

# One SouthCoast NAVIGATOR

CHARTING SUCCESS FOR SOUTHCOAST BUSINESS

BUSINESS NEWS FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ONE SOUTHCOAST CHAMBER

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Fall is a Time for Celebration



With cool crisp air right around the corner, a busy time of year begins for your Chamber. One SouthCoast Chamber scales back a bit in the summer as folks use that time for family, travel, vacations at the beach or gearing up for a busy fall ahead.

There is so much to celebrate in the coming months. The Pats may make another run. The Red Sox need help, but could squeak into the playoffs. The New England Revolution are in the hunt despite Messi becoming an Inter Miami player. More importantly, your Chamber is ready to celebrate business like never before.

Our employers continue to suffer through a post-pandemic labor shortage that adversely affects productivity, so the Chamber will be running a job fair on September 14 at Rachel's Lakeside with more than 40 employers participating. We are working with our two local MassHire workforce boards and their career centers to get the word

out and to help drive prospective employees to attend this important event. Employers celebrate when they hire quality people, and the Chamber can be a conduit for that success.

ChowderFest 2023, sponsored by Blount Fine Foods, is a celebration of culinary delights and the best party on the pier of the year. Restaurants vie for judges' and People's Choice trophies in multiple categories and we, the eating public, spend the afternoon sampling, listening to live music, sipping a specialty cocktail or a craft beer. Tickets are available on [onesouthcoast.com](https://onesouthcoast.com) and at the door on Saturday, September 30 at Pier 3 in New Bedford.

We can celebrate arts and culture in our area at the annual Business After Hours at Hatch Street Studios on September 21 at 5 PM, where attendees will be surrounded by wonderful art, the artists themselves and the amazing conversion of an old mill into artists' studios. As always, sign up on [onesouthcoast.com](https://onesouthcoast.com).

In October, the Chamber will stage the annual Valcourt Awards Dinner, this year honoring the remarkable Jim Wallace of BayCoast Bank for all he has done to further positive progress in our region. Jim is a longtime supporter of our local community serving as a Board and Finance Committee member for the United Way of Greater Fall River, People Incorporated, the Greater Fall River Development Corporation, and the Arc of Greater Plymouth. In addition, Jim coaches for the Special Olympics and Downey Baseball's Bambino Buddy Ball, which is a program designed to help special needs children enjoy the full benefits of playing baseball in an athletic environment tailored to their abilities. A true servant leader, Jim's remarkable gifts to our region are worth celebrating with our highest award for business leadership and community involvement. Once again, sign up at [onesouthcoast.com](https://onesouthcoast.com).

The busy time of year for the Chamber has come, and we hope that our members and the community at large find ways to celebrate with us as the fall leaves change and the sweaters come out of storage. We, at the Chamber, are fortunate to have remarkable members who look at their businesses with purpose but who also never forget that their success is directly tied to the success of the community.

And, who knows? Maybe the Pats will be better than the pundits think. Hope helps get us up in the morning as the days grow shorter.

Mike O'Sullivan  
CEO

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2023 SouthCoast Job Fair  
Thursday, September 14  
9 AM - 2 PM  
Rachel's Lakeside, Dartmouth

September Women's Power Lunch  
Friday, September 15  
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM  
The Path Restaurant & Lounge, Fall River

Business After Hours  
Sponsored by: Hatch Street Studios  
Thursday, September 21  
5 PM - 7 PM  
88 Hatch Street, New Bedford

18th Annual Blount Fine Foods  
New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival  
Saturday, September 30  
12 PM - 5 PM  
City Pier 3, New Bedford  
VIP opens at 11 am

Roger Valcourt Outstanding Citizen  
Award Dinner  
Tuesday, October 17  
5:30 PM - 8 PM  
White's of Westport

For additional information and/or to  
register for events please visit:  
[www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/](https://www.members.onesouthcoast.com/events/)

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

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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
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- 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.
- 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
- Douglas Rodrigues, D. E. Rodrigues & Company, Inc.
- Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Matthew Schondek, Fall River Municipal Credit Union
- Bernadette Souza, Youth Opportunités 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, Venus de Milo
- 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  
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Phone: (508) 673.9783 Fax: (508) 674.1929  
[www.msdbc.org](http://www.msdbc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/msbdc](https://www.facebook.com/msbdc)



**Saturday, September 30**

City Pier 3, New Bedford, MA

**General Admission: 12 PM - 5 PM**

**\$15 Pre-Sale/\$20 Day of Event**

Children: **\$5/6-12 Years of Age**  
**Free/Under 5 Years of Age**



**VIP Admission: 11 AM \$75**



- Early entrance to event (11 am)
- Concierge service provided by GotChew on The Black Whale VIP Deck (Select which restaurants you want to sample from the Chowderfest tent via the GotChew app)
- 1 free beverage of your choice (soda, beer, wine or mixed drink)
- Tastings from The Black Whale menu

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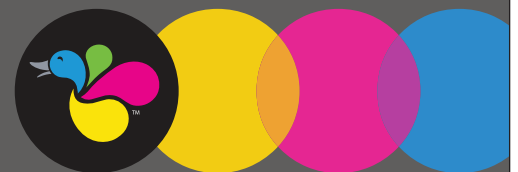
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## ROGER VALCOURT OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Registration: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 6 PM

Program: 6:30 PM

White's of Westport

\$60

Per Person



JIM WALLACE

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer,  
BayCoast Bank



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# Good News!

**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Robert Paul Properties Acquires Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Mel Antonio Real Estate, expands presence across South Coast & New Bedford**

## BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

### ROBERT PAUL PROPERTIES

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Robert Paul Properties, a division of Commonwealth Realty Group, LLC, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Mel Antonio Real Estate, a premier, full-service real estate brokerage serving the South Coast and New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The strategic acquisition combines two highly respected real estate firms under the prestigious Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brand, creating an even stronger presence in the South Coast region.

Emily Clark, President of Robert Paul Properties, expressed her enthusiasm about the acquisition. She stated, "We are thrilled to welcome the talented team of professionals from Mel Antonio Real Estate into the Robert Paul Properties family. Our shared commitment to delivering exceptional customer experiences and our mutual passion for the industry will undoubtedly lead to even greater success as we move forward together."

Founded in 1999 by real estate industry veteran Mel Antonio, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Mel Antonio Real Estate has long been regarded as a leading agency across the South Coast. Reflecting on the acquisition, Mel Antonio said, "Joining forces with Robert Paul Properties is a tremendous opportunity for our team and our valued clients. We have always strived to provide the highest level of service. With this union, we are confident that our clients will continue to receive unparalleled support and access to an even wider network of resources."

"Mel and his team have built a strong reputation for providing their clients

with the highest quality of service, experience, and support," said George Patsio, Managing Partner of Commonwealth Realty Group, LLC. "Joining these two highly reputable companies marks a significant milestone for both organizations and represents our clear commitment to providing unparalleled customer service, and resources to our valued clients."



### Bristol Community College partners with regional restaurants to launch Bristol Community Cooking show



Bristol Community College is excited to announce the launch of Bristol Community Cooking, a half-hour show highlighting the South Coast region's restaurants, chefs and owners.

Bristol Community Cooking will air Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m., beginning August 31, 2023, on Fall River Community Media (FRCMedia) Channel 95 in Fall River and YouTube, and is a collaboration between Bristol's Culinary Arts program, FRCMedia and Viva Fall River.

The program features hands-on demonstrations, with chefs and owners preparing their restaurant's signature dishes in the college's teaching kitchen, with assistance from Bristol's Culinary Arts students. The program also includes interviews focusing on area restaurant owners' entrepreneurial journeys and backgrounds.

"We are delighted by this opportunity to strengthen Bristol's Community College's community partnerships with our region's innovative businesses and entrepreneurs, while providing

the college's Culinary Arts students with invaluable hands-on experience and professional insight," said Vinnie Rege, Dean, Business and Experiential Education.

Bristol's Culinary Arts program is designed to meet the needs of today's competitive food service industry. The program provides students with the sought-after knowledge and work ethic that employers value. Students in the program also participate in a term of valuable industry experience through functions, events and an enriching internship.



### Community Nurse Home Care has earned the 2022 SHPBEST™ "Premier Performer" Award for both Home Care and for Hospice Services



**COMMUNITY NURSE HOME CARE**  
*We Bring Caring Home*

Community Nurse Home Care has been recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Premier Performer" for achieving an overall patient satisfaction score that ranked in the top 5% of all eligible SHP clients for the 2022 calendar year.

The annual SHPBEST™ award program was created to acknowledge home health agencies that consistently provide high quality service to their patients. The 2022 award recipients were determined by reviewing and ranking the overall satisfaction score for more than 2,500 home health providers. With the largest HHCAHPS (Home Health Care Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) benchmark in the nation, SHP is in a unique position to identify and recognize organizations that have made patient satisfaction a priority and have been rewarded for their efforts with high marks on the HHCAHPS survey.

"SHP is proud to present the SHPBEST

awards to our top-performing customers. We commend these organizations for their continuous focus on delivering the highest quality of care to their patients", said Rob Paulsson, President of SHP.

This year was the first time Community Nurse Home Care has been recognized as at this high level of "Premier Performer," but not the first-time receiving honors. For 4 of the last 5 years, Community Nurse Home Care has received the award for "Superior Performer", ranking in the top 20% of agencies.

"Being ranked in the top 5% of both Home Care and Hospice agencies is quite an honor. This is a true reflection of our staff's commitment to providing patient focused, 5 star care to our patients and their families in their homes every day," said Lisa Parent CEO of Community Nurse Home Care.

Read more about the SHPBEST awards program, including methodology and award recipient lists at <https://www.shpdata.com/home-health/shpbest-hhcahps>.



### Atlantis Welcomes New Upper School Principal



Dan Bossolt joined the staff of Atlantis Charter School this summer as the new upper school principal. He brings nearly 20 years of experience in education to Atlantis. He worked with students at the middle and high school levels as an ELA teacher, as well as a reading specialist in urban districts in Connecticut. He also worked as an instructional specialist for Boston Public Schools before becoming

a principal in New Bedford where he successfully led two different secondary schools for nine years.

"At Atlantis, my goal is to build upon and continue the existing culture of academic excellence and life-long learning skills, and to work collaboratively with staff and families to provide an enriching educational experience for all students," Bossolt wrote in a letter to families. "I believe in fostering a positive and inclusive school culture that celebrates student success in all areas, promotes positive citizenship, and values the unique talents and contributions of every individual."

Bossolt also believes open communication and collaboration are key to student success. He encourages parents and guardians to actively engage in their child's education and to attend school events and functions throughout the school year. He plans to keep an open line of communication with families throughout the year through regular newsletters, emails, texts, and updates on the school website.

"Dan's passion for academic excellence and social and emotional development make him a perfect fit for our community," said district leader Gabriela Birmingham. "He will work with staff and families to help ensure our students reach their full potential. We are pleased to welcome Dan to Atlantis."

Bossolt is already settling into his new role and is busy preparing for the new school year. He invites families to reach out to him with any questions or concerns at 508-646-6410 or by emailing [Daniel.bossolt@atlantiscs.org](mailto:Daniel.bossolt@atlantiscs.org).



## Child & Family Services, Inc. Welcomes New Chief Financial Officer

Child & Family Services is pleased to announce the addition of Kim Moore as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

In her position, Ms. Moore will be working directly with our CEO, BOD, and finance team, by directing and overseeing all fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities for the agency, including accounting and treasury functions, financial planning, financial analysis, and budget projections.

Kim, a Texas native, joins the agency's senior leadership team with a prior 14 years of experience as a CFO for Emmaus Homes, Inc. in St. Charles, Missouri. Emmaus Homes has a 126-year history of providing residential services for adults with disabilities. Kim earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington and her Master's Degree in Accounting from Lindenwood, Missouri before beginning at Emmaus. She started as the Associate Director of Finance and from there progressed to Chief Financial Officer. Kim's work at Emmaus included executive oversight of a \$32 million dollar budget and providing support to close to 600 employees.

"In the past 15 years, I've developed a passion for mission-driven work. Working with an organization that is constantly challenging themselves to provide quality outcomes for individuals in our community is deeply meaningful to me. I'm particularly honored to begin working for Child and Family Services in the mental health services field. Being a mental health champion and working to destigmatize mental health illness are close to my heart."

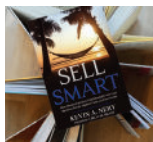
In Kim's spare time, she enjoys traveling, scuba diving, and reading. She has an 18-year-old daughter, a twenty-two-year-old son, and a cat who bring her immense joy. Please join us in giving Kim a warm welcome into the organization, as well as to the community in which we serve.

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



## Business Broker Kevin Nery Releases New Book



"Sell Smart: How Business Brokers Confidentially Sell Your Business for the Highest Value" is now on sale on Amazon.

The Kindle version is only 99 cents!

Selling your business can be a daunting task, filled with uncertainty and ques-

tions. But fear not, because in "Sell Smart," seasoned business broker Kevin A. Nery shares his invaluable expertise and guides you through the ins and outs of the sales process. With over 200 successful business sales under his belt, Nery understands owners' challenges and concerns, and he's here to help you navigate the maze.

In this concise and informative book, Nery dispels common business sales myths and misconceptions, equipping you with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions. If you're an owner looking to sell your business, "Sell Smart" provides a solid foundation to understand what lies ahead and helps you overcome any obstacles.

Drawing from his extensive background in accounting, retail, manufacturing, and more, Nery shares real-life experiences and practical advice to ensure you avoid costly mistakes. This book covers everything from understanding the sales process to enlisting the right professionals for support. Discover the benefits, pros, and cons of selling your business, and gain the confidence to embark on your next chapter, whether retirement or a new business venture.

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



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## Chris Hodgson Ranked in Forbes' 2023 List of Top Financial Security Professionals



We are thrilled to announce that our Founder, Chris Hodgson, ranked in Forbes' 2023 list of 'Top Financial Security Professionals in the Best-In-State.' This ranking recognizes Chris as one of the country's best financial security professionals, as determined by SHOOK® Research. Chris exemplifies a dynamic and visionary leadership style, consistently prioritizing the delivery of exceptional service and groundbreaking strategic solutions to our valued clients. We're excited to celebrate this remarkable achievement not only for Chris but for the entire Coastal Financial team, whose dedication and expertise have contributed to this milestone.

### About the Top Financial Security Professionals List:

Forbes and SHOOK Research have teamed up to rank the best professionals in the insurance industry in our third annual list of America's Top Financial Security Professionals. These experts have strong track records of reassuring clients and preserving their wealth for the long term. While revenues in the insurance business have taken a hit during the rising interest rate

and inflation environment, many professionals are optimistic about next year.

The selection of each advisor by SHOOK Research hinges on a meticulously crafted algorithm that melds qualitative and quantitative benchmarks. These benchmarks include face-to-face interviews, industry tenure, compliance records, generated revenue, and assets under management.

For additional insights on our services and offerings, visit our website here: <https://www.coastalfinancial.com/>

Chris Hodgson is a registered representative of and offers securities and investment advisory services through MML Investors Services, Member SIPC. Coastal Financial investments and Insurance is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, LLC, or its affiliated companies. Supervisory Office: 280 Congress Street, Suite 1300, Boston, MA 02210. Tel: 617.439.4389. CA Insurance License #0C70018. CRN202608-4856548

## Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA Announces Official Opening of New Splash Pad, BayCoast Bank is a Proud Sponsor of the Project



An exciting new place for families to cool off in the warm weather is making a big splash on the South Coast. The Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA in Swansea, Massachusetts, is proud to announce the official opening of its newest addition - a 2,400 square foot splash pad. That announcement came at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 21st.

BayCoast Bank is delighted to be a sponsor of the project.

The splash pad is a fun, interactive activity featuring a giant slide and multiple spray zones, appealing to kids of all ages. Mother Nature brought sunshine and warm temperatures for the event, where members of BayCoast Bank, BayCoast Insurance, and the Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA were among those in attendance.

"The brand-new splash pad is the first step towards even more aquatic fun," said Scott Munro, Swansea YMCA board member and lead donor for the splash pad project. "With continued support from the community, we are working to achieve the ultimate goal of building a world class natatorium. The families and the kids of this community need and deserve this!"

The splash pad is the latest addition to the Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA, which is located on 36 beautiful acres, offering a multitude of indoor and outdoor activities, including a state-of-the-art wellness center, adventure course, sports fields, basketball court, indoor/outdoor pickleball courts, archery, dance and more!

"BayCoast Bank is thrilled to provide a grant to the Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA for the development of the splash pad," said Nicholas M. Christ, President and CEO of BayCoast Bank. "This engaging new activity will offer hours of enjoyment to kids of all ages right here in our community. We are proud to have a role in making this project a reality."

The splash pad project cost roughly \$600,000. Members of the community, along with BayCoast Bank, have offered generous support. Despite the project's completion, additional funds are still needed. If you'd like to donate, please visit the Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA website at [ymcasouthcoast.org](http://ymcasouthcoast.org) for more information.



**Grand Opening/  
Ribbon Cutting  
Couture Kreations  
New Bedford, MA**



**Congressional Update  
Congressman Bill Keating  
Century House  
Acushnet, MA**



**Good Morning SouthCoast  
Merrill's on the Waterfront  
New Bedford, MA**



## **RECENT EVENTS**



**Ambassador Luncheon  
Carmine's at Candleworks  
New Bedford, MA**



**Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting  
Child & Family Services, Inc.  
New Bedford, MA**

# BayCoast Bank's Taryn Cabral Receives Special Honor from the United Way of Greater Fall River



For the past year, BayCoast Bank Talent Acquisition Specialist Taryn Cabral has proudly volunteered for the United Way of Greater Fall River (UWGFR) by serving as the 2022-2023 Chair of the nonprofit's Annual Campaign. Now, Ms. Cabral, along with volunteers from the South Coast community, are being recognized for their significant achievements in this year's campaign.

On July 11, 2023, the UWGFR held a special awards celebration at the Fall River Family Picnic Grove, honoring individuals who have made an important impact on fundraising efforts for the Annual Campaign. 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 Taryn Cabral received the prestigious Live United award at the event.

As Annual Campaign Chair, this award recognizes Ms. Cabral's contributions to the numerous fundraisers that helped the nonprofit surpass last year's campaign goal, raising \$1,071,711. These funds will be reinvested into more than 70 key programs and services that support health, education, financial stability, and basic needs for members of our community.

Ms. Cabral, a resident of Westport, Massachusetts, has volunteered at the

UWGFR for more than eight years and said she was honored to be asked to lead the organization's Annual Campaign.

"It feels great to be a part of the United Way of Greater Fall River because when you give the gift of your time, it benefits everyone in the local areas where we live and work," said Cabral. "Volunteering for the UWGFR is a great way to personally see the impact of important programs being offered right here in our community. I was honored to have a leading role in this year's campaign." "The BayCoast family congratulates Taryn on this impressive achievement," said Scott Lopes, Vice President of Human Resources for BayCoast Bank. "Taryn cares deeply about helping our neighbors. We are proud of her commitment to assisting the local community."


Kim Smith, Executive Director of the United Way of Greater Fall River says

it is exciting to bring together so many like-minded individuals who are passionate about helping to make our area better for all to live, work, and play.

"Each year, we launch an Annual Campaign that brings together donors from all corners of our region – from workplace campaigns that engage employees and employers, to individual donors, corporate partners, and foundations alike. Our efforts unite people to make a bigger impact than any of us could have alone," said Smith.

If you would like to support UWGFR's Annual Campaign, please visit their donation page: <https://bit.ly/supportUWGFR>.

*PHOTO: (Left to Right: Becca Collins of Collins Construction, Annual Campaign Chair Taryn Cabral of BayCoast Bank, and UWGFR Executive Director, Kim Smith).*



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## Member Spotlight: New England Medicare Advisors, Inc.



New England Medicare Advisors (NEMA) is a newly established Medicare Advisory Agency that specializes in assisting individuals with understanding and making informed decisions regarding their Medicare options. Co-owners and founders, Linda Correia, Paul Couto and Sandra Amaral are licensed agents in Massachusetts and have extensive knowledge and experience in the field. We strive to simplify the Medicare process and ensure our clients have access to the best possible coverage for their unique needs.

We offer a wide range of services to support our clients throughout the Medicare/Medicaid enrollment process. Whether individuals are new to Medicare or looking to reassess their current coverage, our team can provide expert assistance. We help clients explore different Medicare plans, compare options,

understand the associated costs, and make informed decisions that align with their healthcare needs and budget. "Medicare can be overwhelming for many individuals, particularly those approaching retirement age or experiencing a change in healthcare needs. We love to see how we can make such a huge positive change in their life," said Linda Correia.

Beyond our commitment to our clients, the team is actively involved in Bristol County and all of Massachusetts. We participate in local health fairs, educational seminars, and outreach programs to ensure that individuals in the area have access to accurate and reliable information about Medicare/Medicaid. Our service is at no cost to our clients!



New England Medicare Advisors  
Team

Business: 774-762-3437

New England Medicare Advisors  
643 Dartmouth Street  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

Email:  
[info@newengland-medicare.com](mailto:info@newengland-medicare.com)

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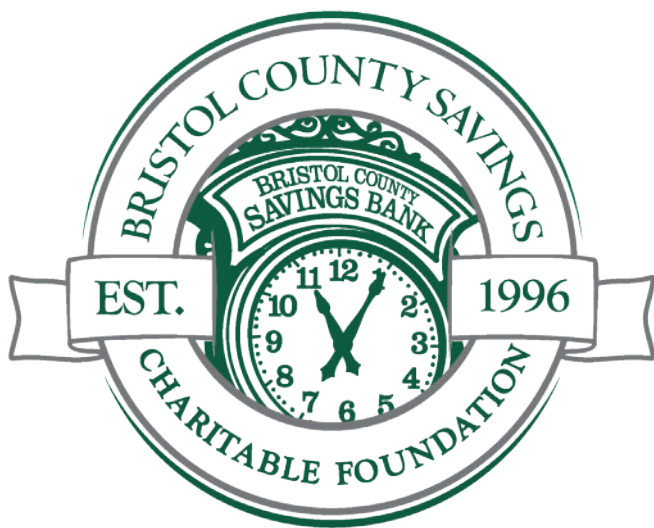
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# Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation Awards \$162,500 in Grants to 20 Non-Profits



Bristol County Savings Bank's Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) awarded grants totaling \$162,500 to 20 non-profit organizations in greater New Bedford-Dartmouth and Fall River, Massachusetts at a ceremony held recently at White's of Westport in Westport, Massachusetts. All total, the Bank presented \$447,500 in grants to 48 organizations in the New Bedford-Dartmouth/Fall River region, as well as the Taunton/Attleboro and northern Rhode Island regions. Since the Foundation was formed in 1996,

more than \$30 million has been committed to hundreds of different non-profits in the communities the Bank serves.

The organizations in Taunton and Attleboro that received grants from the Foundation are as follows: AHA! New Bedford (\$2,500); Argosy Collegiate Charter School (\$10,000); Camp Ellie Mae (\$2,500); Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County (\$15,000); Dennison Memorial Community Center (\$5,000); Horizons for Homeless Children (\$5,000); Nativity Pre-

paratory School of New Bedford (\$10,000); New Bedford Festival Theatre (\$7,500); New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, Inc. (\$5,000); New Bedford Whaling Museum (\$5,000); Our Sisters' School, Inc. (\$10,000); RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School (\$5,000); School on Wheels of Massachusetts (\$5,000); Seven Hills Behavioral Health (\$5,000); South-coast Coalition for Early Childhood Education (\$25,000); The Family Pantry-Damiens Place Corp (\$5,000); The Whitney Academy (\$15,000); uAspire (\$5,000); Veterans Transition House (\$10,000); and YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts (\$10,000).

Patrick J. Murray, Jr., President of the BCSCF and President & CEO of BCBS, awarded the grants to the organizations. "Each non-profit here today should feel extremely proud to have been chosen for these grants from a pool of worthy applicants," said Murray. "We anticipate this support will help you continue to make a difference in the lives of those most vulnerable in the local community and make our neighborhoods a better place to live and work." Murray added that the Foundation awarded \$2.3 million to various 501(c)(3) organizations last year.

Also participating in the event were: Paul Coogan, Mayor, City of Fall River; Janet Barbosa, Director of Special Projects & Programs, Mayor Jon Mitchell's office, City of New Bedford; and representatives from the BCSCF advisory boards and the Bank's area branches.

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 were on the frontlines of the pandemic or experiencing hardship as a result.

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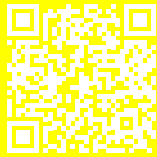
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# Governor Healey Launches Free Community College for Massachusetts Residents 25+

Governor Maura T. Healey recently launched MassReconnect, her administration's new program establishing free community college for Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older, and awarded \$100,000 to each of Massachusetts' 15 community colleges to support the quick implementation of the program this fall. Governor Healey was joined by Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Senate President Karen Spilka, Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler, Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega, and the community college presidents today at MassBay Community College's Wellesley Campus. During the event, the Healey-Driscoll Administration highlighted the first MassReconnect students at MassBay, celebrating the impact the program is expected to have for students across the state.

"MassReconnect will be transformative for thousands of students, for our amazing community colleges, and for our economy," said Governor Healey. "It will bolster the role of community colleges as economic drivers in our state and help us better meet the needs of businesses to find qualified, well-trained workers. We can also make progress in breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty by helping residents complete their higher education credentials so they can attain good jobs and build a career path. Our administration is grateful for the partnership of the Legislature to move forward on this critical program that will make our state more affordable, competitive and equitable."

"Our administration and our community college partners are ready to hit the ground running with MassReconnect this fall semester. We encourage any eligible students who might have been holding off on taking that final step to enroll to do so now to begin this next stage of their education and career," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "We are also proud to be setting our community colleges up for success by providing them each with \$100,000 for implementation of this lifechanging program."

"In Massachusetts, we know that getting an education is a key to the middle class, supporting a family, building a life, and pursuing a brighter future. In

this year's state budget, we thrust open the doors to those opportunities and countless others, by making community college free for people 25 and over, making nursing programs at community colleges free for all individuals, and setting our state on a path to universal free community college in 2024," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "These proposals are a major step towards the Senate's Student Opportunity Plan and are crucial to ensuring residents have the tools to build the futures they dream of—right here in Massachusetts. I am deeply grateful to Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Secretary Tutwiler, Commissioner Ortega, Senate Ways and Means Chair Michael Rodrigues, Senate Higher Education Committee Co-chair Jo Comerford, and Speaker Mariano, for making education a priority in Massachusetts."

"MassReconnect will create life-changing educational and career opportunities through free community college for qualifying residents at institutions such as Quincy College and at other community colleges across the Commonwealth, including for many residents from historically underserved communities. This program will also help to address key labor shortages, while ensuring that Massachusetts possesses a highly trained workforce that is prepared for the industries of the future," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank the Healey Administration, Chairman Michlewitz and my colleagues in the House, as well as Senate President Spilka and our partners in the Senate, for working to include this transformative program in the Commonwealth's FY24 budget."

Governor Healey invested \$20 million in MassReconnect for the first year of implementation in her first budget that she signed earlier this month. This funding covers the full cost of tuition and fees and includes an allowance for books and supplies at each of Massachusetts' 15 community colleges. Additionally, each community college will also receive \$100,000 from this funding to support student and community program awareness, staffing, and program administration. Quincy College also received \$1.5 million in the FY24 budget

to operate a similar program.

There is still time to enroll in MassReconnect for this fall. The only steps necessary to sign up are to enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges and complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid). There is no deadline to sign up. The majority of community college programs begin the first week of September, but there are scattered start dates throughout the semester, so students can enroll at any time.

In order to qualify for MassReconnect, students must be 25 or older on the first day of their classes and be a permanent Massachusetts resident for at least one year at the start of the enrolled term. The program is limited to residents who have not previously earned a college degree (associates or bachelor's) who enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate at a community college.

"There's no doubt that with MassReconnect we will be able to change the lives of each of the students who take advantage of this historic opportunity to achieve their degree," said Secretary of Education Tutwiler. "But beyond our students, this program will also strengthen the Commonwealth's economy and our public higher education system. By investing in our community college students, the Healey-Driscoll Administration is investing in the future of the Commonwealth."

MassReconnect will likely support up to 6,500-8,000 community college students in the first year, which could grow to closer to 10,000 students by FY25, depending on how many students take advantage of the new opportunity. They could include current students, new students, or returning students who did not complete their degree. There are approximately 700,000 Massachusetts residents who have some college credit but no degree. MassReconnect will help bring back these students to finish their degrees, with the additional funding and support they

may have been lacking the first time.

"With the Healey-Driscoll Administration's record-breaking investment in higher education, including the highest levels of support for financial aid and scholarships the Commonwealth has ever seen, we will be able to expand access to higher learning more than ever before. MassReconnect is the centerpiece of that effort," said Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education Ortega. "For all the Massachusetts adults out there who had to put their education on hold or didn't have the opportunity to pursue it in the first place, now is your chance to pursue a degree or certificate to advance your career and transform your life and that of your family."

The Commonwealth's 15 community colleges are a ticket to economic mobility for many Massachusetts residents, and thus are key drivers of our business and our economic success. Nationally, employees who have earned their associate degree are paid 18 percent more than workers with only a high school diploma, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And these well-paying jobs are just waiting to be filled—in July 2023 there were more than 26,000 unique job postings in the Commonwealth that specifically required an associate degree. MassReconnect will harness the power of our community colleges by allowing workers to earn the training and education necessary for their career growth and reinforcing our pipeline of skilled industry professionals entering the workforce.

"For adults coming to one of the fifteen community colleges across the Commonwealth, MassReconnect removes one of the biggest barriers to attendance: cost," said Jim Vander Hooven, president of Mount Wachusett Community College and chair of the Community College Council of Presidents. "By making community college completely free for any adult over 25 in Massachusetts without a degree, the Healey-Driscoll Administration is making an historic investment in our state's workforce and providing hundreds of thousands of adults with a clear pathway to a career."

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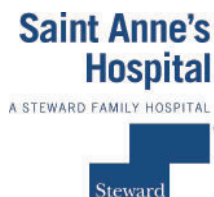
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