

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

## 2009 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

*SUPPORTING MARTHA'S VINEYARD BY STRENGTHENING NON-PROFITS*

### By The Numbers:

#### Recession on The Vineyard

**101** households were on the waitlist for rental assistance in October. Since June, 65 households dropped off the waiting list and many left the island.

**72** % more people were unemployed this summer than last and unemployment continues to increase. For perspective with our seasonal economy, there were more people unemployed in the summer of 2009 than in the winter of 2008.

**70** % more people received counseling at the Island Counseling Center this fall than the same period 3 years ago.

**69** % of our Health & Human Services agencies saw demand for their services increase this summer compared to last and 31% saw them increase greatly.

**54**% of our Health & Human Services agencies saw contributions decrease this summer compared to last and 31% saw them decrease greatly.

**46**% of our Health & Human Services agencies expect to run a deficit this year and 38% expect to next year.

**22**% increase in the number of people receiving services from CONNECT to End Violence this October vs. a year ago.

**14** people were homeless this fall up from 10 last winter and 2-3 historically.

**1**st time that "Serving Hands" food distribution ran through the summer.

**The Vineyard** continues to struggle like the rest of the nation as the recession takes its toll, and this summer things got worse according to a survey we conducted of the non-profit community in September. The findings are included here and the complete report is available for review at our website. Contributions were flat or (cont. on p. 3)

### It's All About Making A Difference

Philanthropy is about more than writing a check; it's also about trying to make a difference. It doesn't matter if you have a lot or a little money to give; big hearts and big ideas are just as important.

There are many ways you can make a difference and here are just a few examples of the extraordinary things donors have done to help the Vineyard through these difficult times.

During his life, **Anthony H. Meyer** was a true friend of the **Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club**. He was on their Board, was their biggest fundraiser and one of their largest contributors. After he died this July, they named the club building after him in honor of his long term commitment. However, the biggest difference Anthony made came after he died, in the form of a major gift from his estate to establish an endowment fund



Generations of youth to come will enjoy the M.V. Boys & Girls Club thanks to a bequest by Anthony H. Meyer.

which will help secure the future of the Club for generations of youth to come

**Sarah Jane Hughes** is a seasonal resident and law school professor but you would hardly guess that given her attention to detail and close involvement in the day to day operations as President of **The Yard**. Her outside-the-box (cont. on p. 2)

### The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List



**Codecs... a stainless extruder... a bus... a brain fitness program!**

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

**Felix Neck** is for the birds – help visitors see them more closely with ten pair of new binoculars (\$100 each). They also wish for Summer Day Camp Scholarships (\$399) and PowerPoint prowess with a digital projector (\$650).

**Holy Ghost Association** (PA Club) wishes for a new sound system for community functions, family benefits & school & non-profit fund raisers (\$1,000).

**Vineyard Conservation Society** wishes for \$2,500 to upgrade their Email Action Alert capacity.

**The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club** wishes for a new 220v Electric Oven and Range for their kitchen to feed hungry kids and replace a failing old one.

**Windemere Nursing & Rehabilitation** needs a brain fitness program for visual processing and memory, which many of their residents struggle with. They need 1 or 2 copies at \$500 each. They also wish for a laptop computer with a webcam and headset so residents can visit with family members via Skype in real time (\$600-\$900). (continued on p.4)

## It's All About Making A Difference ... (Continued from page 1)

thinking helped the Yard through a critical transition period when founder Patricia Nanon passed her the reins and challenged the organization to demonstrate its autonomy and sustainability as a precondition for the transfer of ownership of the property. Since then programming, audiences, grants and donations have steadily increased, as has The Yard's visibility both nationally and on-island. She makes a difference by caring in every possible way including calling with congratulations after successful shows and by sending lobster rolls and chowder to tired casts and staff.

Seasonal resident and famed art aficionado **Olga Hirshhorn** made a big difference for **Martha's Vineyard Community Services** almost 10 years ago when she came up with the idea for the annual Chicken Alley Art and Collectibles sale while dropping off some clothes at the thrift shop. Olga found a painting she liked for only \$15 and she thought, why not have a spoof art opening of paintings and artifacts that she and others donate to the thrift shop, to raise money for Community Services. Olga has served as curator and host of the most unusual art opening on the Vineyard ever since, and it's turned into a significant fundraising event.

**Sam Feldman** has made a difference to many Vineyard non-profits by being a big early supporter as well as a loyal one. This summer, when the economy was forcing the **Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society** to cut back their concert schedule, Sam generously sponsored a concert in memory of his wife Gretchen. The added bonus, however, was that by underwriting the concert and making it free to the public it brought in new audience members who became loyal MVCMS concertgoers for the rest of the summer.



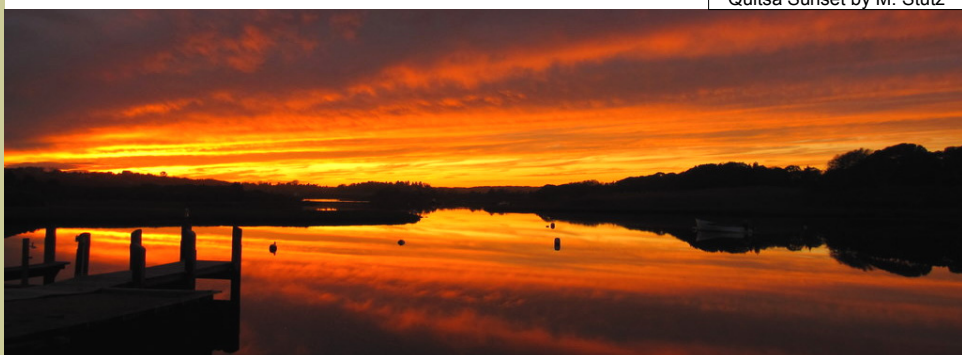
Sam Feldman celebrates with Sarah Jane Hughes (r) & Charlotte Hall (l) at a benefit at Sweet Life Café. Photo by Sally Cohen.

**The FARM Institute** is fortunate to have a large number of dedicated donors who give beyond their wallets and volunteer to help in different ways. Here are just a few of the many donor/volunteers that use their influence, time or skills to help The FARM accomplish its mission. **Deb Nugent** devoted an entire year to ensuring the success of their annual fundraising dinner as Chair of Meals in the Meadow. Seasonal resident **Sharon Guadagno** uses her warm hospitality and culinary skills every Wednesday morning throughout the summer to host and serve FARM Institute Breakfasts. Marketing expert **Mike Kelly** joined the Board and devotes much time and energy to ensure the FARM stays on brand.

Finally, we recognize that **anonymous donors** can make a big difference too. The **Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group** had an important two year oyster restoration project in Edgartown Great pond funded by anonymous donors and **Phyllis Vecchia Creative Drama** has a program where pre-school children perform with seniors at Windemere which has been kept alive by an anonymous donor for the last 2 years.

Non-profits tell us these stories make a difference too because they trigger ideas and nudge/inspire others to action. What ideas do these stories trigger for you? What can you do to make a difference?

Quitsa Sunset by M. Stutz



## Our Island & Philanthropy

It's was a remarkable summer. As our page 1 article about the recession shows, the economy took its toll but we're getting through it thanks to the hard work of our non-profits who cut budgets and stayed viable while continuing to support the community, and thanks to you loyal donors who supported these organizations despite the bite the recession may have taken out you personally. It's a tribute to the Vineyard community and it shows how much we all care about the Island.

We are fortunate to have many loyal donors, like those mentioned in our other lead story, whose love and passion for the Vineyard drives them to want to "make a difference" for the organizations that preserve, provide or maintain what they love most about the Vineyard. One donor told us she views it as "investing in the Vineyard so my family can enjoy it again next summer."

We need more donors to invest in the Vineyard because the needs are greater than ever; it is demand for services from all of us that creates the need and there are reserves that need to be replenished too.

What do you love most about the Vineyard? The arts? The historic charm, the scenic beauty? Fishing, clamming or recreational opportunities? The great things for kids to do? The people, the sense of community, the small town feel? Non-profits provide, protect or maintain these and many more things that make the Vineyard special. They also provide for the health and well being of the year-round population, the people who keep the Vineyard running. What would we do without them? They care take the Island as well as our homes.

Why not try to "make a difference" to those organizations that support what you love most about the Vineyard?

We mulch and fertilize our gardens to winter them over. We store our boats to protect them from the weather. We repair, repaint and reshingle our houses, to ready them for the next summer. Make sure the Vineyard is ready for many summers to come. Invest in it because you love what it returns.

## Recession on The Vineyard...(Continued from page 1)

down for most while demand for services grew 65%. One third will run deficits this year eating into limited reserves and one third had to make additional budget cuts to manage the bottom line. Fortunately, it was not as bad as many had feared but the consensus is that it will continue like this for at least another year.

On the bright side, island non-profits prepared for the downturn and took steps to stay viable with contingency plans, collaborations and budget cuts, including staff and salary reductions, and these efforts appear to have worked. 93% feel there is no imminent danger of folding for financial reasons.

The big casualties here this summer are few: Bridge Housing announced they would be going out of business for financial reasons and the Island Affordable Housing Fund (IAHF) had cash flow problems due to decreased contributions and was unable to meet several months' worth of rental assistance payments (approximately \$25,000 a month) to 45 island landlords. Fortunately, the Housing Authority and several towns have covered the shortfall for a few months while IAHF regroups and raises funds to meet their obligation. With our high cost of living, rental assistance is critical, not only to support these 45 hard working middle class families, but to help the 100 others on the waitlist stay part of our community. Checks can be sent to IAHF with the words "Rental Assistance" in the memo line.

We continue to see islanders struggling in record numbers (see statistics on page 1). The safety net is not big enough; some people have left and others are joining our growing homeless population. There are 14 homeless people now and there could have been more if the County hadn't helped 4 families facing foreclosure, renegotiate their mortgages. The island has no programs, facilities or budgets to help these people and some have drug or mental problems. The state provides nothing on island. The person working on this for the County is a dedicated volunteer and their programs are funded only by contributions. The county is trying to get state support and does refer people to services off island, but some long term islanders won't stay to get help. Funds are needed for hotel/motel vouchers, travel, "safe" transitional apartments, staff & counseling. Checks can be sent to IAHF with the word "Homeless" in the memo line.

The economy's impact on our Health and Human Service agencies has been heavier than on the rest of our non-profits because they've seen greater demands and won't cut essential services. Community Services had a \$243,000 deficit in 2009 and has reduced reserves so much they have to cut programs in 2010 and balance the budget.

The good news is that the community and the non-profits continue to have a positive attitude and aren't about to let the economy damage this place. Their spirit is willing but the economic challenge is great. We can't give up, these organizations need our help as donors and volunteers if they and the Vineyard we love are to survive.

## The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List (continued from page 4)

Community Services' **Daybreak Clubhouse**, which assists people recovering from mental illness, needs a new or gently used van/station wagon to transport members to work/social/recreational activities. Current van is in disrepair so activities are limited.

**The Martha's Vineyard Film Society** wishes for volunteers with video writing & production experience for their new *Teen Media Project* which lets teens tell their stories, express their views and develop communications skills (possible stipend).

**Sense of Wonder Creations** blends the creative arts with educating children to appreciate ethnic diversity, care for the environment and do local and global community service. They wish for 2 summer camp scholarships for \$3,500 and 2 winter art program scholarships totaling \$1,000 for island children in need.

**The FARM** needs a used pick up truck to run produce, animals and equipment in and out of the fields and barns. It can be old but needs to be in good running condition so they don't have to pay a lot to maintain it.

**Martha's Vineyard Center for Living** wants to get the word out about their Supportive Day Program and needs a multimedia projector for presentations (\$700 - \$900). They are willing to "loan" it to other non-profits when not in use.

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

(MVDC) is a group of donors working together to strengthen the Vineyard's non-profit community in order to enrich the character of the island we love. The MVDC strengthens Vineyard non-profits by:

- Publicly advocating for them;
- Offering workshops, technical and other support to help them improve their own capabilities, and
- Getting them more money by educating donors about the importance of island non-profits, the great work they do and their significant problems and needs.

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 about them.
- Include the Vineyard in your annual giving and estate plans.
- Give to the Permanent Endowment Fund, the island's Community Foundation. Call Ralinda Lurie, Executive Director at 508-338-4665.
- Get involved! Many organizations seek talented people to help them achieve their missions. Volunteer or join a Board!

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeremy Biggs  
Carole Cohen  
Cindy Doyle  
Samuel M. Feldman  
Inez K. Janger, President  
Gerald S. Jones, Secretary  
Robin A. Leeds  
Claudia Miller  
Beatrice Phear, Chair  
Julie Skinner, Treasurer

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peter Temple

# The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List



Cliff photos by M. Stutz

**A concert... a chainsaw... a greenhouse... binoculars... corkscrews !**

(Continued from page 1)

The "Read to My Child Program" at **The Dukes County Jail** now sends over 50 children videos of their Dad reading to them, along with a copy of the storybook, to help keep families connected. They need money for books and operating costs.

**Women Empowered** wishes for a color printer (\$150-200) and a color copier that can collate and has a paper feed (\$500+) for printing/duplicating brochures, annual appeal letters, etc.

**Island Grown Initiative's** Schools Program now has a garden at every school (7 of them) and they need seeds, supplies and tools. They wish for \$5000 to create a garden support fund.

**Featherstone Center for the Arts** wishes for a 4" Stainless Extruder Package (\$450) to make clay handles and tubes for ceramics in their pottery classes and a slab roller (\$650) to make even slabs of clay for vases, platters and sculptures.

**Adult and Community Education of Martha's Vineyard**, (ACE-MV) wishes for their own Mac laptop, a sponsor for the four GED teachers (\$2500) and scholarships for people taking GED or Northeastern undergraduate/ graduate credit courses.

**Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society** brings us world class music at affordable prices and wishes for concert sponsors at \$8,000 - \$10,000 each. They also need scholarships (\$250) for students in the island strings program.

**Island Affordable Housing** wishes for some office furniture to replace the fold up table used by their Executive Director.

**The Drum Workshop** wishes for money to cover operating costs (salaries and bills). They've raised money for drums and now need "gas in the engine" to continue local programming for Teens, Autistic Children, People With Disabilities and others.

**VineyardVoice**, an online arts & ideas magazine, wishes to start an internship program to produce videos for them. They seek intern stipends (10 weeks for \$2,000), iMacs for editing (\$3,500) and 500 sq. ft. of office space.

**The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival** wishes for a 36" flat screen TV for reviewing and critiquing movies (\$700).

Having joined the Island Grown Schools Program **Island Children's School** students wish for a greenhouse so they can garden year round and \$2,000 to turn the attic into a lending library for Family Child Care Program materials.

**The Marine and Paleobiological Research Institute** wishes for an "infocus" projector bulb for free public lectures (\$249) and a Mac version of Adobe Creative Suite 4 (\$1,700).

**The Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard** needs to fix their heating and air exchange system (\$10,000). A local island contractor will do the approx. \$20,000 worth of work for \$10,000 including equipment he would donate.

Don't hold that yard sale, **The Yard** wishes for new or used fans (all types), shelving (all types), a stove, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners, a van or car, a refrigerator, solar lights for walkways and wine openers/corkscrews.

**Polly Hill Arboretum** wishes for an arborist's chainsaw to maintain healthy trees (\$400) & *Flora of North America, Volume 8* which details North American plants including Stewartias and Rhododendrons; big groups at the Arboretum (\$100).

**Phyllis Vecchia Creative Drama** wishes to continue the much appreciated intergenerational program where children from Grace Pre-School and island elders at Windemere Nursing Home perform plays together (\$1,500)

**Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center** finally has an office but needs a laptop & printer to maintain their databases (\$1,000) and \$3,300 a month to board their 3 therapeutic horses during the winter ( feed, hay, stall cleaning, etc.).

**WvVY 93.7 Community Radio** wishes for two codecs to replace antiquated technology they use to get their feed to the transmitter (\$3,500), and a SHURE SM7 mic with boom (\$425).

## Thanks for Being an MV Donor...

**ARTFARM** wishes for a used pickup truck or van to move sets, props and actors. They don't care how it looks if it runs well.

**Second Chance Animal Rescue** wishes for \$2,500 to get animals spayed /neutered, vaccinated and ready for adoption. Also, \$4,500 for supplies like food and litter.

**The YMCA of Martha's Vineyard** wishes for a summer camp bus (\$20,000 or leasing assistance) to take kids swimming at Island beaches, ponds and other sites during the day.

**The Vineyard Playhouse** would love a Color LaserJet Multifunction Printer & extra cartridges (\$900), a HD handheld video camera (\$300) and 4th Grade Theater Project sponsors.

**The Island Community Chorus** wishes to produce a special concert to commemorate their 15th season involving soloists and musicians from the High School, the local community and off island like their 2008 "Elijah" performance (\$20,000).

**Sail MV** wishes to expand its boathouse by adding a shed roof and deck to provide space for an outdoor classroom, barbecues for sailors & parents and to work on boats in the off season (\$10,000). They also seek \$610 for textbooks, charts and teaching supplies for their Maritime Vo-Tech course at the High School.  
(continued on page3)

Would you like to give a gift?

Contact Info is at [mvdonors.org](http://mvdonors.org) or 508-645-3690