



One SouthCoast NAVIGATOR

CHARTING SUCCESS FOR SOUTHCOAST BUSINESS

BUSINESS NEWS FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ONE SOUTHCOAST CHAMBER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024

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The Vital Role of One SouthCoast Chamber in Our Local Communities

In the tapestry of the nineteen vibrant local communities we serve along the South Coast, few organizations weave together the threads of economic development, advocacy, education, and networking quite like the Chamber of Commerce. Often regarded as the backbone of the local business ecosystem, One SouthCoast Chamber plays a pivotal role in fostering growth, prosperity, and collaboration within their communities. The multifaceted importance of the Chamber encompasses education, government advocacy, networking, economic development, and workforce development.

Education

Education lies at the heart of progress, and the Chamber serve as a vital educational hub for businesses and community members alike. Through workshops, seminars, and training programs, the Chamber in collaboration with the businesses, schools, and other community partners such as MassHire provides invaluable resources to help businesses thrive. Including learning about the latest industry trends and gaining insights into best practices for sustainable growth, the educational initiatives offered by the Chamber empowers individuals and businesses to stay ahead in a rapidly evolving marketplace.

Government Advocacy

In the realm of policymaking and governance, the collective voice of businesses holds significant sway. Chambers of Commerce serve as advocates for their members, representing their interests and concerns at the local, state, and federal levels of govern-

ment. Whether lobbying for favorable business legislation, providing input on regulatory matters, or voicing community needs, Chambers play a crucial role in shaping the economic and regulatory landscape to foster a business-friendly environment. As the second largest Chamber in the Commonwealth One SouthCoast Chamber collaborates with the Massachusetts Chamber Policy Network to influence our nineteen cities and towns.

Networking

Networking forms the lifeblood of business growth and opportunity. The Chamber provides unparalleled networking platforms where businesses can connect, collaborate, and forge mutually beneficial relationships. From business mixers and industry-specific events to business referral programs, Chambers offer a rich tapestry of networking opportunities that facilitate partnerships, alliances, and new business ventures. By fostering a culture of networking and relationship building, The Chamber help businesses expand their reach and tap into new markets.

Economic Development

Driving economic growth and prosperity is a cornerstone mission of One SouthCoast Chamber. Through strategic initiatives, partnerships, and advocacy efforts, the Chamber team works tirelessly to attract investment, stimulate job creation, and bolster the overall economic vitality of their communities. Whether promoting tourism, supporting local entrepreneurship, or spearheading infrastructure projects, the Chamber collaborates to play a pivotal role in nurturing a thriving eco-

nomic ecosystem where businesses can flourish and communities can prosper.

Workforce Development

A skilled workforce is the lifeblood of a thriving economy. The Chamber recognize the importance of workforce development initiatives in ensuring the long-term prosperity of their communities. Through apprenticeship programs, job fairs, skill-building workshops, and partnerships with educational institutions, the Chamber helps bridge the gap between employers and job seekers, fostering a dynamic labor market where talent meets opportunity. By investing in workforce development, Chambers contribute to the creation of a skilled workforce equipped to meet the evolving needs of the business community.

When considering what One SouthCoast Chamber does, the Chamber serves as a linchpin in the fabric of local communities, facilitating economic growth, fostering collaboration, and advocating for the collective interests of businesses and residents alike. Through education, government advocacy, networking, economic development, and workforce development initiatives, Chambers play a vital role in shaping the present and future prosperity of their communities. As a pillar of support and a catalyst for positive change, One SouthCoast Chamber stands as a beacon of opportunity, innovation, and community empowerment.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Sullivan
CEO



Business Builders Breakfast
Tuesday, March 12
8:30 AM - 10 AM
The Cottages of
Dartmouth Village

2024 One SouthCoast Job Fair
Thursday, March 14
9 AM - 2 PM
White's of Westport

Congressional Luncheon with
Congressman Jake Auchincloss
Tuesday, March 26
11:30 AM - 1 PM
Fall River Country Club

Healthfirst Business After Hours
Thursday, March 28
5 PM - 7 PM
387 Quarry St, Fall River

Mayor Paul Coogan's Fall River State of
Business Luncheon
Wednesday, April 3
11:30 AM - 1 PM
Fall River Country Club

MOSAIC: An Evening of
Multicultural Celebration and Learning
Tuesday, April 9
4 PM - 7 PM
Bristol Community College J Building

Chamber Invitational Golf Tournament
Monday, April 29
9 AM - 3 PM
Country Club of New Bedford

For additional information and/or to
register for events please visit:
www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/

One SouthCoast Navigator is the official news publication of One SouthCoast Chamber

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Vice President of Marketing & Events, Katie Greene
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Director of Membership & Retention, Clifford Athouriste
Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Hunter Tackett
Executive Director, Viva Fall River, Patti Rego
Executive Director, Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC), Ashley Occhino

2024 OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

- Chair: Rose Lopes, Sylvia Group
- Immediate Past Chair: Eileen Danahey, St. Anne's Credit Union
- Treasurer: Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Vice Chair-Government Affairs: Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Vice Chair-Small Business: Curtis Nelson, Nelson Insurance & Financial Services
- Vice Chair-Governance Committee: Doug Glassman, SERVPRO
- Vice Chair-One SouthCoast Chamber Foundation: Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Vice Chair-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Gail Fortes
- At Large: William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- At Large: Kim Perry, Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home

Members of the Board of Directors:

Terms to Expire in December 2024:

- Nathan Araujo, Advance Career Services
- Kevin Carando, Acushnet Company
- Barbara Casagrande, AHEAD
- Ronald Ellis, Edward Jones
- Rose Lopes, Sylvia Group

- Lynne Mastera, Precix
- Douglas Rodrigues, D. E. Rodrigues & Company, Inc.
- Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Bernadette Souza, Youth Opportunitites Unlimited
- Michael Tavares, Horacio’s, Inc.

Terms to Expire in December 2025:

- Dugan Becker, SouthCoast Wind
- Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Jenifer Cullen, Vineyard Wind
- Peter Daley, People Incorporated
- Eileen Danahey, St. Anne’s Credit Union
- Dr. Laura Douglas, Bristol Community College
- Monte Ferris, Venus de Milo
- Gail Fortes, YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Doug Glassman, SERVPRO of Dartmouth/New Bedford & Marion / Middleboro
- Gary P. Howayeck, Law Office of Gary Howayeck, PC
- Anthony Medeiros, Mechanics Cooperative Bank
- Curtis Nelson, Nelson Insurance & Financial Services
- Arti Pacheco, New York Life
- Kim Perry, Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home

Terms to Expire in December 2026:

- William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- Mike Bushell, St. Anne’s Hospital
- Stephen W. Connulty, Paul & Dixon Insurance
- Catherine Dillon, BankFive
- Charlie Fellows, Lafrance Hospitality
- Jeffrey Glassman, Darn It, Inc.
- Jeff Pagliuca, Bristol County Savings Bank
- Marie Pellegrino, BayCoast Bank
- Derek Santos, New Bedford Economic Development Council
- Matt Zenni, Liberty Utilities

The Massachusetts Small Business Center (MSBDC) Network provides one-to-one free comprehensive and confidential services focusing on, business growth and strategies, financing and loan assistance as well as strategic, marketing and operational analysis. In addition, low cost educational training programs are offered across the state targeted to the needs of small business.

Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network
200 Pocasset Street, Fall River, MA 02721
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BayCoast Bank Announces Significant Grants for Community Organizations

BayCoast Bank (baycoast.bank), a long-time community savings bank with a vibrant history of serving the people and businesses on the South Coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is proud to announce four impactful grants supporting the neighborhoods where we live and work.

Whether it is helping provide quality housing for individuals and families in need, preserving our region's rich history, or inspiring knowledge and creativity through education and the arts, the Bank is pleased to continue its strong commitment of helping our community grow and thrive through critical support to the following local organizations:

Community Action for Better Housing (CABH):

Community Action for Better Housing (CABH) is dedicated to helping provide quality housing options in the cities of New Bedford and Fall River. BayCoast Bank has offered a generous grant to support CABH's daily operations as the organization takes on a major project, renovating several residential buildings including the Talbot Apartments, which displaced 26 residents following a devastating fire.

"We are so grateful for BayCoast Bank's support. This investment in CABH is an investment in ensuring that affordable housing is available for vulnerable populations including the elderly, veterans, and low income community members," shares Miriam Finn Sherman, Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Foundation for Southeastern Massachusetts.

Specialized Education for All Learners (S.E.A.L.) Foundation:

The mission of the S.E.A.L. foundation is to develop and fund educational opportunities in area schools and seasonal camps for students who learn differently, helping to ensure they maximize their potential. BayCoast Bank is providing critical financial support for the hiring of a special education consultant, who will collaborate with staff and families at all three schools for the purpose of developing, implementing and evaluating student services. Individual students will be assessed to determine if they require tiered intervention and support to ensure educational programs and support



staff are addressing the specific needs of students who have learning differences. "The S.E.A.L. Foundation is immensely grateful for BayCoast Bank's generosity and steadfast belief in our mission. We could not do the work we do for students who learn differently, and their families, without their financial support, as well as for their willingness to make connections and build bridges for us with members of the business community. Their unwavering belief in the strength of community is present in all they do and we are one of the many fortunate recipients of their commitment to helping and serving others." Kerry Peroni, Founder and President of The S.E.A.L. Foundation.

Dartmouth Cultural Center:

Housed in the town's Old Southworth Library, which dates back to 1889, the mission of the Dartmouth Cultural Center is to enrich the community's cultural life. The Center shines a spotlight on both established and emerging artists by hosting events and exhibits to support their work. A grant from BayCoast Bank is helping preserve the 130-year-old library building, which is considered an architectural gem. Critical repairs will include installing a ramp and lift for the downstairs classrooms, making the building handicap accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

YEAH! Corps:

Youth Experiencing Artistic Hope or YEAH! Corps is a nonprofit organization empowering teenagers, ages 14-18, to become change-makers in their South Coast communities through art and design. BayCoast Bank is proud to provide a grant to

support YEAH! Corps' public art program, bringing colorful murals to our local neighborhoods. "We are thankful for BayCoast Bank believing in the talent and vision of our young artists," said Sara Martins, Project Director. "We are so excited to get designing to beautify our community."

YEAH! Corps hopes the unique arts program will spread a sense of togetherness and unity throughout the local community. Two young artists participating in the program agree.

"YEAH! Corps has provided me the opportunity to improve my artistic ability while contributing to the community. It has introduced me to a variety of styles from different artists...and I was able to expand my horizons," said Maryanne. Adds Rome, "YEAH! Corps gives me a chance to make the city I've lived in for so long a bit better. The feeling I get when I see a person look at our creations and smile, is a feeling I cannot describe in words."

About BayCoast Bank

BayCoast Bank is a long-standing community bank providing financial products and services to the people and businesses of Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island through 25 branches and loan production offices, with more coming soon. The Bank offers a family of complete financial services through its subsidiaries: BayCoast Mortgage, BayCoast Financial Services, BayCoast Insurance, Plimoth Investment Advisors, and Priority Funding. For more information, visit baycoast.bank or call 508-678-7641.

One SouthCoast Chamber Policy Pulse

Two months into 2024, Beacon Hill is buzzing as many high-priority deadlines approach.

Governor Healey released her FY25 Budget, including \$58.13 billion in total line-item spending, a 3.7% increase from FY24. For the past seven months, tax revenues have come in under benchmark. In February, we learned that January tax revenues came in 6.9% below collections from last January, 6.8% below the Governor's adjusted benchmark for January 2024, and 12.8% below January's original benchmark. With the trend we have been seeing, a 3.7% increase may still be too ambitious, although close to inflation. The state's financial outlook for FY24 will become much clearer once April revenues have come in, as April has historically been the state's best month for tax revenues. The House is scheduled to release its budget in April, followed by the Senate in May, with the goal of a completed and signed budget from the Governor by July.

The Legislature jumped a procedural hurdle known as Joint Rule 10 Day as they approached the final stretch of the legislative session. Joint Rule 10 requires joint committees to report on legislation no later than the First Wednesday in February during the second year of the legislative session, February 7th. The committees have a few options for each piece of legislation. The bills can either advance by receiving a "Favorable Report," if the committee thinks they need more time, they can extend the deadline, or they can kill



the bill by giving it an "Unfavorable Report" (less common) or let the bill die by sending it to "Study Order" (more common).

Joint Rule 10 does not provide much insight into what legislative priorities will get passed before the end of the session, but it is a clear indicator of what bill definitely won't get done. For example, the "Common Start" bill (S 301/H 489), which would subsidize some early education costs and invest in teacher retention, received a "Favorable Report." This does not mean this bill will get passed, but it cleared a significant hurdle and can stay in the race. On the other hand, a bill that would legalize teacher strikes (H 1845/ S 1217) was sent to "Study Order," which means we won't see any action on this bill before the July 31st deadline, and it will need to be refiled during the next legislative session if it hopes to become law.

While the next legislative session is still about nine months away, many legislators and candidates are deciding right now whether or not they should throw their hat in the political ring

for elections this fall. Typically, there is very little change in the state delegation, especially here on the South Coast, but 2024 is not a typical year, with two open seats up for grabs on the South Coast, one in the Senate and one in the House.

State Senator Marc Pacheco, the longest-serving State Senator, announced he would not run for another term. Senator Pacheco was elected to the House in 1988 and became a senator in 1993, earning himself the title of "Dean of the Senate," awarded to the longest continuously serving Senator. He currently represents the Third Bristol and Plymouth District, which includes Berkley, Carver, Dighton, Marion, Middleborough, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Taunton, and Wareham. One SouthCoast owes Senator Pacheco our gratitude for his hard work, dedication, and a career committed to public service.

State Representative Paul Schmid, who serves the Eight Bristol District, also announced he would not seek reelection this fall. The Eight Bristol spans much of the South Coast and includes parts of Acushnet, Fall River, Free-town, New Bedford, and Westport. Representative Schmid is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and has been a staunch advocate for the business community since he was elected in 2010. One SouthCoast is losing a great friend and partner on Beacon Hill, but we wish Representative Schmid all the best in his next chapter and thank him for his years of service to our community.

ONE SOUTHCOAST
CHAMBER

JOB FAIR

Thursday, March 14, 2024
9:30 AM - 2 PM | White's of Westport

Employer tables available at
onesouthcoast.com

Good News!

Alltrust Credit Union Welcomes Lisa Cleary to the Retail Team



Cleary has been in the banking industry for over 35 years, previously as a Branch Manager for BankFive. Her passion for helping members and establishing long-term member relationships has been her reason for working in the banking industry for so long. She enjoys helping members reach their financial goals while assisting them with the products they need.

"Lisa's attention to member service and providing friendly and professional interactions makes her a strong candidate for Alltrust Credit Union," stated Carmen Sylvester, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Having her on our Retail team will benefit the Credit Union and the community."

As Branch Manager, Cleary will maintain a high-quality service culture by expanding and establishing member relationships. She will also be responsible for assisting and guiding staff members to be successful and ensuring members are being served efficiently. She will be working in our Fall River Branch as well as helping at our other locations.

Cleary lives in Tiverton, Rhode Island with her husband where they raised their four children. When she is not at the office, Cleary likes to take road trips to New Hampshire and be out of the city life. She likes anything and everything country.

ABOUT ALLTRUST CREDIT UNION:
Established in 1922, Alltrust Credit

Union celebrated their 100th anniversary in November of 2022. The credit union has assets of over \$300 million and provides banking services to more than 13,800 members. The main office is in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, with branch offices in Fall River, New Bedford, and Seekonk, Massachusetts. Follow Alltrust on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn. For more information, call 508.994.9971 or visit alltrustcu.org.



Bristol County Savings Bank Appoints Himmel Senior Vice President/Senior HOA Loan Officer



Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB), headquartered in Taunton, Massachusetts, has named Howard B. Himmel to the position of Senior Vice President/Senior HOA Loan Officer. In this capacity, Himmel is responsible for managing the Bank's condominium association lending program.

Prior to Himmel's appointment at the Bank, he held several positions in the Condominium Association industry, including Senior Vice President/Team Leader – Condominium Lending at Avidia Bank in Hudson, Massachusetts; Vice President/Business Development Officer – Condominium Lending at Rockland Trust Company, Rockland, Massachusetts; and Director of Sales & Marketing for the Community Association Institute/Condo Media, Inc. in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He is a member of the Community Association

Institute – New England Chapter. Himmel earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts and resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Bristol County Savings Bank Background Information:

Bristol County Savings Bank, a Massachusetts chartered bank and wholly-owned subsidiary of Beacon Bancorp, is a full-service banking institution with approximately \$3.1 billion in assets. Founded in 1846, Bristol County Savings Bank has expanded its branch network to include 16 full-service offices in Attleboro, Dartmouth, East Freetown, Fall River, Franklin, New Bedford, North Attleboro, Raynham, Rehoboth and Taunton, Massachusetts, and Cumberland, Greenville and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, as well as a Loan Center in Warwick, Rhode Island. The Bank also operates limited service educational branches at Taunton and Attleboro High Schools. In addition to traditional banking services, Bristol County Savings Bank offers wealth management services through its affiliate Bristol Wealth Group. The Main Office and Corporate Headquarters of Bristol County Savings Bank are located on Broadway in Taunton, Massachusetts. For more information on Bristol County Savings Bank, visit www.bristolcountysavings.com.



Lafrance Hospitality Appoints Tim Burkhardt as President of Hotels



Lafrance Hospitality, a leading hospitality management company, is pleased to announce the promotion of Tim Burkhardt to the position of President of Hotels. Burkhardt, who previously served as Vice President of Lodging and Development, will assume his new role

effective immediately.

As President of Hotels, Burkhardt will oversee the strategic direction, and operations of Lafrance Hospitality's portfolio of hotels, ensuring exceptional guest experiences and driving continued growth and success in the hospitality industry. He will continue to spearhead acquisition and new construction projects for the hotel group. With his extensive experience and proven leadership, Burkhardt is well-positioned to guide the company's hotels to new heights.

"Tim Burkhardt has been an invaluable member of the Lafrance Hospitality team, consistently demonstrating his expertise and dedication to excellence," said Richard Lafrance, Chairman of Lafrance Hospitality. "His promotion to President of Hotels is a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and his ability to deliver outstanding results. We have full confidence in his ability to lead our hotels to continued success."

Burkhardt brings over 35 years of experience in the hospitality industry to his new role, having held various leadership positions with other regional hotel companies and within Lafrance Hospitality. His deep understanding of hotel operations, revenue management, guest satisfaction, and development has been instrumental in driving the company's growth and reputation for excellence.

"I am honored and excited to take on the role of President of Hotels at Lafrance Hospitality," said Tim Burkhardt. "I am grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by the Lafrance Family, and I look forward to working closely with our talented team to expand and further elevate our hotels and deliver exceptional experiences to our guests."

Under Burkhardt's leadership, Lafrance Hospitality's hotels will continue to prioritize guest satisfaction, operational efficiency, and innovation. His strategic vision and commitment to excellence will ensure that the company remains at the forefront of the hospitality industry, providing unparalleled service and memorable stays for guests.

SouthCoast Cares About My Diabetes Program



Southcoast Health is helping diabetes patients understand and manage their disease with the new Southcoast Cares about my Diabetes Program, a collaboration of the Certified Diabetic Education Program, Endocrinology, and Primary Care at Southcoast.

The goal is to help patients overcome any barriers that may exist to effectively controlling the disease and avoiding the worst complications.

Funded with a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Institute for Health Care Improvement, the program offers four-session workshops in easy-to-reach community settings to help people understand what diabetes is, the importance of managing it and how to do so. Pharmacists, certified diabetes care educators, dietitians and other professionals offer their expertise in English, with qualified interpreters delivering simultaneous translations in Spanish and Portuguese.

“We are bringing diabetes management and care to people where they need it,” said Katelyn Ferreira, Southcoast Health Equity Program Manager.

Diabetes is a leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and the No. 1 cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations and adult blindness. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports that cases of diabetes have more than doubled over the past two decades. Diabetes sends Black non-Hispanic patients to the emergency room more than four times as often as White non-Hispanic patients, and Black patients have more than twice the rate of diabetes-related mortality.

In the SE Massachusetts region, Southcoast Health has identified opportunities around control of diabetes, which

results in high sugar, or glucose, in your blood and leads to organ injury. The heart, kidneys, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, feet, teeth and vision can all be affected. Understanding the disease and access to high quality care can make diabetes challenging to control.

Although there is no cure for diabetes, it can be controlled through high quality care including diet and exercise, daily monitoring of blood sugar, medications, and regular oversight by doctors, advance practitioners or diabetes educators.

The Southcoast Cares about my Diabetes program is designed to help patients navigate diabetes care, starting with assessing participants’ control of diabetes. A high HbA1C, which measures a person’s three-month average of blood glucose levels, is associated with a greater likelihood of complications. The program is designed for patients with an HbA1C of 8 or above, and family members are welcome and encouraged to participate and integrate learning into patients’ lives.

From there, participants learn the basics about diabetes, how controlling diabetes can improve overall health, and ways to achieve control. Participants learn how to manage their diabetes including components of nutrition, managing through acute conditions including infection, and how to be safe during travel.

“One ‘aha’ moment for many patients is when Kerry Wooten, a certified diabetic educator, demonstrates the amount of sugar found in popular drinks,” said Lindsay Dowd, RN, Southcoast Clinical Operations Manager. Patients also are sometimes surprised to learn about differences between statements like “no added sugar” and “no sugar” on labels.

The new program was first offered in New Bedford at the Boys and Girls Club and has now expanded to Fall River, with Wareham and Tiverton, Rhode Island to follow in early 2024. Classes are offered days, evenings, and weekends to accommodate patient schedules.

Lindsay notes that the Southcoast team has started to see program success in the reduction in HbA1c levels of the participants. Engaged participants had an average A1C of 9.3 before they began participating in the program; at the most recent test after engaging with the pro-

gram, participants had an average A1C of 8.8. For Katelyn, the classes are just one way to address disparities in health care that vulnerable populations experience.

“We have so many opportunities to improve care for people with diabetes, but we must wrap our arms around inequities in access to and delivery of care as well as the disparate outcomes for many communities,” says Dr. Dani Hackner, Chief Clinical Officer of Southcoast and co-sponsor of the program. “There are practical, collaborative approaches to addressing care in diabetes and one of the keys is speaking to people in their own language and in their community.”

Pictured in the header image: Front row: Lori Choquette, Endocrinology Manager; Khalida Hakimi, CHW-Medical; Erica Thomas, Pharm Tech; Casey Souza, PharmD; Amy Anderson, MD, Medical Director Endocrinology Back row: Brittany Soucy, Pharm Tech; Kerry Wooten, CDCES; Lindsay Dowd, RN,CCM

Learn more about the Southcoast Health Cares About My Diabetes Program at Diabetes Management Program MA & RI | Southcoast Health.



Nicholas L. Christ Promoted to

President & CEO of BayCoast Mortgage

BayCoast Mortgage (baycoastmortgage.com), a full-service lender that has earned a strong reputation for excellence in the mortgage industry, is proud to announce the promotion of Nicholas L. Christ of Fall River, Massachusetts, to President and CEO.

In this pivotal role, Christ is responsible for developing new talent and products while expanding the Bank’s lending throughout its market area.

Christ joined BayCoast Mortgage in the summer of 2015 and has excelled at residential mortgage lending for decades. He is a graduate of Brown University and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Economics. He has completed programs at the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Wharton and the Wharton Leadership Program, showcasing his commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

“It is a pleasure to announce Nicholas’ promotion to the position of President and CEO of BayCoast Mortgage,” said Carl Taber, Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer. “His comprehensive knowledge of the mortgage industry, combined with his dedication to serving our community, demonstrates his commitment to helping our neighbors achieve their homeownership goals. Our entire lending team congratulates Nicholas on his well-deserved promotion.”



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**Ways and Means with Senator Rodriques
Rachel's Lakeside
Dartmouth, MA**

United Way of Greater New Bedford Together, United Fund



United Way of Greater New Bedford

United Way of Greater New Bedford is seeking proposals for the Together, United Fund in order to advance new initiatives and existing efforts at local nonprofits to build the capacity of their board and staff to serve diverse communities and foster lasting, positive change in the advancement of racial equity and social justice.

Nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 from the Together, United Fund. Requests could include, but are not limited to: support for professional development and/or training for board and staff to advance race, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, provide resources and tools to promote racial equity and social justice in the workplace, or provide opportunities at all levels of implementation, to create and share knowledge through webinars, publications, professional conferences, and practice-group convening.

Proposals to the Together, United Fund are due Thursday, February 29th at 5 pm and must be submitted electronically through United Way's grant portal. Visit unitedwayofgnb.org for more information.

This initiative of United Way of Greater New Bedford was established to build capacity at local nonprofits by investing in their leadership and workforce to improve their ability to serve our diverse community," said Sarah Rose, Chief Impact Officer. "We are committed to strategically investing resources to help close gaps and disparities in education opportunities, economic mobility, and health access."

In 2023, United Way awarded the first round of Together, United grants to Dennison Memorial Community Center and Coaching for Change. Both organizations focused on professional development for their staff and board to actively address racial equity and social justice through educational programming.

United Way of Greater New Bedford is the local chapter of United Way Worldwide. It has operated since 1953, advocating for family resilience, health access, economic mobility, and educational opportunity for every person in the nine communities it serves through essential services such as the Family Resource & Development Center, Hunger Commission, and New Bedford Community Connections Coalition. Additionally, United Way funds local organizations whose programming addresses these issues and matches them with volunteers through Volunteer SouthCoast.

Together, United grants can be used to:

- Articulate cultural competence action plans
- Implement or continue to support successful workplace racial equity and social justice activities that address fair practices in governance and operations
- Create a workplace environment where all employees contribute to closing gaps in disparities in education opportunity, economic mobility, and health access

The Together, United grant requests could include:

- Support for professional development and/or training for Board and staff to advance race, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives
- Provide resources and tools to promote racial equity and social justice in the workplace
- Provide opportunities, at all levels of implementation, to create and share knowledge through webinars, publications, professional conferences, and practice-group convening


Applicant Eligibility:

- Grant proceeds support nonprofit Boards and staff professional development and training

- Project benefit nonprofit organizations in United Way of Greater New Bedford service area including: New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, or Wareham

Application Timeline:

- January 16, 2024 RFP opens
- February 29, 2024 Proposals due 5:00PM
- March 29, 2024 Anticipated Award Announcements
- April 5, 2024 Grants Agreement Due April 8, 2024 Funding period begins December 31, 2024 Funding period ends
- January 24, 2025 Final reports due



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LEADS Launches South Coast Fellowship in Collaboration with Leadership SouthCoast (LSC) and other Regional Partners

After many months of planning, a coalition of regional partners led by Leadership SouthCoast have announced the launch of the LEADS Fellowship for high-impact leaders in the South Coast. The 9-month Fellowship is delivered in partnership with faculty from Harvard Business School and serves as a platform for advancing and connecting diverse, cross-sectoral leaders in pursuit of making positive systems-level change at the local and regional level. Supporting leadership development throughout the region for over 20 years, Leadership SouthCoast's continued growth into new program areas served as a catalyst to bring the LEADS Fellowship to the region, as it adds a complementary component to the numerous programs under LSC's portfolio. Donna Criscuolo, Executive Director of Leadership SouthCoast, noted "Investing in our leaders today will impact the outcomes for tomorrow. The south coast is undergoing tremendous change, and we want those changes to be stewarded through representative local leaders who understand the challenges and embrace the opportunities with a solution seeking mindset." First piloted in Lawrence in 2018, the LEADS Fellowship has since expanded to gateway cities north of Boston, ranging from Lowell to Lynn, serving nearly 250 leaders. The current cohort is comprised of 47 Fellows from the North Shore and is scheduled to culminate in June of '24. "Southeastern MA is a region teeming with unique opportunities and, like many other areas, struggles with persistent challenges. By integrating the strengths and expertise of each sector, we can develop comprehensive, holistic solutions that address complex issues and pave the way for a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous region," according to Melanie

Tavares, the President/CEO of the South Coast Community foundation and another member of the coalition working with LEADS. The determination to expand into the South Coast builds on the momentum playing out in the region and the opportunity for the LEADS Fellowship to support community-centric outcomes. Beyond just a leadership development program, the Fellowship uniquely breaks down siloes and builds trust across different segments of a community and creates a platform to have necessary conversations. Tony Sapienza, the chair of the New Bedford Regeneration Committee and the New Bedford Whaling Museum, states, "New Bedford and Fall River have experienced profound demographic changes in the last decade and the advent of commuter rail to Boston will precipitate even more. The next decade will require a new generation of community leaders and LEADS is the perfect vehicle to develop those leaders".

Fellows will be nominated and selected by area partners and a South Coast-based selection/steering committee over the winter and spring of 2024, with the first of two cohorts scheduled to kick off in the fall of 2024, followed by a second cohort in the fall of 2025. Leaders will be drawn from New Bedford, Fall River and the communities surrounding them with a priority made for LSC Alum. The 9-month fellowship consists of programming delivered in the South Coast and Greater Boston and culminates with the creation of actionable project teams working on priority issues at the local and regional level.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates of the Fellowship join the LEADS Network, a robust and growing network of changemakers working across organizations and regions to scale their impact. "Often the resources available to larger markets and corporate entities such as Harvard Business School executive education programs —are not accessible to gateway cities like Fall River and New Bedford and the leaders in those communities," says Pam Hallagan, LEADS co-founder and the organization's Executive Director, "But we know these interventions work and have transformational impact for the individuals involved, the organizations and institutions they run, and the communities they serve. We could not be more excited to be working in collaboration with our partners in the South Coast to leverage the LEADS programming to make real and lasting impact here."

Learn more about LEADS and the partners in the North Shore at www.LEADSMA.org
Contact:

Derek Mitchell
President, LEADS
dmitchell@leadsma.org
978-804-6989

The coalition of regional partners working to bring LEADS to the South Coast is led by Leadership SouthCoast and includes:

- EforAll
- Latinas of the South Coast
- One South Coast Chamber
- New Bedford Regeneration Committee
- South Coast Community Foundation
- South Coast Hispanic Chamber
- UMass Dartmouth
- United Way of Fall River
- United Way of New Bedford
- Vineyard Offshore
- Viva Fall River



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Mechanics Cooperative Bank Employees Dress-Down to Raise Over \$16,000 for Local Non-Profits!

The 4th Annual “Jeans for Charity” fundraiser was another huge success in 2023! Mechanics Cooperative Bank employees that enrolled in the Jeans for Charity program were allowed to wear jeans each Friday and Saturday throughout the year with their charitable contribution made weekly, via payroll deduction. In addition, Mechanics Cooperative Bank agreed to match these employee donations totaling \$16,400 raised in 2023 – setting a new record!

The non-profit donation distribution was decided by a vote from the employees enrolled in the program. We are happy to announce the three winning organizations are St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Forever Paws Animal Shelter, and Stanley Street Treatment and Resource Center (SSTAR). Each organization received a gift from Mechanics Cooperative Bank and their employees totaling \$5,466 each!

“Our incredible employees rose to the occasion to raise more money than ever before for these three worthy organizations,” said Joe Baptista, President and CEO of Mechanics Cooperative Bank. “Giving back to our community through programs like this represents the very best of what community banking is all about – and mirrors our Let’s Keep it Local! philosophy. Thank you to all those who participated for your kindness and generosity.”

About St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital:

The mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder Danny Thomas, no



child is denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family's ability to pay. For more information please call (800) 822-6344 or visit <https://www.stjude.org>.

About Forever Paws:

Forever Paws works to give animals the gift of time through managed intake. This allows us to offer comprehensive treatment and care to stray, abused, or abandoned animals. Forever Paws continues to operate under no-kill practices, offering care for all treatable conditions with no restrictions on length of stay. We will always place the quality of life of an animal as our most paramount charge. Forever Paws is devoted to educating future generations to foster compassionate and humane attitudes towards all species of animal. We are a non-profit organization, relying on donations, fundraising, and dedicated benefactors and supporters. For more information please call (508) 677-9154

or visit <https://www.foreverpaws.com>.

About Stanley Street Treatment and Resource (SSTAR):

SSTAR began in the late 1970s as a center for alcohol detoxification and treatment programs. In the mid 1990’s, as a response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, SSTAR expanded their services to include primary care, launching their first Family Health Care Center. Today, they are proud to offer a comprehensive clinic staffed with general practitioners, specialized physicians, and nurse practitioners offering services ranging from nutrition counseling to case management which treats over 5000 patients per year. At SSTAR, their mission above all else is healing the community, one person at a time. They aim to provide a personal level of healthcare and addiction treatment that addresses the mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of everyone who enters. For more

information, please call: 508-679-5222 or visit <https://www.sstar.org/>.

About Mechanics Cooperative Bank:

With total assets of \$722 million, Mechanics Cooperative Bank offers a wide variety of personal and business deposit and loan products. As a Massachusetts co-operative bank, 100% of customers’ deposits are always fully insured. Established in 1877, Mechanics Cooperative Bank is Massachusetts’ second-oldest co-operative bank with nine conveniently located branches in Bridgewater, Taunton, North Dighton, Somerset, Swansea, Fall River, Westport and New Bedford. For more information, call 1-888-MECHANICS (632-4264) or visit [Mechanics-Coop.com](https://www.Mechanics-Coop.com). Member FDIC. Member DIF. Equal Housing Lender.

Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation Awards \$104,800 In Grants to 15 Non-Profits in SouthCoast Massachusetts



Bristol County Savings Bank's Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) awarded grants totaling \$104,800 to 15 non-profit organizations in the SouthCoast region during a ceremony recently at The Waypoint Event Center in New Bedford, Massachusetts. All total, including the Taunton-Attleboro and northern Rhode Island regions, the Foundation donated \$376,300 to 46 charitable organizations. Since the Foundation was formed in 1996, more than \$31 million has been committed to hundreds of different non-profits in the communities the Bank serves. In 2023, the Foundation awarded \$2.3 million to various 501(c)(3) organizations.

The organizations that received grants from the Foundation are as follows:

SouthCoast area, \$104,800 – Alma del Mar Foundation, Inc. (\$10,000); Atlantis Educational Foundation, Inc. (\$10,000); Coastal Foodshed, Inc. (\$10,000); Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Mass (\$10,000); Fall

River Deaconess Home (\$7,500); Father Bills & Mainspring, Inc. (\$5,000); Lloyd Center for the Environment (\$5,000); Mercy Meals & More (\$5,000); New Bedford Art Museum (\$5,000); St. Vincent's Services (\$5,000); STEAM the Streets (\$5,000); Steppingstone, Inc. (\$5,000); The S.E.A.L. Foundation (\$10,000); Thomas Chew Boys & Girls Club of Fall River (\$10,000); and Youth Opportunities Unlimited (\$2,300).

Patrick J. Murray, Jr., President of the BCSCF and President & CEO of BCSB, awarded the grants to the organizations. Also participating in the event were: Paul Coogan, Mayor, City of Fall River; Janet Barbosa, Director of Special projects & Programs, Major Jon Mitchell's Office, City of New Bedford; and representatives from the BCSCF advisory boards and the Bank's area branches.

"As we are a community bank, we gravitate toward people who are helping people and what better example of that than the non-profit organizations we are supporting

today," said Murray. "We look forward to seeing the positive impact of these grants as we continue to realize our mission of making the communities we serve a better place to live and work."

Bristol County Savings Bank is an active supporter in the communities in which it serves. The Foundation was established in 1996 as part of the Bank's 150th Anniversary celebration. Its purpose is to fund needs that contribute to the economic and the social well-being of the people and institutions located in the greater Taunton/Attleboro region, the greater New Bedford/Dartmouth region, the greater Fall River region and the northern Rhode Island region, with particular emphasis in the areas of education and literacy, economic development and housing for the low- to moderate-income population. In 2020, the Foundation added an additional area of focus supporting organizations that are on the frontlines of the pandemic or experiencing hardship as a result.

Bristol County Savings Bank

Background Information:

Bristol County Savings Bank, a Massachusetts chartered bank and wholly-owned subsidiary of Beacon Bancorp, is a full-service banking institution with approximately \$3.1 billion in assets. Founded in 1846, Bristol County Savings Bank has expanded its branch network to include 16 full-service offices in Attleboro, Dartmouth, East Free-town, Fall River, Franklin, New Bedford, North Attleboro, Raynham, Rehoboth and Taunton, Massachusetts, and Cumberland, Greenville and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, as well as a Loan Center in Warwick, Rhode Island. The Bank also operates limited service educational branches at Taunton and Attleboro High Schools. In addition to traditional banking services, Bristol County Savings Bank offers wealth management services through its affiliate Bristol Wealth Group. The Main Office and Corporate Headquarters of Bristol County Savings Bank are located on Broadway in Taunton, Massachusetts. For more information on Bristol County Savings Bank, visit www.bristolcountysavings.com.

Latin American Food Tour Spotlights the New Cultural Flavors of Fall River



Viva Fall River is thrilled to announce the Fall River Latin American Food Tour, a self-guided experience and video series featuring Fall River’s variety of Latinx restaurants and food markets.

Although typically associated with Portuguese culture, Fall River is home to a multitude of ethnicities who enrich the array of cuisine available within the city. Latinx owned family businesses have been adding to this multicultural menu over the years, and the self-guided itinerary aims to introduce a wider audience to these talented Latinx

chefs and business owners in Fall River and encourage the exploration of new foods without the need to travel beyond the city limits.

The listing of restaurants and markets, and an interactive map, can be found on the Viva Fall River Website, alongside image galleries featuring core menu offerings and recommendations. The Latin American Food Tour page also hosts exclusive video features of select restaurants on the tour. Kaysi and Rudi Dume of Latinos Food Restaurant, Johan Macea Nunez of Casa Ive, Irma Sanchez of



Taqueria El Habanero, and Walter and Gina Estrella, as well as son Pedro Navarro of Puerto and Ecu Restaurant, share their experiences as Latinx business owners on the South Coast.

The video series explores the different cultures of each Latin American business, providing a glimpse into the traditions, dishes, and motivations that make each establishment unique, yet united in a common desire to bring the flavors of their homeland to their new home. A central theme in each video is the power of food in the community.

Recounting the ways in which they have connected with the Fall River community, the business owners shared the importance of creating meaningful relationships with each person who steps through their doors, and how food serves as a bridge in fostering this powerful engagement.

The Fall River Latin American Food Tour includes Brasil Coffee Shop, Brazilian Family

Market, Brazilian Takeout, Casa Ive, Dominican Restaurant, El Sabor de Mi Tierra Restaurant, Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, Fiesta Taqueria, Freeboi, Imperial Grill & Pizza, Latinos Cafe, Latinos Food Restaurant, Origen Bar and Grill, Puerto and Ecu Restaurant, Riverside Sports Bar, Sr Marie Restaurant, Store Guadalupana, Taqueria El Habanero, Tequila Lime Cantina, Tu Bodega Latina, and Virgen de la Nube Grocery.

For updates on events and opportunities, follow Viva Fall River on social media or sign up for the weekly newsletter at www.vivafallriver.com.

Viva Fall River embodies the vibrant spirit and community pride that defines this remarkable city. We are an active tourism organization that guides locals and newcomers alike to Fall River’s vivacious and diverse community. Viva Fall River champions economic growth and celebrates all the city has to offer: creative arts, rich ethnic and cultural traditions, diverse businesses, a picturesque waterfront, spirited events, and so much more.

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Member Spotlight: Fairfield Inn by Marriott & Waypoint Event Center



Contact Information

Phone : (774) 634-2000

 Website:
<http://www.marriott.com/ewbf>



Fairfield Inn by Marriott is a locally owned and operated franchised hotel, catering to guests seeking affordable accommodations without compromising on comfort. Key features include spacious rooms, free Wi-Fi, complimentary full hot American breakfast buffet, on-site parking and flexible meeting space.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott is owned and operated by Lafrance Hospitality and includes a portfolio of 17 hotels, 4 dining establishments, 5 event facilities and a catering company.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott has been actively involved in various community-oriented endeavors. Their commitment to supporting the local community is reflected in several initiatives they participate in each year. They are proud to be annual donors to the Buy Black NB Event and the NB 4th of July Fireworks Show, which are significant events that bring the community together in celebration. Additionally, they have sponsored productions at The Zeiterion, including "The Wizz" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicol-

ored Dreamcoat," contributing to the vibrant cultural scene in the area. Furthermore, they are active members of both the One South Coast Chamber of Commerce and the SE Mass Visitors Bureau, engaging in collaborative efforts to promote economic growth and tourism in the region. Moreover, they demonstrate their commitment to supporting local sports and entertainment by annually sponsoring events such as the UMass Dartmouth Lafrance Classic Basketball Tournament in the fall and the NB Summer Sound Series.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott has received several awards, certifications, and recognitions in the last 5-plus years. They have won the Trip Advisor Travelers' Choice Award (previously known as Certificate of Excellence) 10 out of the last 11 years, demonstrating their consistent commitment to providing exceptional service and guest experiences. Additionally, Waypoint Event Center, affiliated with Fairfield Inn by Marriott, has earned prestigious accolades. It has won the Couples Choice Award two

years in a row from Wedding Wire, in 2023 and 2024, recognizing its excellence in hosting weddings and events. Moreover, Waypoint Event Center received The Knot's 2023 "Best of" Wedding Facilities award, further underscoring its reputation as a top choice for couples seeking exceptional wedding venues. These awards and recognitions highlight Fairfield Inn by Marriott's dedication to excellence in hospitality and event services, solidifying their position as a leader in the industry.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott believes that being a member of the One South Coast Chamber of Commerce is essential for several reasons. Firstly, it allows them to preserve a strong presence in the local business community, ensuring that they are actively engaged and connected with other businesses and stakeholders in the area. This presence not only enhances their visibility but also solidifies their role as a contributing member of the local economy. Additionally, membership in the chamber helps Fairfield Inn by Marriott remain relevant in the business

community by staying informed about current trends, challenges, and opportunities that may affect their operations. This knowledge enables them to adapt and evolve in a dynamic business environment effectively. Furthermore, being a member of the chamber provides valuable networking opportunities for Fairfield Inn by Marriott to connect with other businesses and professionals, fostering collaboration and partnerships that can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes. Moreover, it serves as a platform for advertising business opportunities, allowing them to showcase their services, attract potential customers, and explore new markets. Lastly, membership in the One South Coast Chamber of Commerce offers Fairfield Inn by Marriott the chance to learn about other organizations and see if there are ways they can benefit each other through collaboration, shared resources, or strategic alliances. Overall, being a member of the chamber is instrumental in helping Fairfield Inn by Marriott thrive and succeed in the local business community.

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Kilburn Event Center Announces Their New Facility Manager and Operator



The principals and operators of the “Kilburn Event Center” a popular and growing venue in New Bedford for weddings, corporate events and private functions made a major announcement for the venue’s operations going into 2024. Jacinta Murphy & John Ruggieri-Lam, the venue’s principals noted “effective January 1, 2024, we are thrilled to note that D&D Caterers will be the new facility manager and

operator of the Kilburn Event Center. Drew Sylvia, their General Manager will continue to manage operations of the Event Center through at least the 2024 season.”

They went on to state that “from our valued customer’s perspective – be they brides, grooms or those responsible for organizing corporate events – very little will change”. They continued “what will change is that we now have on-site and handling these events, an excellent operator with some 37+ years of food and beverage experience, which will only enhance our business and the customer experience.”

Drew and David Sylvia, principals and operators of D&D Caterers established in 1986 by David, noted: “We are excited to take the reigns at the Event Center, and are dedicated to continued expansion of the wedding and private event functions for all our valued customers on the Southcoast. The event center is the premiere waterfront venue for anyone looking to have a spectacular function with excellent food and beverage services.” Sylvia went on to note that to ensure a seamless continuation of business, D&D has arranged for Robb DeSimone, an event planner and profes-

sional with 25+ years of experience, to stay on-board as Director of Sales. Sylvia noted: “Robb’s incredible attention to detail, and relationship with so many existing customers will ensure smooth sailing into the New Year”.

In conjunction with this announcement, D&D Caterers also noted that this expansion of operations was made possible by the development of a new 5,000 SF commissary in New Bedford’s North End set to be approved by the city to open in mid-January 2024 to help enhance the operations of both of D&D’s off-premises catering services as well as current and new events at the Event Center.

The Kilburn Mill Event Center was established in 2019 and runs a fully licensed event center facility capable of handling events ranging from small private parties, corporate functions and weddings to large-scale corporate events and charitable functions with its 400 person capacity rooms overlooking Clark’s Clove.

For more information, contact the event center at (508) 207-2980, or email @Robb@kilburnmill.com or info@danddcaterers.com

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Precision Window and Kitchen, Inc. Celebrate 35 Years in Business

Precision Window and Kitchen, Inc. located at 1111 Achushnet Avenue in New Bedford, MA will be celebrating 35 years in business this coming April.

Precision has been a local business serving all of the Southcoast in several areas of home improvement needs. From a full kitchen or bath remodel to complete

replacement window job or a simple screen repair, they do it all. They have been a staple in New Bedford's north end.

Precision's Founder Jose Pereira is still very active in their day to day operations and is at work every day as he was 35 years ago. His children, Ryan and Nicholas Pereira, both graduates of UMass Dartmouth are

stepping right into the family business and slowly taking over the daily operations.

Precision will be hosting a party in April to celebrate the company's anniversary.



The Dean Foundation for Little Children Grants \$17,000 to Child & Family Services' Caring Network & Adoption Programs



Child & Family Services was recently awarded \$17,000 from the Dean Foundation for Little Children to support the work being done to help children who are victims or witness to violence, as well as children in foster care with the goal of adoption.

Child & Family Services recognizes and understands the profound impact that exposure to violence has on individuals and families, especially on our children. The Caring Network provides free psycho-educational groups to children who have witnessed or have fallen victim to violence in their home or community.

The Adoption Program within Child & Family Services specializes in creating loving families by providing adoption services for children in DCF custody who are often older members of a sibling group, of a particular ethnic group, or who have physical and/or emotional difficulties.

The support we receive from the Dean Foundation for Little Children has made a difference in the lives of countless children, like Akira and Ariel who were adopted this year after being in foster care since 2015!

"We are truly grateful for the continued funding we receive from the Dean Foundation for Little Children," stated Susan Remy, VP of Development & Community Engagement. "Their interest in supporting the work we are doing to heal the lives of vulnerable children is helping us to carry out our mission."

The Dean Foundation for Little Children is a family organization established in 1928 which recognizes the critical need for medical and social services for children in Massachusetts. The foundation distributes various grants to community organizations who work to provide the youth and their families with these resources.

Child & Family Services, Inc. is a private, nonprofit, human service agency that provides adoption services, mental health counseling, psychiatry and spe-

cialized support programs to people of all ages living in Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, Cape Cod, Lawrence, Florence, Plymouth, Worcester and Waltham.

Whether it is children exposed to abuse or violence, families coping with mental illness, or matching children with mentors or loving adoptive families, Child & Family Services is there to support, guide and heal. We have been helping people since 1843 and continue to fulfill our mission "...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families."

Caring Network is partially supported by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance through a Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund Awards \$5,000 to Child & Family Services' Caring Network Program

The Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has recently awarded Child & Family Services' Caring Network program with a \$5,000 grant.

Since 2011, the Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund has provided many grants to local nonprofit organizations, with a focus on child abuse prevention and treatment; economic self-sufficiency; and victims of domestic violence. The Foundation is a public charity serving thousands of people throughout Southeastern Massachusetts who share a common goal of improving the quality of life through philanthropy.

This grant allows the Caring Network

program to provide critical support and resources to children and families who have witnessed or been a victim of violence, ensuring a safe place to talk to group facilitators, to build relationships with peers, and learn coping skills to help build resilience.

"What is unique about Caring Network is the tremendous community involvement we receive to make the program a success and Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund ensures that we are able to continue to provide groups each year," stated Larissa Correia, Caring Network Program Director.

The Caring Network is designed to help children between the ages of 4 and 14 who witness violence in their homes, schools, and communities. Counselors

help children through the initial trauma, help them develop safety plans in case of future violence, and show them ways to settle conflict and tension without violence. This is achieved through weekly psycho-educational groups for children and their families, regardless of their ability to pay.

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USA Wealth Group and Lantz Family Insurance Employees Team Up for National Nutrisystem Campaign



USA Wealth Group and Lantz Family Insurance Agency proudly announce that their two employees, Randi Gibbons and Sheryl Marciano, have been featured in the National Campaign for Nutrisystem. The campaign launched just before Christmas showcases the commitment of these professionals to personal wellness and healthy living.

Randi Gibbons, a dedicated USA Wealth Group team member, and Sheryl Marciano, a valued Lantz Family Insurance Agency employee, participated in the nationwide Nutrisystem initiative. Both individuals are passionate about their roles within their respective companies and share the goal of promoting a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their communities.

Nutrisystem showcases real people making positive changes, illustrating that anyone can take steps toward a healthier lifestyle. Randi and Sheryl exemplify the dedication and passion that USA Wealth Group and Lantz Family Insurance Agency bring to their professional and personal pursuits.

For more information about the National Campaign for Nutrisystem or to follow Randi and Sheryl on their wellness journey, please visit nutrisystem.com

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The Member 2 Member Discount program will help you build business-to-business relationships with other companies and organizations by offering products and services at a discount to other One SouthCoast Chamber members and their employees.

This program encourages members to buy from other members to save money, increase visibility and promote new business for their companies.

This great marketing opportunity is free to you as a member of One SouthCoast Chamber.

Email Katie Greene at kgreene@onesouthcoast.com for additional information and/ or to post your special offer!

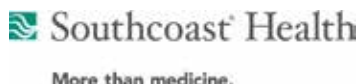


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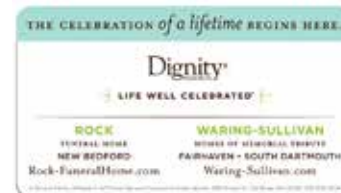
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