



Dynamic Dancers membership includes Shay Powell, Darianny Santana, Janica Rogers, K'nia Lindo, Kimiyah Cornelius, J'nay Liburd, J'aime Smith and Kimora Penn.

St. John dance group gears up for stateside performance

By **ANDREA MILAM**
Special to The Daily News

ST. JOHN — A group of 25 St. John girls are making final preparations for their trip to New Hampshire later this month where they will perform in a recital at Lakes Region Dance studio in Meredith, N.H.

The girls are part of Dynamic Dancers, a group founded in 2013 by Loraine Richards, and it will be the second trip to the states for the dancers, who performed at a recital in New York last year.

The idea for the upcoming trip came about in the wake of Hurricane

Irma, when Lakes Region Dance tumbling teacher Sue Nicholas was matched with one of the Dynamic Dancers in a program that aimed to connect statesiders with children on St. John.

“The group St. John Kids set people up with kids on-island who needed items after the hurricane, with the idea that the matches would stay in touch and send boxes for the children’s birthdays or Christmas, and maybe even meet them during trips to the island,” said Nicholas. “A friend of mine matched with Loraine’s daughter and got the idea to invite the Dynamic Dancers up here

to perform.”

Richards immediately jumped at the chance, recognizing the opportunity for the girls to show off the results of their hard work in front of a large audience. It also will be the first time for many of the girls to get off the island since Irma devastated St. John on Sept. 6.

“This will be a big stress relief for the kids,” said Richards. “Most of these kids have never left. They went through the storm and they’ve been here through the whole recovery process.”

Richards originally planned to take 18 girls to the New Hampshire recital,

but there was so much interest in the trip that she is now traveling with 25.

The Dynamic Dancers range in age from 3 to 13. The girls expressed a mixture of excitement and nerves at a recent practice, where they rehearsed dances to the 2018 soca hit “Hello” and Beyoncé’s “Run the World,” and they worked on the details of their grand entrance to the stage.

Some of the girls, such as second-grader Princess Paul, who’s new to the Dynamic Dancers this year, said she was “a little bit scared” about the idea of performing in front of a large stateside audience. But she hasn’t left the island since Irma hit, and she said

she is excited to “get away for a bit.”

Sixth-grader De’neicia Baxter, who’s been in the Dynamic Dancers since the group’s inception and now choreographs many of their routines, said she was looking forward to the trip and isn’t nervous about performing. She traveled with the dancers last year to New York, where her favorite experience was an excursion the girls took to Niagara Falls.

Seventh-grader Jada Jn-Phillip has been in the Dynamic Dancers for four years and also made the trip to New York last year.

See **DANCERS**, page 9

Since 1985 **NATURAL FOOD** Grocery & Deli

Great Deli

Veggie Burgers • Vegan Soups • Salads • Spinach Lasagna
Broccoli Quiche • Daily Vegan Platter • Organic Carrot Juice
Wheat Grass Juice • Huge Deli Sandwiches

Get Order To Go:
(340) 775-3737

Mandela Circle
St. Thomas

Best of VI 2014

Replace your missing teeth at

VI Oral Surgery, Inc.

Touching lives...one face at a time.

St. Thomas: Paragon Medical Building • 777-5950
St. Croix: Barron Spot Village Mall • 719-3864

www.VIOralSurgery.com

Restore Your Smile. Reclaim Your Confidence!

Are you embarrassed by missing, broken or decaying teeth?
Are your dentures painful or inconvenient?

Maybe it's time to consider dental implants.

- Care Credit
- Patient payment plans

aic
Annaly Insurance Company

MASA

Best of VI 2016

Best of VI 2017

MASA ASSIST

The BEST pre-paid medical transportation assistance in the world.

WE OFFER:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

ANNALY INSURANCE COMPANY

5001 Chandlers Wharf Suite 4, Gallows Bay • **773-7374**