

# One SouthCoast

# NAVIGATOR

CHARTING SUCCESS FOR SOUTHCOAST BUSINESS

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BUSINESS NEWS FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ONE SOUTHCOAST CHAMBER

JUNE 2023

## Summer is Coming and So Are Visitors!



Nothing conjures up more wonderful memories for most people than the warm days of summer. For some it may be time at the beach. For others it might be enjoying a trail or engaging in outdoor activities that have been off limits in the colder months. In New England, where the extremes are so great, we love our summers and love the longer days and comfortable nights that come along each year. We are dusting off our bikes, finding our umbrellas, planning our weekends in ways winter would not allow and embracing the summer breezes, almost like we had never seen them before.

For the Chamber, summer is also very much about business and the wonderful onslaught of summer residents and visitors who come to revel in the beauty of what we see every day. Viva Fall River and Southeastern Massachusetts Visitors Bureau and their many partners throughout the region work all year to help bring visitors to our region and to improve the entire

business community as a result.

We all know what the circulation of local dollars can do to boost an economy. Workers get paid and spend locally. Those dollars continue to be recycled as economic activity for the region, with the more local spend we receive the more we rise the economic tide. But visitor dollars are different. While they are ultimately subject to recirculation, every dollar that comes from a visitor is imported from somewhere else and placed into our hands to help our entire economy. In pre-pandemic years, this visitor spend totaled more than \$600,000,000 annually and we are well on our way to reaching those heights again. This interjection of new money produces tax revenue for the state and locally, keeps hospitality jobs going and produces new jobs in unexpected ways.

Our region is what is called a “drive market”, meaning that most people visiting SE Mass are doing so by car. They bring their families, the

family pet and are prepared to spend on tourism-related activities directly, but they also spend money in grocery stores, in tire shops, at pharmacies and so on. These new dollars unrelated to tourism at first glance, are in fact part of an indirect spend that adds significantly to our regional success. Every kind of business ultimately prospers as a result of imported visitor dollars.

Our visitors come from all over, but primarily from the mid-Atlantic states, New England, New York and eastern Canada, and it is those areas that we advertise most heavily. With limited resources, we can keep Southeastern Massachusetts top of mind for visitors, especially families, retirees and those seeking a true New England experience at price points well below those on the Cape and the Islands – all without losing the opportunity to visit those places as well as experiencing the beauty of the South Coast. I smile as I see license plates from all over in our area, knowing that they are part of a valuable economic engine.

So, as we lament that the beach may be crowded or that it is more difficult to get into our favorite restaurants or confused drivers attempt to navigate around the region at speeds that seem too slow, recognize that they, too, have conjured up the perfect summer, and that perfect summer includes us.

Mike O'Sullivan  
CEO



Legislative Luncheon 2022  
Friday, June 9, 2023  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Rachel's Lakeside  
950 State Road  
Dartmouth, MA

Business After Hours  
Sponsored by: St. Anne's Credit Union  
@ The Cove  
Fall River, MA  
Thursday, June 22, 2023  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

July 2023 Business After Hours  
Sponsored by: Kilburn Mill at Clark's Cove  
Sunset Sip & Sail!  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Coffee with the Chamber  
Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
Location: TBD

For additional information and/or to register for events please visit:

[www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/](http://www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/)

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

New Bedford Office:

227 Union Street, Mezzanine 2  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
(508) 999.5231 • fax (508) 999.5237

Fall River Office:

200 Pocasset Street  
Fall River, MA 02721  
(508) 676.8226 • fax (508) 675.5932

General inquiries: [info@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:info@onesouthcoast.com)

Chamber Staff:

CEO, Michael O'Sullivan  
Chief Operating Officer, Rick Kidder  
Vice President of Finance & Operations, Dorothy Botelho, IOM  
Vice President of Corporate Member Engagement & Sponsorships, Kimberly Coroa Moniz  
Director of Membership & Retention, Clifford Athouriste  
Director of Events & Programs, Katie Greene  
Director of Marketing & Communications, Jennifer Lourenco  
Patti Rego, Executive Director, Viva Fall River  
Ashley Occhino, Executive Director, Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC)  
Photographer, Sergio Dabdoub, BadMonkeyPics

## 2023 OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee:

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

Members of the Board of Directors:

Terms to Expire in December 2023:

- William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- Mike Bushell, St. Anne's Hospital
- Nicholas Christ, BayCoast Bank
- Stephen W. Connulty, Paul & Dixon Insurance
- Catherine Dillon, BankFive
- Charlie Fellows, Lafrance Hospitality
- Jeffrey Glassman, Darn It, Inc.
- Melody Lavoie, Medeiros, Lavoie & Wilson, Inc.

- Jeff Pagliuca, Bristol County Savings Bank
- Derek Santos, New Bedford Economic Development Council
- Matt Zenni, Liberty Utilities

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
- William Rocha, Gold Medal Bakery
- Douglas Rodrigues, D. E. Rodrigues & Company, Inc.
- Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Bernadette Souza, Youth Opportunites Unlimited
- Michael Tavares, Horacio's, Inc.
- John Williams, UMASS-Dartmouth

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, RDA Insurance
- Gail Fortes, YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Doug Glassman, SERVPRO of Dartmouth/New Bedford & Marion / Middleboro
- Gary P. Howayeck, Esq.
- Anthony Medeiros, Mechanics Cooperative Bank
- Curtis Nelson, Nelson Insurance & Financial Services
- Arti Pacheco, New York Life
- Kim Perry, Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home

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  
Phone: (508) 673.9783 Fax: (508) 674.1929  
[www.msbdc.org](http://www.msbdc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/msbdc](https://www.facebook.com/msbdc)

Business  
After Hours

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Thursday, June 22nd 5 - 7 pm

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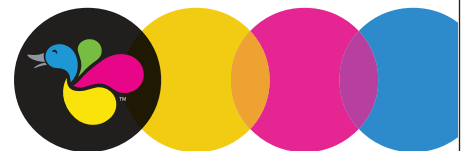
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## AMBASSADOR

*Spotlight*



## PATRICK DUELFER

### *Marketing Consultant/AE WPRI-12 Media*

Patrick has been in the television ad/marketing arena for 25+ years.

Patrick has been a dedicated Chamber Ambassador since 2019 and works closely with the One SouthCoast's CEO's, staff and fellow members.

The 2022 launch of the Chamber's "Business Spotlight" TV campaign is the result of a collaboration between WPRI and One SouthCoast, spearheaded by Rick Kidder, Mike O'Sullivan and Patrick.

Patrick is also on the Westport B2B Board and an active member of the Bristol County Business Connect group.

A native New Yorker, Patrick lives with his wife Tara in Newport, RI.

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## Good News!

### New Bedford High School Concert Band takes 1st Place and 'Best Overall' at Music in the Parks Festival, Washington, D.C.



The New Bedford High School Concert Band recently traveled to Washington, D.C. from April 28 to May 1 to participate in the Music in the Parks Festival in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The festival showcased talented student musicians from across the country, and the New Bedford High School Concert Band stood out among the competition.

The band earned a 1st Place rating in the High School Concert Band Division, Class AA, with a rating of Excellent and Best Overall Concert Band for the entire festival. In addition to performing at the festival, the band had the opportunity to explore the nation's capital. "The trip was truly unforgettable for our students, performing in a prestigious venue and experiencing the history and culture of Washington, D.C.," said Matthew C. Pacheco, Band Director of the NBHS Band. Sarah Fernandes, the Lead Percussion Instructor, reflected on the performance by saying, 'we're growing the program and these students are paving the way'.

Makenna Calvao, drum major and trumpet player, and Sarah Silveira, drum major and flute player, expressed their excitement about the band's success at the festival. "The performance was one of our best and it showed in how we ended up doing! It felt great to hear our name for both first place and overall, representing New Bedford with so much pride!"

Superintendent Thomas Anderson praised students and staff, stating, "Their collective commitment to excellence is a shining example of the

caliber of talent and dedication in our school district. We strive to create an environment that sparks creativity and cultivates the many gifts that our students have. Every day our outstanding educators do an excellent job facilitating the learning process and they are appreciated."

Bernadette Coelho, NBHS Principal, celebrated the win, noting, "Our band exemplifies Whaler Pride and in this latest instance they've shined on the national stage at a very competitive event. We are proud of our students and so pleased to see their hard work recognized."

Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts, New Bedford Public Schools, noted the band's success at the festival is a testament to the dedication of the students and their instructors. "We are incredibly proud of the New Bedford High School Concert Band and their outstanding performance at the Music in the Parks Festival. Their diligence has paid off."

For more information about the music programs at New Bedford Public Schools, contact Lynn Souza, lsouza@newbedfordschools.org.



### Nativity Preparatory School Announces New Hire



Nativity Preparatory School is excited to announce the appointment of Beth Mello as their new Director of Advancement and External Relations. Beth has more than 20 years experience in independent and international schools. Having served in a number of leadership capacities across grades K-12, she has a genuine understanding of the complex work of schools to meet the needs of students

through innovative and inclusive practices. In addition, she began her professional career as a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America - currently named Americorps) volunteer and, with family roots here, she has a deep appreciation for New Bedford.

Beth began her teaching career as an English as a Foreign Language Teacher in Brazil, and she taught 7th grade Humanities and served as Principal at the International School of Curitiba. Upon returning to the U.S., Beth joined The Foote School, a K-9 day school, located in New Haven, Connecticut where she served in a number of administrative roles. Beth has worked with every school constituency, led numerous committees and laid the groundwork for Foote's strategic visioning process. Beth will be responsible for community outreach and garnering support for Nativity Prep's future through its recently released Strategic Plan.



### Craig Correia Gains Partner Status at Paul & Dixon



Stephen Connolly, President and CEO of the Paul & Dixon Insurance Agency of New Bedford, is pleased to announce the promotion of Craig Correia to Executive Vice President and a Partner of the firm.

Craig joined Paul & Dixon as an intern in 2010 while at UMass Dartmouth and became a full-time member of the staff later that year. In 2016, he became Vice President of Risk Advisory and Business Development. In that role, he has helped clients in the business community solve their risk-related issues, better protect their business, and think more proactively about Risk Management as a whole.

Craig grew up in Acushnet and New Bedford and graduated from New

Bedford High School and from UMass Dartmouth with a Bachelor's Degree in Operations Management and Marketing. He is a Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford, currently serving as Board President. He is also a member of the South Coast Business Alliance, an organization that gives back to several local causes through its fundraising events throughout the year.

"I am excited to have Craig expand his commitment to the firm and to our clients. He is a great asset to our overall mission of helping our clients," stated Connolly. "Area businesses rely on his expertise to help them with the challenges of running organizations in today's complex world. As Paul & Dixon closes in on its third century of serving the Southcoast community, Craig's value to our agency continues to grow." Paul & Dixon is a Five Star™ full-service independent insurance agency, providing risk management services and insurance to Southeastern New England businesses and families since 1852. Based in downtown New Bedford since its founding, Paul & Dixon is headquartered in the restored, historic William Rotch Rodman house at 388 County Street, at the foot of Hawthorn Street, with a branch in the Sassaquin section of New Bedford's Far North End on Acushnet Avenue.



### Alltrust Credit Union Welcomes Sharon Medeiros to the Senior Management Team



Medeiros has worked in the banking industry for more than 20 years. She has been in the accounting and financial department most of her career. Her most recent role was Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer at BankNewport. She enjoys applying mathematical concepts and formulas

to real situations. She has a passion for using logic and problem-solving skills to figure out the story behind the numbers.

“With her strong financial management experience, Sharon will be a great asset to the Senior Management team,” stated Carmen Sylvester, President and Chief Executive Officer. “Her enthusiasm and commitment towards the Accounting and Finance department will benefit Alltrust Credit Union. We are excited to have her be a part of Alltrust Credit Union.”

In her new role, she will have primary oversight for accounting, financial management and reporting, asset liability management, and investments of the organization. She will be evaluating and directing improvements to our accounting, budget, and reporting processes, while ensuring that practices comply with our organization’s accounting policies and applicable laws and regulations. She will also oversee the facilities management of the credit union.

Medeiros is surrounded by her husband and son in Taunton, MA. When she is not in the office, she enjoys doing family activities like hiking, talking walks, and playing pickleball. She also likes spending time on Prudence Island and Block Island with her family.



## FRMCU Announces Promotions

Matthew G. Schondek, President and CEO of Fall River Municipal Credit Union is pleased to announce the promotions of Chantel Breault to Assistant Vice President of Retail Operations and Cathia Travassos to Assistant Vice President of Compliance.

President Schondek noted that “The Credit Union is very excited to announce these two very well-deserved promotions”. He also noted that “they will both continue to aid in the development of the Credit Union to con-

tinue to make strides in the financial industry”.



Chantel joined FRMCU’s management team as Retail Operations Manager two years ago, bringing seven years of banking experience. Her talent for managing multiple operations areas emerged quickly at the Credit Union. As AVP, she will continue to oversee Retail Operations and Account Services and serve as the Credit Union’s Security Officer.



Cathia joined the Credit Union as a part-time teller in 2009. Her management skills and aptitude for regulatory compliance led her to positions of Branch Manager and most recently, Compliance Manger. As AVP, Travassos will continue to oversee all compliance issues, manage the Credit Union’s training program, and serve as the Credit Union’s BSA and Compliance Officer.

The Board of Directors and Management congratulate all on their accomplishment and wish them success in their new roles.



## BayCoast Bank’s Casey Brouthers Honored with Prestigious Award from the Massachusetts Bankers Association



BayCoast Bank (baycoast.bank), a long-time community savings bank serving the people and businesses on the South Coast of Massachusetts and

Rhode Island, is proud to announce that Casey Brouthers, Esq., Vice President, Associate General Counsel, has been selected to receive the 2023 Massachusetts Bankers Association Emerging Leader Award.

The Emerging Leader Award celebrates a woman under the age of 40, who is a rising star at her financial institution; a successful individual who possesses drive, initiative and outstanding leadership.

A graduate of Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts with a bachelor’s degree in Criminology, Brouthers began her career in community banking in 2010, gaining experience in a number of roles including teller, customer service representative, and loan processor. Her immediate success in the banking industry led Brouthers to explore exciting new opportunities while expanding her education, graduating from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Law School in 2019. She is licensed to practice law in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Brouthers began her career at BayCoast Bank in 2020 as Vice President, Regulatory Policy and Enterprise Risk Strategist, becoming Vice President, Associate General Counsel just over a year later.

An active participant in numerous local organizations, Brouthers is an advocate for the Massachusetts Bankers Association and American Bankers Association, a member of the Fall River Mayor’s Task Force to End Homelessness and the Massachusetts Governor’s Advisory Committee (GAC) for Lead Poisoning Prevention. She is also a volunteer for Credit for Life, a financial literacy program offered by BayCoast Bank that helps high school students gain critical money management skills for the real world.

“We are extremely proud to congratulate Casey on this special honor from the Massachusetts Bankers Association,” said Nicholas M. Christ, President and CEO of BayCoast Bank. “Her expertise, exceptional work ethic and outstanding leadership skills make her a highly deserving recipient of this award. Our entire BayCoast family applauds her for this impressive achievement.”

A Taunton, Massachusetts, native, Brouthers currently lives in North Dighton, MA, with her husband, Kyle, newborn son, Levi, and their dog, Benji. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and advocating for her community.

*Do you have good news? Please email information to: [info@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:info@onesouthcoast.com)*



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# Julie Ramos Gagliardi Joins the SouthCoast Community Foundation



The SouthCoast Community Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Ramos Gagliardi as the organization's Director of Programs, overseeing programmatic initiatives and grantmaking, including the Creative South Coast Initiative, Leadership Equity Fund, SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund, and scholarship program. Julie brings over 30 years of experience in grantmaking and strategic planning. A native of Fall River, she has exhibited a deep commitment to the South Coast community.

"We are very excited for Julie to join the Community Foundation. Her nonprofit expertise and engagement in our communities will be invaluable as we continue to grow our programmatic areas of focus," said Board Chair Gail Fortes. "Our grants, scholarship, and arts advisory committees work very closely with the Director of Programs to better understand the nonprofits we serve and the strategies driving our philanthropic decisions. I believe Julie will enrich the committee decision-making process with her extensive experience," she said.

Julie has held significant leadership positions throughout her career, most recently as the First Vice President of Corporate Giving and Community Relations for BayCoast Bank, where she managed a \$2 million annual corporate giving program. Early in her career, she was the Campaign Director at the United Way of Greater Fall River, where she facilitated a long-term

strategic planning project, in addition to raising over \$12 million in annual campaigns.

In addition to her professional work, Julie has demonstrated an enduring commitment to the South Coast community through her volunteerism. Julie serves on the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, where she is Co-Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. Since 2011, she has been an elected member of the Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee, serving as its Chair for one year. Prior to that, she supervised the study that led to the establishment of a regional high school district in Somerset. Julie helped to form the Fall River Arts and Culture

Coalition, which developed an Arts and Culture Plan for Fall River.

"I am thrilled to be joining the team at the SouthCoast Community Foundation. The Foundation continues to play an increasingly important role in the region — as a funder, convener, and facilitator. I look forward to working with their staff, Board, and volunteers on issues that further their mission and make a positive impact throughout the South Coast," said Julie.

Julie will start in the Director of Programs position on July 5, 2023.

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**ONE SOUTH COAST  
CHAMBER**

**Coffee with the Chamber**

**Save THE Date**

**Tuesday, July 25th**

**Location TBD**





**Grand Opening/  
Ribbon Cutting  
Origen Bar & Grill  
Fall River, MA**



**Grand Opening/  
Ribbon Cutting  
Coastal Healing  
Westport, MA**



**Grand Opening/  
Ribbon Cutting  
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**ONE SOUTH COAST**  
C H A M B E R

**RECENT EVENTS**



**Business Builders Breakfast  
Diman Regional Vocational Technical HS  
Fall River, MA**



**New Bedford State of the City with  
Mayor Jon Mitchell  
New Bedford High School**

## FRMCU Chosen to Donate \$15K

FRMCU is pleased to announce that the Credit Union was chosen to donate \$15,000 to a charity of their choice, as part of Elan's 2023 Across the Country Charitable Giving. FRMCU chose to donate the \$15,000 to the Salvation Army – Fall River. The Salvation Army of Fall River is a non-profit organization that aids low-income families in obtaining a better life spiritually and financially. Their services range from “proving food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children”. To learn more about ELAN and the services they provide as well as to read the article, please visit [www.elancharitablegiving.com](http://www.elancharitablegiving.com)



### Fall River Municipal Credit Union Serving The Community Since 1930

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**FRMCU Locations**

- Main Branch Office**  
333 Milliken Blvd., Fall River, MA 02721
- Robeson Branch Office**  
1110 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720
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[www.bgcnewbedford.org](http://www.bgcnewbedford.org)

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# Local Credit Unions and Businesses Unite to Build Beds for Children in Need



On Saturday, May 20, a collaborative effort by local businesses resulted in the construction of 30 beds for children in need, supporting the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' A Bed for Every Child initiative. The Coalition's mission through this initiative is to address the needs of children by providing them with free, newly-crafted beds and a place to dream, bridging the gap in their lives. The dedicated volunteers spent the afternoon sanding and assembling

the beds, which will be distributed locally. Additionally, they donated new twin sheets, stuffed animals, and books to ensure a comfortable and restful night's sleep for the children.

Thank you to all the businesses and volunteers who made this event a resounding success: Wipfli, Alloya Investment Services, and the CUA Southern Mass. Chapter of Credit Unions, including Alltrust Credit Union, Gold-

mark Federal Credit Union, Somerset Federal Credit Union, St. Anne's Credit Union, Westport Credit Union, and Taunton Federal Credit Union (host of the event). Special appreciation is also extended to all other contributors who generously donated to the cause. Moreover, notable acknowledgment goes to All Washed Up Pressure Washing of Taunton, MA for providing their warehouse as a workspace for the volunteers during the event.

"The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and their A Bed for Every Child initiative are instrumental in raising awareness and support to provide free new beds for children in need throughout Massachusetts. We have been supporting them in various capacities over the years and we fondly remember the positive feedback we received from volunteers and the profound impact this initiative had on our local area when St. Anne's Credit Union last hosted it in 2019," stated Peter Panaggio, Executive Vice President/

Chief Financial Officer of St. Anne's Credit Union and Massachusetts Credit Unions Social Responsibility Committee member. "Massachusetts Credit Unions have been steadfast supporters of the Coalition for over two decades, contributing more than \$2.8 million in donations and providing blankets, toys, and books to help families in need. The 30 beds constructed will be distributed within our own community, making a tangible difference in these children's lives. We firmly believe in the admirable work of the Coalition and are delighted to contribute as a united force in providing local children with improved education and, ultimately, a brighter future."

Photo Credit: Alltrust Credit Union



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# United Way of Greater New Bedford announces first Together, United Fund grantees



United Way of Greater New Bedford (UWGNB) has created the Together, United Fund to help build racial equity and social justice capacity in nonprofit organizations, and awarded the first grants from that fund.

The two recipients of the Together, United grants are Dennison Memorial Community Center and Coaching4Change. Both organizations will focus on professional development for their staff and board, actively addressing racial equity and social justice through educational programming.

“This new initiative of United Way of Greater New Bedford was established to help nonprofit organizations improve their ability to serve diverse communities and foster lasting, positive change in the advancement of racial equity and social justice,” said Shanna Howell, Ph.D., UWGNB, Board of Direc-

tors, Chair. “The fund will offer grants to support new initiatives and existing efforts that build capacity within non-profit boards and staff to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.”

Coaching4Change was awarded \$5,625 to enroll full-time program staff and board members in ‘Train the Trainers Workshop: Design Engage and Equity’ offered by the Non-Profit Learning Lab. Dennison Memorial Community Center’s grant of \$6,500 will support the Dennison Race Equity Diversity Inclusion (DREDI) initiative, offering training to create a more inclusive workplace. The program will develop employees’ and board members’ awareness of racial, ethnic, and cultural differences to strengthen how they can work together better as one team.

“Coaching4Change recognizes that in order to achieve our goals of eq-

uity in education we must provide on-going support to our college mentors. This grant will enhance our abilities to further incorporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our trainings.” said Marquis Taylor, founder and executive director of Coaching4Change. “Funds such as this are necessary to address racism, discrimination, and prejudice in our work. We’re proud to call United Way of Greater New Bedford an ally and are excited to be given this grant.”

“This training program establishes a baseline of knowledge for everyone to work from. It will target all employees and our board, cover a myriad of topics, including unconscious bias, how to work with diverse teams, creating a space where everyone can be heard, and more,” Joe Neves, Dennison program director, said. “Implementing the DREDI initiative training program shows our commitment, encourages open discussion, and develops employee perspectives.”

“We’re thrilled to see these two well-deserving grantees receive awards and are inspired by their commitment and the work they are doing within their organizations and in the community,” said Michelle N. Hantman, president and CEO, UWGNB. “The Together, United Fund is part of a larger effort of United Way of Greater

New Bedford to support area non-profits in their work to address racial equity and social justice.”

Together, United will award grants annually to nonprofit organizations that serve communities in the UWGNB service area of New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and Wareham.

United Way of Greater New Bedford fights for the health, education, financial stability, and basic needs of every person in the 9 communities it serves. United Way is committed to making an impact by providing important services to the community through the Family Resource & Development Center, Hunger Commission, and New Bedford Community Connections Coalition. Additionally, United Way provides funding to local organizations to provide support to residents through an array programming and services. It also matches volunteers with local opportunities through Volunteer SouthCoast.

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## Member Spotlight: Robitaille Legacy Project



ROBITAILLE LEGACY PROJECT was started by the children of the late Lionel & Bernadette Robitaille.

The” is a 501(c) (3) non-profit created by the Robitaille Family. The organization’s mission is “to raise money for the restoration of long-standing, established religious structures within the City of New Bedford and adjoining towns.”

Grants are awarded in memory of Lionel and Bernadette Robitaille, who, with unwavering faith, pledged their lives to God and, even in times of great adversity, joyfully raised a family of eight children. For 20 years, while bearing witness to the attentive care of one special needs child, the balance of their children came to understand and acknowledge the dignity and respect of every human being.

As children, the North End streets of New Bedford and the campus of St. Anthony of Padua Church became the classroom of life’s important lessons. Their parents regularly gave back to the community and helped address the

needs of those less fortunate. They assisted with outreach to the community by helping with food pantries, soup kitchen duties, clothing drives, religious education classes and spiritual parish support. St. Anthony Elementary and High-School programs were supported financially and with a helping hand. Their budget always included financial assistance for the maintenance of the beautiful, iconic and historic St. Anthony of Padua Church, which they loved and came to adopt as their place of worship.

Since the passing of their mother in 2016, The Robitaille Legacy Project was established to continue the tradition of “giving back” to the community which had been one of those life lessons passed down to them by two exceptional individuals.

For additional information please visit: <https://robitaillelegacy.org/>

Be sure to like and follow the Robitaille Legacy Project on Facebook.

## United Way of Greater Fall River Announces Latest Funding Cycle Recipients

**United Way  
of Greater Fall River**



Each year United Way of Greater Fall River (UWGFR) awards Community Impact Grants to local nonprofits as one of its four annual funding cycles. For the latest round, UWGFR invested \$162,350 to support 19 programs within their seven service areas for Fiscal Year 2024.

UWGFR’s Community Impact Grants, which deliver up to \$10,000 in resource assistance, benefit a range of initiatives that champion health, education, and financial stability for Southcoast community members.

Applications for this cycle underwent

a comprehensive review process by a diverse committee of community volunteers who provided careful consideration to ensure the grants were funneled to a varied list of programs that align with United Way’s focus areas.

These recipients include School on Wheels of Massachusetts, an organization dedicated to promoting academic success to students impacted by homelessness and poverty, and SSTAR Women’s Center, a domestic violence resource center devoted to supporting the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of individuals. Another deserving beneficiary, Citizens for Citizens Inc.’s

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), tackles tax preparation and filing for low-income families and offers financial literacy training to those seeking help.

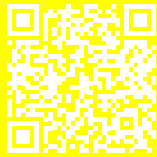
Community Impact Grants can be transformative in enhancing each individual organization’s ability to provide access to much needed resources. Steve Telesmanick, CEO of School on Wheels of Massachusetts, which serves students impacted by homelessness, describes how his organization is able to put this funding into action:

“School on Wheels has seen an increased need from the Fall River Community for our services. Whether it’s a community partner that requests more backpacks for students in need, opening up a second tutoring site in Fall River, or welcoming new students to our men-

toring program; because of generous support from the UWGFR Community Impact Grant & other community leaders, we are able to say YES and better serve these students in need.”

This is just one example that illustrates the potential this funding stream is able to unlock. For more information on UWGFR’s Community Impact Grant process and a complete list of this year’s recipients, please visit us at [www.uwgfr.org](http://www.uwgfr.org). We also invite you to follow us on social media for impact updates and ways you can Live United.

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# BayCoast Bank Announces Key Promotions In CRA, DEI and Financial Literacy

BayCoast Bank ([baycoast.bank](http://baycoast.bank)), a long-time community savings bank serving the people and businesses on the South Coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is proud to announce the promotions of three inspiring individuals who help lead the Bank's efforts in key areas; Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) initiatives, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and Financial Literacy.



Evelyn T. Ranone has been promoted to First Vice President CRA Officer; Helena L. Moronta has been elevated to First Vice President DEI Officer; and

Lucia Rebelo has been promoted to Assistant Vice President Financial Literacy Education Officer.

Ranone joined BayCoast Bank in 2017 as Business Development Officer and

has a passion for helping our community. In her role, she is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the CRA program at BayCoast Bank, which helps meet the unique credit and lending needs of the communities it serves, including low-to-moderate income (LMI) neighborhoods. Ranone also helps establish and maintain strong relationships with area organizations and nonprofits whose mission is to help our communities grow and thrive.



Moronta joined BayCoast Bank in 2020 as Vice President, Business Development Relationship Management

Officer. In her new role, she is responsible for shaping the Bank's internal DEI strategy by creating engaging em-

ployee programs and new recruitment and training initiatives that reinforce the Bank's already strong commitment to its diverse workforce. These internal programs help to bring positive, measurable results, including enhanced productivity and creativity. Moronta also helps lead BayCoast Bank's efforts in building relationships with local leaders and organizations to support members of the community.



Rebelo, who joined the Bank in 2001, is Assistance Vice President, Financial Literacy Education Officer – a first-of-its kind position at BayCoast, which

has a strong reputation for supporting education in the community. Through a variety of engaging financial literacy programs, Rebelo helps learners of all ages gain valuable money management

skills that will last a lifetime. Programs offered include Money Smart, Credit for Life Fairs, K-12 financial education courses, school banking and online financial learning modules, all of which are provided at no cost to the community.

"Evelyn, Helena, and Lucia have a genuine passion for helping the people who live and work right here on the South Coast," said John McMahon, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement. "It is with great pride that we congratulate these extremely dedicated members of our BayCoast family on their well-deserved promotions."



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