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# Delta Democrat Time



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## Dutch invest in Delta children

Foundation gives  
\$800,000 for  
Mississippi Delta  
Children's  
Partnership

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**ANGUILLA** — A Netherlands-based foundation has taken an interest in the Delta, with an investment of \$800,000 which will fund early childhood development.

Bernard van Leer Foundation has partnered with the Bank of Anguilla and several non-profit corporations to establish the Mississippi Delta Children's Partnership. The purpose of the initiative is to promote healthy family and community development aimed at supporting the growth and development of children.

The partnership was announced Tuesday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the plantation home, commonly known by locals as the "McKinney House," which will be home to one of the five childhood development sites. Other sites will be located in Cary, Mayersville, Marks and Webb.

In Anguilla, the foundation will partner with Sharkey/Issaquena Improvement Association, under the directorship of Emma C. Harris; in Cary, the foundation will partner with the Cary Christian Center, directed by Dorsey Johnson; and in Mayersville,

the group will partner with the Mayersville Youth Development Committee, directed by Fannie White.

The partnership, and its respective leaders, will seek to develop programs which emphasize language development, social and cognitive development, academic performance and ethnic efficacy.

The Bernard van Leer Foundation, established in 1949, is a private trust dedicated to the improvement of social and economic conditions for children up to the age of eight. The foundation has made an initial donation of \$800,000 for the first year with a commitment to consider funding for the next four years.