

August/September 2015

Honor Labor!

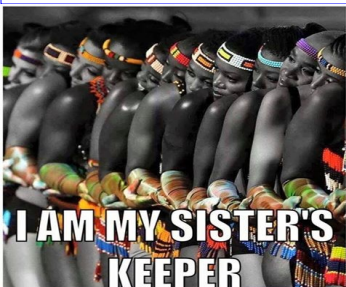


Integrity Women In Business Center, Inc. 501(c)3

Integrity Women In Business Center Inc.'s mission is to inspire economic development in the Territory of the Virgin Islands. Our programs provide management and technical assistance to VI residents, especially women who are economically or socially disadvantaged. Our innovative and multi-lingual training and counseling programs are geared to help our diverse population get out into the ever changing, competitive workforce or start and grow sustainable small businesses.

Points of Interest/Events

- Celebrating the Women of our Community
- Networking Events
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- 2015 VI Women's Leadership Symposium and the LeadHERship Cruise
- Our new FB Fan Page is up and running "Like Us"



Congrats!

Congratulations to the recent new business openings on St. Croix

- Cast Iron Pot Restaurant
- Neighborhood Pharmacy
- Sage Bookstore

Why we do what we do

Who Are We? Integrity Women in Business Center, Inc (a 501c 3) organization has been established since August of 2005 and we are proud to let you know of our continued progress and community efforts. This organization's mission is to encourage cooperative economic development by empowering our disadvantaged community members (women, farmers and veterans) to develop and reach financial independence through self-sustainability.

How we do it. To achieve our community vision, we utilize a broad collaboration of resources. We also develop, implement, and operate our own programs and services. We identify or raise funds for our programs, advocate for progressive reforms, and serve as a community advocate. Our programs and initiatives are intended to have long term systemic impact. Our work has resulted in improving the well being of our community and has been nationally recognized on many levels.

Our Programs Our programs and initia-

The Bigger Picture

Picture a distressed Community where poverty affects more than 40% of the households; many of these are head by women. Poverty affects households and communities on all levels ie. education, employment, health, security, safety, crime and sustainability. Unfortunately, many communities are plagued by the socio economic woes that are indicative of poverty. The Virgin Islands is one of these communities. We do what we do, because we believe that - **When Women Succeed, Communities Benefit**, and so our program and service offerings address the needs of our disadvantaged and underserved population; especially women. Why women? Because our life-givers, nurturers, educators and our communities deserve an opportunity to build financial independence through education, careers and business ownership. It is a global opinion (whether practiced or not) that a society where women are treated equally, paid equally, and given equal opportunities to build generational wealth is a society that is healthy, nurtured and productive. *And this is why, we do what we do.*

Get Involved /

Stay Connected!

Committee Meetings:

2015 Virgin Islands Women' LeadHERship Symposium and LeadHERship Cruise

September 8th, 2015

We're back!

**Networking Activity—
"Business Happy Hour" is
scheduled for September 23rd and October 28th**

Visit us at:

**2019 Mt. Welcome
Christiansted St.
Croix, VI 00820
www.ibcvi.com**

**Contact us to become a Member or Partner. Sponsorship Opportunities Available!
Make an appointment with one of our Small Business Coaches.**

See us at www.ibcvi.com / our non profit foundation or call us ... 340-778-4228

Why good credit is important to an aspiring Entrepreneur? Having a strong credit score certainly makes it easier to start up a new enterprise. Unfortunately, many business-savvy individuals have to put their entrepreneurial ventures on hold due to their poor — or sometimes nonexistent — credit histories. Building credit might seem impossible for many young entrepreneurs, especially if they're in school. However, the more they learn about basic credit management now, the better prepared

they'll be to secure the **business credit** they'll need in the future. Although establishing a solid credit history does take time, young entrepreneurs should take a few crucial steps toward building their credit now.

- 1. Know what lenders look for** Before you begin searching for creditors and lenders, you need to understand what factors they consider when reviewing your application.
- 2. Build experience with department store cards.**
- 3. Take advantage of secured credit cards.**

It might be in your best interest to open a secured credit card if: you can't be approved for a department store card or you've previously fallen behind in credit card payments

4. Manage all cards responsibly. Once you've been issued a few cards, you must manage them responsibly. Don't get caught in a downward spiral of charging frivolous purchases that you can't afford. As a young entrepreneur, it's okay to have a number of [questions about credit](#). Just be sure you get the right answers.

Buy Local! Support Small Businesses.....#iwbccommunitydevelopment

From the “Being a Mompreneur” Series

Tips for Balancing the “Mompreneur” Balancing Act -“The Five P’s”

Recent studies have shown that over the past 30 years, more women have entered the “mainstream” workforce than ever before in American history. I used the term “mainstream” because I believe that women and especially mothers have been working and making great contributions to communities since the beginning of time. In the past 10 years there has been an evolution of women in leadHERship positions and in most recent years the female entrepreneur/ business owner has been increasing in leaps and bounds.

Between 1997 and 2006, fully women-owned, or majority women-owned business grew at nearly twice the rate of all U.S. firms (42.3% vs 23.3%). During this same time period, employment among women-owned firms grew 0.4% and annual sales grew 4.4%. In 2010, reports on women-owned businesses (or majority-owned by women) in the United States returned the following impressive statistics:

There were an estimated 10.4 million privately-held firms;

This accounted for two in five (40.2%) of all businesses in the country; and

These firms generated \$1.9 trillion in annual sales and employed 12.8 million people nationwide.

Many of us (women) have decided to merge our leadHERship roles; Mom + Entrepreneur = Mompreneur. As if being a mom is not a full time job with diaper changes, breast feedings, meal planning, drop offs, pickups, homework management, sports, PTA, counseling, mediating, educating, roll modeling and with no retirement plan insight. It almost sounds insane to add another full time job to this already over loaded job description. But many like myself, have made the decision to share our gifts and talents with those outside of our homes. Now, if you are considering Mompreneurship or Mompreneurship has already hired you, here are some tips to balance the “Mompreneurship Balancing Act”:

- **Prayer**
- **Plan**
- **Proper**
- **Purpose**
- **Persistence and Patience**

Read More.... at www.ibcvi.com /blog

Abbellé Bakr, B.A, C.A, STRP

IBCVI & Co. Specializes in Entrepreneur /Mompreneur Start –Ups and Small Business support
See us at www.ibcvi.com or give us a call 340-778-4228