



**Mothers Against Guns, Inc.**  
JASON CARROLL MEMORIAL FUND, INC.  
P.O. Box 9811 St. Thomas, V.I. 00801  
Tel. 340-690-5759  
[www.vimothersagainstguns.org](http://www.vimothersagainstguns.org)

STC  
Post Office  
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00821  
Tel. 340.642.3591  
[stopthebleedingusvi@gmail.com](mailto:stopthebleedingusvi@gmail.com)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riVybttnEzY&feature=related>

## **DELIVERED BY FAX AND MAIL**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

#### **MOTHERS AGAINST GUNS, INC. AND THE STOP THE BLEEDING FOUNDATION, INC ANNOUNCE THE VIRGIN ISLANDS MILLION FATHER MARCH AND RALLY AND THE BACK TO SCHOOL DAY OF PRAYER IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Mothers Against Guns and The Stop the Bleeding Foundation announce the Virgin Islands Million Father March and Rally and the Back to School Day of Prayer in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Black Star Project is sponsoring *the Million Father March 2009* on the first-day-of-school in nearly 300 cities across America. The *Million Father March* has become a special day that fathers and men use to make a commitment to their children, their families, their communities and their country with their dynamic presence at a school. This is the real Fathers Day!

The *Million Father March 2009* will play-out at thousands of schools across America and in other parts of the world. An estimated 600,000 men in 475 cities participated in 2008. This year, an estimated 800,000 men from 550 cities are expected to participate. The Million Father March also provides an escort of safety, support, and encouragement to children of all ages on their first-day-of-school. Jackson says, "Gang recruitment, bullying and random violence goes way down on any day that a group of men are at a school."

Research shows that children whose fathers take an active role in their educational lives earn better grades, score higher on tests, enjoy school more and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. Additionally, children have fewer behavior problems when fathers listen to and talk with them regularly and are active in their lives. A good father is part of a good parent team and is critical to creating a strong family structure. Strong family structures produce children who are more academically proficient, socially developed and self-assured. Such children become adults who are valuable assets to their communities.

Participants in the event include fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, stepfathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers, significant male caregivers and friends of the family.

Although this event is created by Black men, women and men of all ethnicities are also encouraged to take their children to school on their first day. Businesses are asked to give fathers and men two hours off that morning (with pay) to take their children to school. Participating men will also be encouraged to volunteer at schools throughout the year.

Governor John deJongh has endorsed the **Virgin Islands Million Father March and Rally** and the **Back to School Day of Prayer in the U.S. Virgin Islands**. He has signed a proclamation declaring that Sunday, August 30, 2009 is the Back to School Day of Prayer in the Virgin Islands and that Monday, August 31, 2009 is the Day for the Virgin Islands Million Father March.

Mothers Against Guns and The Stop the Bleeding Foundation will have motivational rallies on **Saturday, August 29, 2009 starting at 4:00 p.m. in Sunny Isle Shopping Center in St. Croix** and **6:00 p.m. in Emancipation Garden in St. Thomas**. The Governor and the Lt. Governor of the Virgin Islands will participate in these events. At the end of the Program which will feature motivational speakers, the fathers will take a Pledge to accompany their children to school on **Monday, August 31, 2009**, the first day of school. On August 31, 2009, we hope that thousands of fathers and father-figures will accompany their children to school and continue to make a statement during the school year. These fathers and father figures will be able to wear tee shirts and a badge indicating that they were and are a force in their children's lives.

**The Virgin Islands Million Father March** coincides with **the Back to School Day of Prayer in the U.S. Virgin Islands**. We are asking the clergy to invoke the presence, blessings, peace and protection of the **living God** during these perilous times. Therefore, on **Sunday, August 30, 2009, the Back to School Day of Prayer in the U.S. Virgin Islands**, clergy in the churches of the Virgin Islands will lead their congregations in prayer for returning students here and abroad and pray for the fathers and father figures to be with their children during the school year. The clergy will encourage the intercessors to begin praying for a successful school year from **Sunday, August 23 to Sunday, August 30, 2009**.

To coordinate the **Back to School Day of Prayer** with the **Million Father March**, the Committee asked that fathers, uncles, step fathers, godfathers, mentors and other male father figures attend the rally on **Saturday, August 29, 2009** and that they take the pledge at the rally, and accompany their children to school on **Monday, August 31, 2009**. Also, we are asking the fathers and father figures to go to their religious institutions on Sunday, August 30, 2009 and participate in **the Back to School Day of Prayer in the Virgin Islands**. We are asking that the churches publicize the **Virgin Islands Million Father March and Rally** and the **Back to School Day of Prayer in the Virgin Islands** by putting this information in their bulletins and encouraging their members to participate.