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**Presbyterians invite area grassroots groups to workshop on grants**

LOUISVILLE, KY. (May 4, 2010) — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s **Self-Development of People (SDOP) program** will hold a community workshop **Friday, May 28, 2010**, for St. Croix-area groups interested in applying for a SDOP grant.

SDOP provides community development grants aimed at empowering economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people. The grants, which are given to grassroots groups, are generally up to \$20,000. SDOP's goal is to "enable Presbyterians to be partners in development so that others may grow with dignity."

The workshop will begin at **10:30 a.m. at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix Campus in the Great Hall** located at Plot #2, Golden Grove, St. Croix, Virgin Islands and will last approximately two hours. Workshop participants will learn how the SDOP program works, what qualifies a group for funding, and how to apply for a grant. To reserve a place, RSVP to [Mary.Lewis@pcusa.org](mailto:Mary.Lewis@pcusa.org) or call (502) 569-5791.

SDOP projects funded through the years have ranged from small agricultural cooperatives in rural communities, to empowering young people from low-income neighborhoods, to supporting a cooperative of African-American women who support themselves by selling pecans through the mail.

In 2009, SDOP approved grants totaling more than \$800,000 by entering into partnership with 35 self-help groups.

Since its founding in 1970, SDOP has awarded more than \$32 million in grants to groups across the United States and over \$18 million in grants to groups in 68 foreign countries. SDOP's primary funding source is the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which is collected by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) during the Lenten and Easter seasons. SDOP is a ministry of the Louisville-based church's General Assembly Council.

For more information about SDOP, visit [www.pcusa.org/sdop](http://www.pcusa.org/sdop).

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