

*Sustaining the Vineyard by Strengthening Nonprofits*

*Understanding the Vineyard*

**By The Numbers:**

**100,000** free servings of IGI Gleaners fresh produce for elders, school kids and Islanders in need.

**3,200** meals served free this summer to increase food access in IGI's collaborative Community Lunch Program, up from 1,500 last year.

**3,000+** Islanders of all ages danced in The Yard's educational programs and 3,366 saw performances.

**2,904** seniors pursued health and wellness at the Y this year, 2,030 kids & teens pursued fun and fitness.

**400** children in Sail MV's summer program, 35 in the High School Program and 10 in Maritime Studies.

**Your** support of Island nonprofits made these numbers possible. Thanks, and may all your holiday wishes come true!

**327** osprey built 100 active nests and fledged 133 young, all records, per Felix Neck.

**200** campers with disabilities served this year by Camp Jabberwocky's all-volunteer staff of 170.

**150** households get Regional Housing Authority rental assistance, including 120 children.

**90** % of Island kids with a Big Brother Big Sister mentor said it helped them make better choices,

**63** % of all small claims cases were mediated free by MV Mediation this year.

**1** ton of food distributed per week this fall by the new Island Food Pantry.

**0** % interest rate on all mortgages Habitat For Humanity gives their families.

**Strengthening Nonprofits**

Confused by the masthead? We are now the Martha's Vineyard Nonprofit Collaborative (MVNC), formerly the MV Donors Collaborative, and have a new logo, website and domain. Not much else has changed: we continue to be the only organization on Island that seeks to strengthen its 150+ nonprofits by offering first class workshops, forums, and other programs and by making them accessible to all organizations.

Our capacity building efforts focus on the principles of good governance, board development, leadership, collaboration, and fundraising. We strengthen

nonprofits because they are vital to preserving and sustaining the "Vineyard" that we cherish, and we strengthen them to assure donors their money is well-spent.

**Our Story.** MVNC has advocated for and supported Vineyard nonprofits with capacity building resources since it was founded in 2003. The founders were concerned because the number of Vineyard nonprofits was increasing dramatically, Island philanthropy wasn't keeping up, and capacity building needs were growing significantly.

Last year, in response to Island nonprofits' need for more support due to the growth of the challenges in our community (e.g. opioids, housing, and hunger) we significantly expanded our capacity building efforts. The nonprofits also asked for more programs to help them with the challenges of running a successful nonprofit on MV: having to compete for funding, Board members and volunteers. Over the last few years, we have created programs to meet the significant nonprofit interest in getting governance right and in working together and sharing ideas on how to make their nonprofits and programs even better.

Our new name reflects this expansion and we will support nonprofits at this level for the foreseeable future; it's our most important work and what we are best known for. Our new name will also hopefully clear up any confusion about what we do. We were founded by a group of donors to sustain the Vineyard by strengthening and advocating for Vineyard nonprofits, but we've never done that by making donations, we strengthen nonprofits in other ways (see the Leadership article on p. 2 for one example).

Our new website has complete details on our other capacity building programs, our advocacy and community education efforts and our work as a catalyst to create nonprofit and Island wide collaborations to leverage their ability to tackle Island wide issues. Arts MV and Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard are two great examples.

**MVNC Today.** MVNC is led today by a group of full and part-time Island residents with strong ties to the community, and a dedication to its future. The MVNC is self-funded by its Board, does not solicit funds for itself and does not choose among organizations to support.

We are always looking for those in the community who might want to help with our mission in any number of ways. Please contact us if you are interested in helping strengthen nonprofits or in finding out more about our Board and the work we do.



Board Members and Executive Directors from 20 Island Nonprofits working on Board Development and Fundraising at a recent **MV Nonprofit Collaborative** workshop in the new barn at Felix Neck.



INP's Inaugural Vineyard Class. L to R: Sam Hart (ACE MV), Amy Houghton (Community Services), Posie Haeger (Featherstone), Sarah McKay (Misty Meadows), Emily Armstrong (IGI), Kate Desrosiers (Vineyard House), Tom Hallahan (Hospice MV), CJ Rivard (Camp Meeting Ass.), (absent Nevette Previd, MVNC).

## Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Across the country, retiring baby boomers are creating leadership transitions in many nonprofits. That's true for Vineyard nonprofits too, and we are seeing a younger generation of leaders emerging who are talented but still need to develop their skills and knowledge.

Leadership Development Programs around the Country are designed to help develop those leaders, but most Vineyard nonprofit can't afford them, and even the ones that can often find the programs inaccessible because of the time and expense of traveling to class in Boston 3 or 4 times a month.

Well, thanks to a group of local Foundations and the MVNC, Island nonprofits are celebrating because this fall, 9 nonprofit leaders became the first Vineyard cohort in an excellent Certificate Program in Nonprofit Leadership run by The Institute For Nonprofit Practice (INP) with classes held on Island and the Cape.

The Certificate program, through Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College is for current and emerging nonprofit leaders at organizations of all types and sizes. INP's successful program has been offered in Boston for over ten years and on the Cape for two, but during that time only one Vineyard nonprofit leader participated; the regular travel to the Cape was too much for others.

At MVNC, we knew there were many who would like to enter this program, so we worked with INP to modify it to make it accessible to Vineyarders by holding most of the seminars on Island. The MVNC also enlisted a group of local foundations and donors to subsidize the tuition fees so the program is affordable to all Island nonprofits: they pay only \$3,500 instead of \$7,600. We thank the funders which include: **Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, Cape and Islands United Way, Cape Cod Five, Rotary Club of MV, The Permanent Endowment and the Vineyard Fund for Board Education and Development.**

The INP Program equips students with the skills and knowledge they need to make strategic, mission-driven decisions. The curriculum combines traditional classroom learning in monthly, full-day, management seminars on the Cape, with small group practice seminars that give students an opportunity to apply newly acquired knowledge and skills to their work environment through the support and guidance of their peers. The practice seminars are held twice a month on Island for the 9 students, and are facilitated by a senior nonprofit executive from off-Island, trained by the school. Classes run October-April and graduation is in May.

There's another big benefit from this program in addition to a great education. We all know the need for collaboration and mergers between nonprofits to increase efficiencies and impact but that requires inter-agency bonds of trust and honest communication; a challenge for currently siloed organizations. INP's program have a proven record of cohort members building strong relationships and trust that last long after graduation with most grads continuing to network and seek help/advice from their fellow alums.

So the real impact of this program will be felt over time as more and more Vineyard nonprofit leaders take this course. Better managers will lead to better nonprofits but the growing network of leaders willing to work together and collaborate will deliver an even more significant benefit to the Island.

## Keeping The Dynasty Alive

**MV Youth's** innovative model of pooling donor contributions to make annual \$1+million grants has shown us the value of Major Gifts. One of the Island's best Major Gifts, however, was from Gerald DeBlois, who founded and anonymously donated \$12 million to run **Vineyard Youth Tennis** for 20 years. Their tennis pros have coached over 1,000 year round Island children from first grade through high school 12 months a year. This gift just kept on giving and became a major source of pride for the Island.

The quality and quantity of training meant that many kids were ranked players by the time they got to High School, and soon the High School tennis teams become forces to be reckoned with. The boy's team won back-to-back State Championships in 2012 and 2013 and in 2018, the girls' team was undefeated for the season and won their 4th straight State Title, a New England dynasty rivaled only by the Patriots!

The program and dynasty fell into sudden jeopardy recently when Gerald DeBlois announced that he was stepping down as benefactor, and then the "bubble," that allowed off-season play, was destroyed in a Nor'easter!

Don't worry, this story has a happy ending!

The organization got permission to allow adults to pay to play on the courts when children couldn't. That made the operation self-sustaining, and it was another major gift that finally saved the day when **MV Youth** said it would donate \$250,000 for a new and better bubble that will be built this month!

Gerald DeBlois's major gift will keep on giving.

Future State Champion Tennis Players and coaches in the **Vineyard Youth Tennis** bubble.



## The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List

### We asked Nonprofits About Their Needs This Holiday Season.....

**YMCA MV** hopes to enhance the playground with a slide and climbing-balance structures to keep kids active and fit (\$10,000). Also a Bathing Suit Dryer (\$2,000) instead of using plastic bags for wet ones, and a water bottle refill station (\$1,500) to replace the drinking fountain and promote reusable bottles.

**MV Playhouse** wishes for a new or gently used b&w copier (\$2,700) that prints double-sided, scans and networks, to replace a dead one and print scripts, programs and business documents. Plus a heavy duty paper shredder (\$200).

**Sail MV** is expanding its marine science program and wishes for a MiScope portable digital microscope so kids can zoom in on organisms without slides (\$350), and a laptop for group viewing of the live specimens (\$2,000).

**Hospice of MV** needs a laptop computer (\$1,250) to help their Development Director implement a strategic plan for vital funding to support their growing client base, find prospects, maintain donor databases, write grants and more.

**Phyllis Vecchia Creative Drama** seeks \$800 for the Women in History and Story Theatre Programs taught to 60 groups of Islanders of all ages last year.

**Island Gymnastics** would love \$30,000 for a new HVAC system to replace a rusty 30 year old one & reduce heating costs. Also, a trampoline extension (\$2,348) so tall teens and adults can use it.

**Plum Hill**, a Waldorf-inspired preschool, wishes for art supplies made from natural materials for children to express themselves in a safe environment (\$2,000), and a year's supply of daily nutritious organic snacks (\$5,000).

All volunteer Community Radio station **WVYV** wishes to upgrade their 10+ year old technology with a new 12 channel broadcast console (\$4,419), a Shure microphone (\$399) and all the required cables (\$200).

**The Vineyard Haven Library** seeks funds to upgrade the young adult room into an attractive after school center for teens and tweens to hang, by replacing 15 year-old furniture (\$4,500) and a 10 year old gaming system (\$650).

**MV Chamber Music Society** seeks a concert sponsor(s) to complete their 2019 Summer Festival (\$10,000) and funds for their Artist in Residence Program, which brings professional musicians to teach and play in the schools (\$10,000).

**Chilmark Community Center** camp enrollment rose 26% this summer and 43% of the kids were year-round islanders who get 50% off tuition. They need local scholarships for next year: \$100 sends a kid to camp for a week!

**The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing** wishes for 2-nights of private lodging for visiting authors/poets in their Fall, Winter, and Spring workshops, plus full tuition fellowships (\$1,000 each) for Island writers. (go to last page)

## Working Better Together

Island nonprofits continue having to find ways to accomplish more with limited resources. Here are just a few examples of them Working Better Together.

We had 2 nonprofit mergers this year! The merger of **Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center** and **Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center** will allow expansion of therapeutic riding programs while reducing overhead and costs. Also, the merger of the **Ice Arena** and the **YMCA** will broaden the Y's menu of health and fitness programs and provide stability for all the Arena's great skating and hockey programs for future generations of our community.

In its second year, The Island Food Equity Network, a collaboration working to get healthy food to Islanders who need it, has taken their effort to new heights. It's a group of nonprofits (**Island Grown Initiative (IGI)**, **The Island Food Pantry**, **Meals on Wheels**, **Councils on Aging**, **Community Services**, **Serving Hands** and others on the front lines), joined by farmers, chefs, Cronig's Market and lots of volunteers.

Their first project feeds the 40% of island school children who receive free lunch during the school year but may go without during the summer. In 2017, **IGI's Summer Community Lunch Program** served 1,500 meals to 275 kids, with the help of 10 organizations and 100+ volunteers. In 2018, they served over 3,200 meals. In addition, IGI's mobile market brings affordable locally grown produce to Island Elderly Housing and neighborhoods where access to fresh produce is limited. They accept SNAP & WIC but anyone can shop at the mobile market.

New this year, is a winter produce delivery program for elders in need, and a collaborative venison program (with **IGI**, **the Ag Society** and the **MV Tick Project**) which hopes to deliver over 750 lbs. of venison through the food pantries this year and, at the same time, reduce the Island's tick population.

**Sail MV**, **Vineyard Conservation Society**, **Ag Society** and **IGI** collaborated to reduce trash at the Ag Fair by 30%; 6,500 pounds of food waste was composted for island farmers and the VCS refill station saved 2,800 plastic bottles from the waste stream. **We salute all the organizations Working Better Together!**

## The Martha's Vineyard Nonprofit Collaborative

is an advocacy organization devoted to sustaining the Vineyard by strengthening its nonprofit community. We do this by:

- Offering capacity building workshops and other services and resources;
- Advocating for the nonprofit community, its contributions and needs;
- Advocating for impact through collaboration and resource sharing;
- Acting as a catalyst to create nonprofit and Island wide collaborations that leverage their ability to sustain the Vineyard.

We are self-funded and do not solicit funds for the organization.

### Board of Directors

Cindy Doyle  
Samuel M. Feldman  
Gerald S. Jones, Chair  
Carol Kenney  
Lynne Kenney  
Kate Lauprete  
Frank McCulloch, II, Treasurer  
Julie Skinner, Vice Chair  
William Turpie

### Executive Director

Peter Temple

# The Vineyard's Holiday Wish List



(Continued from p. 3)

**BiodiversityWorks** hopes to monitor snakes and bats in burrows or tree cavities with a flexible burrow scope and video recorder (\$326). Also a spray on bed liner for their truck to prevent rust and help it last longer \$1,000.

The more you mow the denser your fields will be, so **The Field Fund** desires 10 extra mows to make the 4 elementary school playing fields safer (\$1,000) and an Air2G2 machine to decrease compaction and increase drainage on all Island fields (\$35,250).

**Vineyard Conservation Society** wants every child on island to have their own high quality (not plastic!) reusable water bottle, and is looking for 250 (\$5,000) for kids who can't afford them.

**Dukes County Regional Housing Authority** needs translation services (\$500) to increase understanding and use of housing supports by Portuguese speaking Brazilian households.

The leaking sky lights were replaced but **the Animal Shelter of MV** now needs \$1,000 to paint the walls and finish the redo of the kennel area and create a calm atmosphere for the dogs.

**Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary** wants to be even greener and become a net zero energy consumer by adding solar panels (\$50,000). Also \$10,000 for an Osprey Cam so visitors & the world can view these iconic birds up close & personal.

**MV Children's Chorus** wishes for 50 special sturdy student folders to hold and protect sheet music (\$488) and sponsors for their 2 concert accompanist (\$1,000 each).

At the **Island Food Pantry** clients now choose what healthy, fresh and often local food they want. They wish for 3 new shopping carts (\$400), new produce bins (\$700), and \$1,200 to revamp the entry way and check-in area for safety & efficiency.

**Featherstone** needs at least 2 pottery wheels for their new Pottery Studio. It's their most popular medium and they need more wheels to meet demand and replace worn ones (\$1,400 each for large, of which they have none, \$800 each for regular). To keep animals comfortable on hot fair days **the AG Society** wants fans for the barns (\$1,000). Plus \$3,000 to buy the E-ticketing system piloted in 2018, to reduce lines and ease entry.

Getting rid of furniture? **The Yard** needs these for staff and artist use: 6-12 office and dining room chairs, 1 King bed frame, patio furniture and a Hammock. Plus 6 new twin mattresses/box springs for dancers to lay their heads (\$1,000).

**MV Network for Homeless Prevention** seeks 6 annual VTA passes (\$150 each) so the homeless can get to Community Suppers, the Warming Center & Houses of Grace winter shelter. Plus the buses are a place for them to escape the cold.

The **Marine and Paleobiological Research Institute** needs a Staples desktop laminator (item 1668258, \$150) so educational materials can endure repeated student & public handling.

**The Island Autism Group** wishes for funds to expand their after-school programs and add counselors to allow more drumming (\$6,000), riding (\$12,000) swimming (\$2,500).

Would you like to grant a wish list wish?  
Go to Our Website to Donate or Learn More!

Thanks for Being an MV Donor...

**Polly Hill Arboretum** wishes for a golf cart (\$7,200) like Polly used for tours, so mobility challenged visitors can finally enjoy the rustic paths and natural wonders.

**Sassafras Earth Education** hopes to plant 12 American Chestnut saplings (\$600) to give students wild harvesting opportunities and yummy healthy snacks. Plus a rain cap to keep the tipi dry on very rainy days (\$500).

**ACE MV** wishes for gift certificates from Educomp and Tisbury Printer (\$250 each) to purchase supplies and printed materials about their classes and programs.

**Island Elderly Housing** needs a propane powered generator to provide back-up emergency power to the lighting system in Woodside Village 1, their largest building (\$5,510).

As they continue their new program to make films about issues that affect our community, **MV Film Festival Productions** wishes for a camera, computer, and light kit to make these productions their best (\$5,000).

**MV Mediation** dreams of a Dell XPS15 (\$1,500). Their existing, well-aged laptop doesn't support the State reporting system (requires Windows) or video conferencing for remote mediation.

**The Cottagers** work in the charming old, but not ADA compliant, O.B. Town Hall on Pequot Ave, so they hope for a lift to the second floor (\$50,000) and ADA bathrooms (\$40,000) for elder and disabled members and visitors.

**Island Grown Initiative** hopes to find a front loader in their stocking for mixing/moving compost to enrich Farm Hub soil (\$50,000) and really need several large chest freezers for the food equity programs (\$500 each).

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** has 10 Island boys waiting for mentors & hopes 10 Big Brothers appear over the Holidays. Also \$1,800 annually to recruit, screen, train & support each match for 1 year.

**Camp Jabberwocky** wishes for a new adaptive van to carry campers around the island without breaking down in Aquinnah again (\$50,000), and camper scholarships (\$1,450/wk).

**Habitat for Humanity** hopes for a heavy-duty hand truck (\$300) for moving appliances and building materials safely, a 40' Valtran storage container (\$5,500) for tools and materials.

**Second Chance Animal Rescue**, a no kill shelter that finds for homes for homeless animals, seeks donations toward their spay and neuter program which spent \$10,000 this year placing 140 cats and dogs.

**African Artists Community Development Project** seeks cash or in kind donations for an expert to help set up and market an online store selling dolls made by 12 Zambian women who support their families with the proceeds (\$500).

The **Edgartown School Music Department** needs 2 ipads (\$660) so students with disabilities can access GarageBand.