Mustique Educational Trust - established 30 years ago by Mick Jagger, Basil Charles and Ouida Touche, it was founded to establish a primary school for the children of Mustique and secondary school support for the children of those who work on Mustique. Additional activities include the provision of interest-free loans for post-secondary education, adult education programs such as literacy, math, computers and skill training.

Mustique Medical Trust - In cooperation with Dr. Michael Bunbury, the Trust provides funds for emergency services for the local population. Funded primarily from donations from grateful patients and others who value the availability of emergency services.

SVG Environment Fund - founded by Bryan Adams, is a non-profit dedicated to supporting the most effective environmental projects and campaigns. The Fund gives grants to both organizations and individuals actively engaged in the region, and with its partners, works to protect and restore the natural environment and influence locals and visitors to be more respectful of their surroundings.

Hunter's Fund - established in 2016 by Hunter's friends from Mustique after their friend Hunter Watson died as a passenger in a distracted driving accident. They wanted to help young people from St. Vincent and the Grenadines who had visions of something they wanted to achieve but lacked the resources to explore those dreams and whose parents had worked so hard to make this paradise possible. Funding for the Mustique program is provided exclusively by visitors and homeowners who come to our beautiful island and want to help fund the dreams of these young people.

Thank You for Making a Difference

The impact donations make to Hunter’s Fund can be seen in the accomplishments of the young people being funded.

The support you are giving these innovative young people helps them move forward with projects that mean a great deal to them and may not only have a local impact but may also impact the world.

You may not know a great deal about computer technology and robotics, but one of the grants being funded on St. Vincent is enabling a young man from an impoverished background to further his studies and research in that area, research that may affect us all in the future.

With the help of a grant, a young medical student has covered the cost of her school expenses, by running her own business and employing community members.

Another young lady achieved her dream of being an entrepreneur full time by opening a shop in Kingstown and even providing space for other entrepreneurs to

sell their goods.

A young man who was trying to launch a tour business for visitors to the Island of St. Vincent, kept his business alive during the Covid pandemic by pivoting to creating a tourist experience for locals.

Another young man operating a delivery business on foot and by bus was able to dramatically expand his business after being awarded a scooter to complete his deliveries faster and expand the areas he could service.

Applications from these young people are reviewed and vetted by the young people of families and guests who visit Mustique regularly have mentored the grant winners to offer encouragement to succeed.

With generous contributions from donors like you, Hunter’s Fund plans to continue supporting our young entrepreneurs. On behalf of all the young people your gifts have benefitted, thank you. Please know your gifts really are making a difference.

Hunter’s Fund Receives GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency



GuideStar, the world’s largest source of nonprofit information, has awarded Hunter’s Fund their Platinum Nonprofit Seal of Transparency, their **highest level of recognition**.

Founded in 2017, Hunter’s Fund has provided more than **70 grants** to promising young people and, with the support of more than **1,000 volunteers**, funded safe driving campaigns on the Island of St. Vincent and on more than 50 U.S. campuses resulting in nearly 50,000 students signing Hunter’s Pledge to End Distracted Driving.

DONATE USING YOUR HOUSE ACCOUNT

Your support will make it possible to fund grants to promising your people in St. Vincent & the Grenadines so they can pursue their interests in entrepreneurship, music, performing arts and computer science.

YES, I want to help promising young people have an opportunity to pursue their dreams.

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____ Other

Charge to my Mustique House Account

House Name _____

Your Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Complete and drop off at the Mustique Company Office

To make your gift by credit card, go to: www.mustiquefund.org

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- Jose Miguel Alvarez
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- Tim Syder
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- Crayber Voute
- Jerry and Judy Watson
- Ted Watson
- Christina Wells
- Sir Keith and Lady Sabine Whitson
- Diane Wilson
- Sylvie Winckler
- Camilla Woodward
- Sir Robert Worcester
- Gary and Adrienne Wright
- Danny and Lillian Wyler
- Eli and Devon Zabar
- Vlad and Manana Zebelin
- Mark Ziberman

Add Your Name to Our Mustique Supporters and Give Young People Hope

Your donation will go directly to support the promising ideas of the young people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines who cannot achieve their dreams without some financial support.

Donations from those who visit Mustique have already helped young people escape a life without opportunity by opening their own shops on St. Vincent, paying for medical school expenses with an online store, obtain a commercial pilots license, expand a local tour business, grow a driver delivery service and train and be able to launch a medical device calibration service.

You will be a part of our wonderful friends who make this campaign successful and will forever be remembered. Any amount you can donate, large or small, can change the lives of those we hope to help.

Donate Online

at our Secure Donation Website:

www.mustiquefund.org

Mustique Annual Fund

A program of the Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 326 • McLean, VA 22101 • USA

You can support these Young Entrepreneurs and Safe Driving Campaigns at: www.mustiquefund.org

Many Interests – One of a Kind



At Hunter's Fund you are supporting young men and women of diverse interests and talents, so they can let their passions shine.

The inspiration and our mission come from Hunter himself. He was a young man of extremely diverse talents and interests. Wherever he went, whatever he did, he brought a spark and a smile and a contagious energy that inspired those around him.

And while his life was too short, and the hurt that those who loved him feel will never fully heal, there is a peace that comes from knowing that Hunter succeeded in *getting the most out of every day he lived*:

As a boy and a young man ... Hunter lit up the lives of his mother, Judy, his father, Jerry, his older brother, Teddy, and all his extended family.

As a friend ... Hunter cultivated deep and lasting relationships and will never be forgotten by those who knew him best.

As an athlete ... Hunter loved baseball, soccer, football and wrestling, excelling as an individual while always striving to lift up his teammates.

As a musician ... Hunter formed his first band at age 10 and never stopped loving, playing and performing music. (You can watch a video of Hunter's Black Out Band playing their song "Video Games" on YouTube.)

As a student ... Hunter graduated from Potomac School, enrolled at Syracuse University and joined Phi Kappa Psi, learning and growing and making new friends each year — while never forgetting his old ones.

As an entrepreneur ... Hunter worked with area nightclubs to encourage teens-only, no-alcohol nights which he then managed and promoted. He was also beginning work on his own technology-based business.

As a person ... there will never be another Hunter. While he had many interests, he was one-of-a-kind. Thank you for supporting Hunter's Fund, so that young men and women with talent, energy and passion can have a chance to follow their dreams ... *just as Hunter did every day.*

I miss Hunter Watson - By Phillip Bermingham



Phillip Bermingham

Where do I begin to describe this character, Hunter Watson?

It was in 1996 when I first met him. He was a mere nine months old, and I was making a family photographic portrait of the Watson family at their Caribbean home on the island of Mustique.

The Watsons' house was under construction at the time, so we stayed at Mick Jagger's house, which was next door.

I had photographed Hunter's older brother Teddy prior to this session, but this was the first and last time that I was running the show with Hunter. I felt that

every other session we had, and there were many in his life, was scripted, choreographed, and directed by, roll credits, Hunter Watson.

We produced a beautiful album of photographs taken on L'ansecoy Beach, where the house was located, and it was indeed the first of many. Hunter always had an angle. The best plans of mice and men would evaporate as soon as Hunter injected his creative juices.

I think I approached every session with enthusiasm and anticipation mixed with equal amounts of fear and dread as to the outcome. I would frequently stop by the Watsons' house on the way home from my studio in McLean and would raid the fridge on my arrival

For my sixtieth birthday, Jerry and Judy produced a short movie about these visits, with Hunter playing the role of "yours truly." It was uncanny how, in a suit much too large for him, how he was able to mimic my mannerisms so that there was no doubt as to who he was portraying.

Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage and the men and women merely players." Indeed, the world was his stage, and he played on it beautifully, creatively, and enthusiastically. He was always surrounded by a coterie of characters who looked to him for direction and guidance.

Tragically my dear, lovable, rascal Hunter made his exit far too prematurely. I miss you, my friend.

Philip Bermingham recently published a collection of his most famous photographs worldwide. Now available at The Pink House or from Amazon.

