

MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

2008 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING MARTHA'S VINEYARD BY STRENGTHENING NON-PROFITS

The Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative is an advocacy organization devoted to strengthening the island's non-profit community. It does this by educating donors about the importance and needs of Vineyard charitable organizations, with the goal of increasing the total amount of money donated to them. It also helps those organizations improve their own capabilities through workshops and technical assistance.

The Donors Collaborative is self funded by its Board, does not solicit funds for itself, does not choose among organizations to support, and does not provide access to donors without their permission.

How Can You Help?

- Give to your favorite Vineyard charities. Our on line Directory of Non-Profits has detailed information on the full range of island organizations.
- Include the Vineyard in your annual giving and estate plans.
- Give to the Permanent Endowment Fund, the island's Community Foundation, if you wish to make a lasting contribution to the island. Call Ralinda Lurie, Executive Director at 508-338-4665.
- Get involved! Many organizations seek talented people to help them achieve their missions. Volunteer, join a Board or provide management consulting & related services (see article on page 3).

Resourceful non-profits collaborate to help us through hard times.

Living on an island, as we all know, can make it expensive and difficult to get things done. The same is true for organizations here since many important products, services and resources aren't as available as on the mainland. Yes, our geography creates some hurdles but Vineyard non-profits have been very resourceful in finding ways to clear them and provide us with high quality services tailored to our unique island needs. They are also collaborating more to meet common objectives and maximize their impact with limited resources.

Vineyard Nursing Association (VNA) expanded this year and became the island's only home healthcare agency. They were able to hire very experienced



Vineyard Nursing Association's first graduating class proudly displays their home health aide certifications.

home health aides but there were not enough on island that met VNA's standard of being state board *Certified Nursing Assistants*. Certification is not readily available here and requires 75 hours of classroom and clinical study. (continued on p. 2)

The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List



Mosquito nets... oximeters... a grant writer... a cupola!

We asked non-profits about their needs this holiday season...

Mass Audubon at Felix Neck has plenty of mosquitoes and wishes for mosquito netting for their camp tent (4 sections needed at \$315 per section), a scanner (\$150) and a digital projector (\$800).

Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society has scaled back from 12 summer concerts to 10 and with current economics may have to cut further. They wish for support of their concerts and school programs: \$10,000 per summer concert, \$6,000 for an off season one and \$6,000 for music study scholarships.

Featherstone Center for the Arts wishes for a 31 inch long shrink wrapper and shrink film (\$500) so they can save money doing their own shrink wrapping to protect artwork for display and sale.

M.V. Community Services' **Daybreak Clubhouse** (the only Island program for people with serious mental illness) needs a new or gently used van/station wagon to transport members to transitional work activities, social/recreational activities and other appointments. The current (old) van needs extensive repairs (continued on p.4)

Resourceful non-profits...(Continued from page 1)

Collaborating with **Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation** and UMASS Dartmouth, VNA started their own on island certification program for home health aides. The program is taught by VNA's Dr. Eleanor Morad, RN, an experienced educator and clinician, and the clinical training is done at Windemere. Two classes graduated this year. Their goal is to have all their home health aides achieve this distinction and have this become an ongoing training program for their employees and any other interested island healthcare professionals. VNA has also partnered with **Our Island Club** which is generously providing "scholarship seats" in the class.

We all thank the island's housing organizations for providing affordable land, homes and rentals to islanders who couldn't afford to stay here otherwise. But did you know that many people who qualify for ground leases with the **Island Housing Trust**, and have savings that exceed the minimum 5% equity the Trust requires, still fall short of what they can qualify for in a mortgage? With the high cost of living here it takes a long time for these families to build substantial savings.

That's why **The Island Affordable Housing Fund (IAHF)** started their innovative *Helm Home Loan* program which provides second mortgages to ground leasing homeowners. They provide a 30-year fixed-rate second mortgage at an interest rate of 1% per year, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to bridge the gap between what the homeowner has in savings and the amount they are qualified to borrow.

This program has been the catalyst for twelve families gaining access to affordable home ownership. To help strengthen the program IAHF has collaborated with five Island towns that donated money from their Community Preservation Act funds and IAHF hopes to match those funds dollar-for-dollar.



Housing Officials celebrate with the lottery winners of a home.

Martha's Vineyard Film Festival brought their skills and resources into a collaboration with the **YMCA** to produce a summer film series for kids, and with the **Chilmark Library** for a winter kids festival.

In addition to collaborating on programs we're also seeing non-profits trying joint fundraising and marketing. **The Yard** sent an e-mail to their list of art loving Vineyarders recommending they attend the Thanksgiving Concert of "their friends at the **Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society.**" Also, three Vineyard non-profits, the **YMCA, Vineyard House and Friends of Oak Bluffs** partnered to fundraise at the same event; the Martha's Vineyard Festival featuring the Boston Pops and Gladys Knight.

Island Grown Initiative (IGI) started a farm-to-school program, which might better be called an integration than a collaboration, of our farming community, the eat local movement and island schools. The program brings local farming into the classroom as well as the cafeteria. (continued on page 3.)



From garden to table, West Tisbury Kindergarteners enjoy the sweet potatoes of their labors.

Our Island & Philanthropy

Martha's Vineyard is a treasure, full of very special places, people and things. **Our greatest asset, however, is being a community that comes together in times of need.** This economic crisis will be a real test of our strength.

The non-profit community is the backbone of the island; almost everything you love about the Vineyard is protected, maintained or made possible by non-profits. They keep it a special place, maintain its character and provide a safety net for the year-round population. These organizations are being hit by an economic tsunami and yet it's during hard times like this that we need them more than ever.

No matter what type of Vineyarder you are - seasonal, wash-ashore or native islander - we're all part of this community and have a role in protecting it. We want to thank everyone in advance for playing the part of the hero during the tough times ahead.

Thanks to the hard working staff and volunteers who perform services and run these organizations. Thanks to the seasonal residents, celebrities, and benefactors who provide the majority of Island philanthropy; your generosity keeps non-profits alive. Thanks to the community groups for adding their strength to the effort (e.g. The Harley Riders, Churches). Thanks to Island businesses for sponsorships and for donating resources. Finally, thanks to all the Islanders who care; who come out to help a family that had a fire or a child needing an operation.

The island's non-profit community is busy adapting, reorganizing and preparing for the worst. Many need to learn new skills to survive. In this issue we'll show how you can help; for example, volunteering as a management consultant (see p. 3).

We also have some great stories about new & innovative things going on in the non-profit community. **Although these may be gloomy times, there are a lot of positive things going on here.**

Resourceful non-profits...(Continued from page 2)

As they start their second year, 5 schools will have student farmed gardens that provide food for lunch and a laboratory for studying topics like weather and soil. IGI is working with all island schools to find other creative ways to link farm activities into the required curriculum. They have also worked with food service staffs to use more healthy local foods and are setting up supply arrangements between the schools and local farms. This will help sustain the farms through the off-season; a win-win for all.

Finally, it's hard enough running a non-profit in this economy so why would anyone try to start one? With a "if we build it they will come" attitude, Vicki Thurber didn't think about the money early on; everyone believed in the heart of the project. She started with volunteers and a lot of emotional support. A year later, **Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center** has a successful year round program that is growing. They have three certified instructors, a teaching herd of 3 horses and enough donors to cover the expenses that aren't covered by fees. Over 100 students with disabilities took horseback riding lessons designed to complement physical, emotional or social aspects of their ongoing therapy. This widely accepted form of therapy really can change lives and thanks to Vicki and all those who helped start Rising Tide, it's now available on the Vineyard.



Students enjoying the ride at Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center

How Can We Help You?

The Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative offers a number of Donor Services to assist you when giving to Vineyard non-profits:

Donation of Securities

Many Island non-profits are small and don't have the capability to accept donations of securities. However, you can still make contributions of stock by making a donor directed gift through the Donors Collaborative. We'll sell the securities upon receipt and pass 100% of the proceeds on to the organization of your choice as a gift from you. Contact our Executive Director for more information.

Anonymity

Want to make an anonymous gift, or several of them? Make a donor directed gift to the Donors Collaborative and we'll pass it on to the organization(s) of your choice while maintaining your complete anonymity. We'll also collect thank you letters/notes from the organizations and pass them on to you. Contact our Executive Director for more information.

Donor Directory

Not sure who to contribute to? Our online directory of non-profits has detailed listings of island charities by area of interest, including financial summaries, mission statements and list of Officers and Directors. Go to www.mvdonors.org

MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

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How About Donating a Strategic Plan?

The Donors Collaborative wants to create a corps of senior level executives and professionals who volunteer to help Vineyard non-profits fulfill their missions by providing management consulting and related services. Our goal is not to do all the work for these organizations, but to guide and help them build the capacity to do things on their own.

We recently conducted a survey of Vineyard non-profits to determine what workshops to offer this fall but found that what they really need in this environment are specialized consultants who can address the different needs of each organization. They have new problems today and need new skills to address them but these organizations can't afford to pay off island consultants to help them build a strategic plan or reconstitute a Board. Several of our Board members are professional consultants/facilitators and have been providing a few hours of free consulting services; the impact has been tremendous. The problem is there are more non-profits than we can handle and we don't have expertise in all areas.

If you have any of the following skills and are interested in making this type of participatory contribution please send a note or e-mail to our Executive Director. By sharing your knowledge and skills for a short amount of time you can create a permanent benefit for an important island organization. We want to help non-profits in the following areas:

Governance, Human Resources Management, Strategic Management, Organizational Development, Revenue Generation, Marketing, Financial Management, Public Relations, Grant Writing & Research, Facilitation Services and Mentoring and Executive Advisory Services.

The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List

Cliff photos by M. Stutz

A concert... a salad bar...a manure spreader... Under Armour!

We asked non-profits about their needs this holiday season...

(Continued from page 1)

Hospice of Martha's Vineyard is in need of two pulse oximeters (\$850 total) to quickly and non-invasively measure the oxygen saturation of a patient's blood. This would allow each nurse to carry one and replace a unit which might need to go to a museum.

Island Grown Initiative wants \$1,750 to buy copies of their top 10 garden and farm related resource books. They will give a set to teachers/classes at all 7 island schools, complete with a curriculum and classroom activities for every grade level.

Vineyard House wants \$3,400 to carpet stairs and three bedrooms and \$4,000 to replace the broken rotted deck of their Women's House. For the Men's Houses they need \$1,300 for an electrician to install flood lights and \$840 to purchase 21 bedside pole lamp tables.

MV Girls Field Hockey Booster Club would love to have two sets of new goalie equipment (\$1,000 each) and new uniforms (\$50 includes home & away) for 55 players.

Vineyard Conservation Society hopes for new computer, monitor, photo-quality printer and a digital camera.

Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association put a new cupola and cross on the Tabernacle but still need donations to cover the \$650,000 renovation of this historic national and local landmark.

Second Chance Animal Rescue has been hit hard by cuts in grants and needs \$5,000 to spay/neuter and vaccinate 15 animals before they can adopt them out.

Plum Hill Preschool, an environmentally conscious school that surrounds the children with only natural materials, is in need of a large wool rug for storytelling and play.

Habitat for Humanity wishes for a new laptop.

Polly Hill Arboretum wishes for a \$1,400 HP 6730B notebook computer with software for their new library and member's resource center so visitors can access information about plants and the Arboretum's plant collection.

The Dukes County Jail's "Fathers Group" needs 20 children's books for the "Read to My Child Program" which records inmates reading bedtime stories to their children and sends the book home with the video. Hearing and seeing Dad read helps keep the family connected.

Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center wishes greatly for the services of a grant writer, a riding lawn mower/spreader (\$1,500) and a sponsor for a year's worth of therapeutic sessions for an individual with a proven need (\$2,500).

The Youth Hostel wishes for lawn furniture, a new garden shed (\$750) and used computers for guests to access the internet.

Don't hold that yard sale! **The Yard** needs new or used furniture and housewares to furnish rooms for artists in residence: Bed linens, towels, kitchen utensils, knives, pots, pans, outdoor furniture, picnic tables, shelving, lamps, bureaus, desk chairs, beds and sofas.

Island Affordable Housing wishes to get a new iMac 20-inch, 2.66GHz office computer (\$1,700) before the current one dies.

Women Empowered wants a high volume printer that collates so they don't spend valuable time doing it themselves.

Thanks for Being an MV Donor...

The African Artists' Community Development Project seeks \$500 scholarships to send Zambian orphans to high school for a chance at a better future.

Safe Haven Project wishes to upgrade their office computer to a new iMac 24inch (around \$2000).

Adult and Community Education of Martha's Vineyard, (A.C.E. MV) the islands new adult education program, wishes for 10 GED scholarships of \$250 (\$2,500 total) to assure that individuals who wants the skills to pass this important test can afford the program.

Phyllis Vecchia Creative Drama wishes for \$2,000 to continue a much appreciated program where children from the Grace Church Preschool and island elders at Windemere Nursing Home perform plays together.

MV Girls Lacrosse Booster Club wishes for \$2,000 to get new *Under Armour* kilts and jerseys for the Varsity so they can pass the current uniforms down to the JV and replace their really old worn out ones.

Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School needs a new freezer (\$3,000) and salad bar (\$3,000) to accommodate growing enrollment and their popular healthy lunch program, that now integrates locally grown food through the IGI Farm-To-School initiative.

Would you like to give a gift?

Contact Information is available at
mvdonors.org or 508-645-3690