

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD DONORS COLLABORATIVE

*Celebrating and Enriching Our Island*

## Announcing the MV License Plate Program

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The island may soon have its own MV license plate, if goals of the Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative (MVDC) are met by local car owners. The MVDC president, Beatrice Phear, has met with the Registry of Motor Vehicles to start the process.

Art students at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School are being invited to submit designs for the plate's logo. A committee consisting of graphic designers, students and members of the community will decide three finalists. The final three designs will be printed in the newspapers, so that the community in general may vote their favorite, which will be submitted to the Registry for approval.

The new plates will cost \$40. The money will go into

a newly-created Martha's Vineyard Community Fund, to benefit local non-profit organizations. Once the program is up and running, it should raise about \$120,000 or more per year, depending on how many people sign up. "Since fundraising is always tough, especially for the smaller non-profits, I am excited about a new source of revenue for them." said Phear. "While some revenue goes to the Dukes County Commissioners from the Cape and Islands license plate, none goes to Island non-profits."

After the design has been selected, members of the MVDC will collect the names and fees from car owners who want the new plates. As soon as 3,000 have signed up, the plate can go into production and on the road. The MVDC will reserve the first ten

numbers, to be auctioned off to the highest bidders. "We expect these to be very popular, especially number one, and hope that it will generate a nice pool to kick off the Martha's Vineyard Community Fund." said Phear. "The Martha's Vineyard Donors Collaborative has as its mission expanding philanthropy on Martha's Vineyard, and we really hope this will make a difference in celebrating and enriching our island."

For more information and the latest news on the MV license plate program, or to download an application form, please visit [www.mvdonors.org](http://www.mvdonors.org), or send email to [mvplates@mvdonors.org](mailto:mvplates@mvdonors.org).

## Our Island, Our Philanthropy:

*Donors-only Forum Scheduled for August 11, 2006*

Our first donors-only forum will be held on Friday, August 11, 2006 from 9AM-1PM. This exclusive event is your opportunity to gather with other community leaders to understand the current state of philanthropy on Martha's Vineyard, and to participate in shaping the future of philanthropy on the Island. At the event, we'll unveil the results of our *Martha's Vineyard Philanthropy Study* (see sneak preview on page 4).

Invitations to this event will be sent out in June. Please contact us at 1.508.696.4647 or [info@mvdonors.org](mailto:info@mvdonors.org) if you have questions.

Please note that there will be no fundraising or solicitation at this event.

## Current Opportunities to Help

*We asked all non-profits what their current needs are. These are their responses.*

Several programs at **Martha's Vineyard Community Services** seek assistance:

The *Disability Services Program of Island Employment Services* is seeking more employment opportunities for its participants. If you are a business owner or manager, we would like the opportunity to meet with you, see what your business needs are, and explain our program to you. We are always looking for employment opportunities that have a high opportunity for success. Call Chip Bergeron at 508-693-7900 x251 or Kendra Yale at x250.

The *Daybreak Program* is seeking:

- A house on the bus route in residential/commercial area. Must have a large meeting room and kitchen.
- A new or almost new 15-passenger van.

Call 508-696-7563.

*Visiting Nurse Service* is seeking:

- An Otoscope
- A Pediatric Blood Pressure Cuff
- 3 Digital Scales
- A conference table and chairs

- Fingerstick Anticoagulation Drug Monitoring Machine
- Scrub suit uniforms for our home health aide staff
- 20 Laptop computers

**Vineyard Health Care Access** is looking for a development professional to assist with the development of the Prescription Medication Assistance Program Fund, which underwrites the cost of medicine for qualified clients. Please call 508-696-0020 x11 for more information.

**The Yard** is now accepting applications for internship positions in development, public relations, production, administration and technical theater. Visit [www.dancetheyard.org/summer2006](http://www.dancetheyard.org/summer2006) for more information.

**The Vineyard Playhouse** seeks the following:

Private and corporate/business sponsors for its 25th Season Productions including its Monday Night Specials Festival of New Works. Sponsorship for single shows are available at levels of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for private individuals and levels of

\$5,000 to \$10,000 for corporate/business sponsors.

Private rooms in private homes for cast and crew members. Vineyard Haven preferred. Average stay is 1 to 5 weeks per individual. The season runs early June through Labor Day. Contact Stephen Zablotty, General Manager, at 508-693-6450 ext 16 or [info@vineyardplayhouse.org](mailto:info@vineyardplayhouse.org).

**YMCA of Martha's Vineyard** seeks \$75,000 in donations to help offset the costs of the Y Youth Initiative. This includes the operation of the teen center and a new program launched with the Sheriff's Department to work with high risk teens. Contact John Clese, Executive Director, at 508-696-7171.

The **Martha's Vineyard Film Society** is looking for sponsors for the first Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival, to be held in September 2006. Contact Richard Paradise at 508-696-9639 or visit [www.mvfilmsociety.org](http://www.mvfilmsociety.org) for more information.

## Non-Profit News

The Board and Staff of **Martha's Vineyard Community Services** are pleased to introduce Julia Burgess as the executive director of the agency. Julia brings extensive administrative experience in the fields of health and human services. In the words of board president Susan Wasserman, "She possesses just the right balance of experience, leadership, vision, and energy needed to lead Community Services into the next chapter of serving the Vineyard community. We couldn't be happier." More information is available on the MVCS website, [www.mvcommunityservices.com](http://www.mvcommunityservices.com), on the Press Room page.

The **Vineyard Health Care Access Program** is pleased to announce that they received a 2006 Community Impact Grant from United Way of Cape Cod and the Islands. The Access Program was awarded the grant for their Prescription Medication Assistance Program (PMAP), which helps low-income Islanders to obtain medicine that they cannot otherwise afford. One component of the program is to develop the PMAP Fund, which

underwrites the cost of medicine for qualified clients.

**The Vineyard Playhouse** is celebrating its 25th season with a main stage summer schedule of plays by American playwrights who are Vineyard residents. The season opens with *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman, directed by MJ Bruder Munafo, producer and artistic director of the Playhouse. Other shows include *Spring Forward*, *Fall Back* a new play by Robert Brustein and *Knock, Knock* by Jules Feiffer. *Much Ado About Nothing* will be the Shakespeare Outdoors production at the Tisbury Amphitheater. The Playhouse has named Stephen M. Zablonty general manager. He will continue to serve as technical director and resident set designer.

**YMCA of Martha's Vineyard** is pleased to report the one year anniversary of the Island's first teen center in twenty years. Currently, 150-200 teenagers per week are participating in activities at the center. The Y has introduced bi-monthly spaghetti dinners to bring a more familial atmosphere to the center and give

volunteers and staff a greater opportunity to build caring relationships. Recent activities sponsored by teens included: a babysitting service on Valentine's Day, a coffee house featuring poetry and music and a cultural celebration of Carnival.

The Y is has also entered the silent phase of the capital campaign and is working with several members of the leadership committee to secure gifts from Y supporters in Boston, New York and Washington, DC.

The **Martha's Vineyard Film Society** will inaugurate an international film festival September 14-17, 2006, presenting some of the year's best international films. From real life to reel, and from around the world, through imaginative storytelling, engaging your mind and senses! Four days of screenings, workshops, and parties—on one of the world's most lovely islands, in its loveliest season. It is our hope this will become one of the finest destination film festivals on the East Coast.

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*Here's the latest news from some of Martha's Vineyard's non-profit organizations.*

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Celebrating and enriching our Island

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# ANNOUNCING THE MV LICENSE PLATE!

(SEE PAGE 1)

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## Martha's Vineyard Philanthropy Study Sneak Preview

In order to learn more about trends in giving, to pinpoint gaps in philanthropy, and to obtain a general overview of the financial status of the nonprofit organizations on the island, the MVDC has begun a study of non-profit activity on the Island. We looked at a baseline of the financial information from the IRS 990 form of 62 non-profit organizations for FY2003 in this initial phase of the study.

### Program Services

Non-profit programs are broad in scope and impact. We categorized the organizations under the headings: Civic, Conservation & Environment, Culture & The Arts, Education & Recreation, Health & Human Services, and Housing. Nearly everyone who lives or vacations on the Island is touched by their work.

Area nonprofits are also a significant economic engine. Each year they inject millions of dollars into the local economy by paying rent, making payroll, and purchasing equipment and supplies. Furthermore, many of the larger groups have established financial stability by purchasing capital assets, setting aside financial reserves and building endowments.

We know of approximately 30 small organizations that are not required to file the 990, and their information is not included.

### Budgets

In our first study year the 62 larger non-profit organizations spent just over \$50 million in operating expenses and raised just over \$13 million in charitable donations (26%). Some have significant program revenue; others rely almost entirely on donations. Other

revenue includes government grants, program service fees, interest income, rent, membership dues, and sales. It is a sign of health if an organization has diversified its revenue base, and we will be working to help some organizations achieve that goal.

Only 4 organizations have expense budgets over \$1 million (all in health and human services), while 29 operate under \$100,000. 17 (27%) ended the year with an operating deficit, ranging from \$516 to \$129,393. Most of these occurred in the categories of human services and education.

**We will release the entire study, including new data for FY2004 at our Donor's Forum on August 11, 2006. Send an email to [info@mvdonors.org](mailto:info@mvdonors.org) to register.**

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