

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

*News from the Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative*

## Announcing the Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative

The Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative (MVDC) is working to expand the universe of donors contributing to Island non-profit organizations. Its goal is to involve the broadest number of people possible in Island giving and volunteering, including seasonal residents and visitors. MVDC is creating a resource for donors, which introduces them to the variety of options for their giving. MVDC will act only as a conduit of information—a matchmaker between donor and recipient.

"If the Vineyard is to remain a haven of beauty and civility, if growth is to support the character we all love, the

non-profit community must play a pivotal role in support of critical health, human services, education, the arts, environmental, and civic organizations," said Beatrice Phear, president of the Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative. "We are, ourselves, donors, and we aim to increase Island philanthropy by facilitating connections and building relationships between potential donors and non-profits."

The MVDC board of directors is a group of full- and part-time residents who believe in encouraging proportional philanthropy (see "Consider Proportional Philanthropy", below).

We urge donors to look deeply, and study the financials of an organization. Talk to MVDC members about the needs of the Island and the resources available for addressing those needs.

And give generously—because often the smaller, less sophisticated organizations are doing the most valuable and cost-effective work.

Find out more about MVDC by visiting our web site:

[www.mvdonors.org](http://www.mvdonors.org)

### Get Involved with Your Island!

- Philanthropy: private initiatives for the public good
- Small charities cannot afford big fundraising campaigns
- MVDC offers an overview of Island philanthropic opportunities
- Sign up for a donor information session this summer

### Inside this issue:

Information Session Attracts Many Island Non-Profits	2
Summary of Non-Profit Organizations and Their Needs	2
Foundations	5
About Our Executive Director	5
Meet Our Board	5
Find Out More...MVDC Information Request Form	6

## Consider Proportional Philanthropy

Proportional philanthropy—two big words to describe a simple concept. We ask all Vineyard residents to reserve a portion of their philanthropic dollars for Vineyard organizations.

For example, if you spend three months a year (one quarter of the year) on Martha's Vineyard, consider

spending one quarter of your philanthropic dollars here as well.

Martha's Vineyard faces a critical resource crisis. The volume, speed and character of change here have significantly stressed the existing infrastructure. Dukes County remains one of the poorest counties in

the state. Public funding, state and federal support, has not kept pace, a gap has opened between needs and services, and there is little expectation it will be filled in the near future.

Please consider proportional philanthropy. This newsletter and our web site list many opportunities.

*Discover over 50 organizations that need your help. Visit the MVDC Directory of Martha's Vineyard Non-profits at [www.mvdonors.org](http://www.mvdonors.org)*

## Information Session Attracts Many Island Non-profits

The Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative held a special information session for all Island non-profit organizations on October 20, 2003. The meeting addressed the following:

- Announcement of the MVDC Directory of Martha's Vineyard Non-profits
- Explanation of the MVDC, what it does, and how it can help match

non-profits with new donors

- Input and suggestions from Island non-profit organizations
- Networking and coalition-building among organizations

Over 50 representatives of Island non-profits attended the session, and participated in over 90 minutes of vigorous discussion.

"As a new organization, it's critical that we get feedback and input from our key constituencies," said Barbara Bellissimo, MVDC executive director. "We're pleased that, for the first time, we were able to invite all Martha's Vineyard non-profits to come together to influence how we expand philanthropy here and make more and better matches with donors."

*What follows is a small taste of the variety and depth of our Island non-profits. There are many opportunities in philanthropy. No matter what your interest, you can enhance the quality of Vineyard life.*

## Civic and Human Rights Organizations

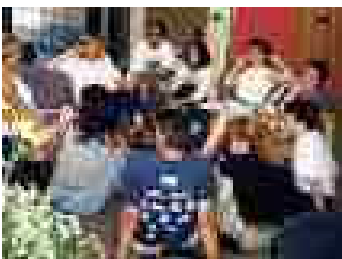


The national economy has been slow, and tax cuts have seriously squeezed state and local funding. The seasonal phenomenon of adjusting from a population of 15,000 to 100,000 annually is a complex and challenging situation.

The Island's many civic and human rights organizations work diligently to fill in the gaps. These are organizations that deliver emergency services, service organizations, and social organizations. For example:

- Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society
- Martha's Vineyard Association of EMTs
- Martha's Vineyard Historical Society
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

## Education Organizations



The education needs on the Island are varied. There are general needs, such as early childhood education, public education and adult learning and literacy. In addition, there are specific needs in the areas of general skills training, in maintaining the unique cultural aspects of the Island and in helping our

immigrant population learn a new language. The following organizations are focusing on addressing this wide range of needs:

- African-American Heritage Trail
- The Farm Institute
- Golden Gate Child Development Center
- Island Children's School

- Martha's Vineyard Adult Learning Program
- Martha's Vineyard Literacy Volunteer Program
- Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School
- Nathan Mayhew Seminars
- Vineyard Voyagers, Inc.
- Women Empowered

## Health Organizations

Health care delivery in a seasonal economy with a high level of poverty is a very complex issue. Often employees in the tourism industry cannot afford health insurance. Twenty percent of our residents do not have health coverage; eighty percent need dental services. Issues the providers and advocates are

focusing on include access to funding, improved outreach, enhancing the availability of primary care, coordination and collaboration. To help with these goals, consider the following organizations:

- AIDS Alliance of Martha's Vineyard
- Church Street Collaborative
- The Foundation for Island Health, Inc.
- Friends of Family Planning of Martha's Vineyard
- Hospice of Martha's Vineyard
- Martha's Vineyard Hospital
- Vineyard Healthcare Access Program
- Vineyard Nursing Association

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## Housing Organizations

The 2002 median price for a single-family home on Martha's Vineyard was \$661,900; nearly double that of a decade ago. Our housing costs are almost three times the statewide median of \$225,500, while our median income of \$61,100 is 24% below the

statewide median of \$80,247. Just one example: someone with income of \$50,000 per year can afford to buy a home for \$175,000. But the past two years have seen the virtual disappearance of homes sold for under \$250,000! To achieve affordability for local

residents, the following organizations must raise money through philanthropy.

- Bridge Housing Corporation
- Habitat for Humanity of Martha's Vineyard
- Island Affordable Housing Fund
- Island Elderly Housing



## Human Services Organizations

Dukes County, despite the influx of people of means and its image as a playground for the wealthy, is among the poorest in the state, but the cost of living is among the highest. There is a significant non-English speaking population of

dedicated island workers who deserve access to these services. There are real gaps to be filled in order to ensure service availability to all those who need it.

Consider these organizations, which are

striving to address these needs:

- Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands
- Island Councils on Aging
- Martha's Vineyard Community Services
- Vineyard House

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*Dukes County is among the poorest counties in the state, but the cost of living here is among the highest.*

## Recreation Organizations



The Island's recreation organizations play a vital role in building leadership skills, self-esteem and confidence in all our residents—full or part time, young or old. While many organizations raise revenue

through participation fees and/or dues, the current economy has whittled those revenues significantly.

The following organizations rely on philanthropy to continue delivering their programs:

- Friends of Vineyard Soccer
- Martha's Vineyard Boys and Girls Club
- Martha's Vineyard Skate Park Association
- YMCA of Martha's Vineyard

## Environment and Conservation Organizations

*Conservation organizations help safeguard our fragile Island ecosystem.*

The beautiful vistas, natural habitats and graceful beaches of our island ecosystem are fragile and expensive to preserve. Conservation organizations help safeguard our drinking water, agriculture and recreation. But there are warning signs: the shellfish

die-off in the Lagoon is the canary in the mine. The following are just some of the organizations working to maintain and conserve our unique environment:

- Felix Neck Wildlife Trust
- Friends of Sengekontaktet
- Lagoon Pond Association
- Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group
- The Polly Hill Arboretum
- Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
- Tisbury Waterways
- Vineyard Conservation Society

## Arts and Cultural Organizations



As you may already know, Martha's Vineyard is rich in arts and cultural activities for all to learn from and enjoy. As budgets are cut, and public funds become more difficult to secure, these important organizations and their activities are struggling.

Consider the following organizations, which are

striving to maintain a full range of arts and cultural offerings for Island residents and visitors:

- Aquinnah Cultural Center
- The Drum Workshop
- Featherstone Center for the Arts
- Island Community Chorus
- Island Theater
- Workshop
- Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society
- Minnesingers' Parents Group
- Phyllis Vecchia Creative Drama
- Vineyard Bellydance and Revue
- The Vineyard Playhouse
- Vineyard Sinfonietta
- The Yard

## Foundations

If you would rather have local experts determine the most critical needs, please consider giving to one of the foundations that serve the Island.

- The Edey Foundation
- FarmNeck Foundation
- The Great Pond Foundation
- Martha's Vineyard Cultural Council
- Permanent Endowment Fund for Martha's Vineyard

## About Our Executive Director

To most efficiently fulfill its mission, MVDC has hired its first executive director. Barbara Bellissimo, a former seasonal resident who recently moved to Martha's Vineyard full-time from California, brings over twenty years of marketing, development and executive experience at organizations of all sizes. Most recently she was director of

development and communications at People Acting in Community Together (PACT), a grassroots leadership development organization in San Jose, CA. Prior to PACT, she was executive director of the Palo Alto Community Fund, a community foundation serving Palo Alto, CA and its surrounding communities.

"I have enjoyed all that Martha's Vineyard has to offer for many years," said Barbara. "I am thrilled to join MVDC in strengthening this community that's already given so much to me and my family."



You can reach Barbara by calling 508.696.4647 or sending email to [barbara@mvdonors.org](mailto:barbara@mvdonors.org).

## Meet Our Board

MVDC was founded in early 2003 by a group of full and part-time Island residents with strong ties to the community, and a dedication to its future. Our board members are donors themselves, and are increasing Island philanthropy by facilitating connections and building relationships between potential donors and nonprofits.

- **Samuel M. Feldman, Chair**  
MV Charter School, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Island Council for Youth, Polly Hill Arboretum, Mopeds Are Dangerous Committee, MV Hebrew Center, FARM Institute
- **Beatrice Phear, President**  
United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, The Edey Foundation
- **Inez K. Janger, Secretary**  
The Yard, Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- **Robin A. Leeds, Treasurer**  
Mary Center for Maternal and Child Health, Women's Information Network
- **Carole Cohen**  
MV Community Services, MV Hebrew Center, IONA Senior Ser-

- **Cindy Doyle**  
YMCA of MV
- **James Pickman**

Each board member is linked with one of the issue areas and would be happy to talk further with donors about specific opportunities.

*News from the Martha's  
Vineyard Donors Collaborative*

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P.O. Box 1303  
West Tisbury, MA 02575  
T: 508.696.4647  
F: 508.696.9648  
E: info@mvdonors.org  
www.mvdonors.org

**Expanding philanthropy on Martha's Vineyard  
by linking donors with local organizations**

**VISIT US ONLINE!**  
**WWW.MVDONORS.ORG**  
**G**  
**SIGN UP FOR**  
**SUMMER DONOR**  
**INFO SESSIONS**

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## Find Out More...

Please complete and mail or fax the form below, so we can keep you informed of needs and developments in your areas of interest.

Mail to: MVDC, P.O. Box 1303, West Tisbury, MA 02575

Fax to: 508.696.9648

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### MVDC Information Request

**Areas of Interest  
(please check all that)**

- Arts
- Civic/Human Rights
- Education
- Environment/Conservation
- Health
- Housing
- Human Services
- Recreation

**I Would Like to Help  
(please check all that apply)**

- Volunteer for MVDC
- Volunteer for non-profit(s) in my areas of interest
- Donate to non-profit(s) in my areas of interest
- Network with other donors in my areas of interest
- Attend donor information session

**Comments:**

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing City, State, Zip

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MV Address

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Email

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