

VERSION 32.0

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Windows 10. iPhone 11. Nest 3. Garmin 7. Google Chrome 87.0.4280.88. Cheers to software versioning. Each upgrade has a new name or number so we can tell whether its hot off the assembly line or woefully obsolete. And each new version has enough improvements, innovations, (and hype) to get us excited about the next big thing.

It's time to take after the techies. Community foundation work isn't static. We are not the organization we were thirty years ago. We are constantly developing new ways to meet the needs of the community. We are constantly evolving to be more responsive, collaborative, inclusive, and

impactful across the region. The folks at Apple didn't sell 37.7 million units of the iPhone 11 in six months by keeping their latest iteration a secret. Neither should we.

Last year was an unprecedented year. It was also one of unprecedented growth. In 2020, while our assets grew by more than \$10 million, we distributed more than \$5.5 million in scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations. The pandemic spurred some increases and the creation of our [Strategic Emergency Response Fund](#). The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, regional foundations, business partners, and individual donors funneled resources through community foundations because we know how to deploy resources quickly and efficiently. In turn, our fundholders increased their own philanthropic activity to support the community, which also impacted our year-end distribution.

Pandemic aside, the Foundation has been on a solid trajectory of growth for the past three decades, distributing over \$80 million in grants and scholarships since inception.

It's a new year. It's an important year. This is Version 32.0, based on thirty-two years of experience and our very latest thinking. This is our new iteration, our "next big thing." I want you to be excited about what we have accomplished and what we can accomplish together with even more power, more connections, more grantmaking, and more collaborating in 2021. For our community's sake.

THE CAPE COD FOUNDATION: VERSION 32.0

MORE POWER

People power that is. In 2020, we increased our staff 30% and made three critical hires: Caitlin Abber, Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships Officer; Mary Beth Burwood, Scholarship Officer; and Helaine Goudreau, Program Officer. The growth has been part of our 3-year strategic plan; the pandemic accelerated the need to build the capacity of our team. [STAFF BIOS](#)

MORE CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY FORUMS

When individual conversations become collective conversations and collective efforts, we can drive social change further and faster. Our community and the nonprofit sector have changed considerably over the past year. In 2021, we will host several free forums with local experts to share information about community needs, challenges, progress, programs, resources, and opportunities. Our first will be a virtual forum about hunger and food insecurity on Thursday, February 25 at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited. We will record the session to share with those who cannot attend. Details to come.

CONNECTING CAPE COD

Early last year, we were poised to release “Connecting Cape Cod,” a follow-up to our 2009 report “Understanding Cape Cod.” The report summarized the greatest needs and challenges facing the region in 2019 and profiled the people, projects, and programs working to strengthen our community. While the report still has value, it needs context; we must view it through a “pandemic lens” now. The challenges we faced in 2019 have been exacerbated in 2020. Our community and the nonprofit sector have changed and will continue to change. We believe our community forums will help provide this context: where we were, where we are now, and where we need to go. Our final forum will summarize “lessons learned” through the pandemic and include a strategy to move forward as a community.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

If the pandemic taught us nothing else, it taught us that we work more effectively when we work together--locally and regionally. In 2020, we joined the newly formed Massachusetts Community Foundation Partnership to share ideas and information with experts from other foundations and leverage resources to support nonprofit organizations state-wide.

The goals of the partnership:

- Help nonprofit organizations strengthen their missions, programs, and capacities to stabilize, re-envision, and rebuild organizations and the sector
- Connect and strengthen community foundations so they can provide more impactful services to the sector
- Deepen our collective impact on critical social and economic issues facing our communities and the Commonwealth

MORE GRANTMAKING

IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING PANDEMIC RELIEF

We will continue to raise funds and award grants through our [Strategic Emergency Response Fund](#). From March-November, we raised \$1.5 million and distributed \$1.2 million to 43 nonprofit organizations supporting residents in need across the region.

In December, we launched our [“Respond, Rebuild & Reimagine” Matching Gift Challenge](#). If successful, the challenge will generate an additional \$1.5 million to respond to current community needs and help build the capacity of key nonprofit organizations for long-term sustainability. To date, we have raised \$980,000 and are \$520,000 away from reaching our goal. We will release the next round of grants later this month; additional waves of funding will follow.

CONCURRENT GRANTMAKING

We will re-open our Community Impact Grant Program in February with refined and simplified processes that complement our other grantmaking opportunities. In addition, in 2020 we received a [bequest nearing \\$6.4 million](#) from an anonymous donor to support the visual arts and other aspects of community life on Cape Cod. Grants from this fund will begin in March and, like our other grantmaking, will support both programs and capacity-building efforts.

MORE CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to rebuild our communities, we need to reimagine them. Over the next few months, we will unveil the next stage of our capacity-building program to help key, local nonprofit organizations reach the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity. This new opportunity will enable us to support organizations at two different phases of their capacity-building journey--planning and implementation--and will include a combination of funding, technical assistance, peer learning networks, and other resources.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The very last iPhone will be nothing like the first. Every version builds on the previous version. The same is true with the Foundation. The same is true with our community. Before we can rebuild it, we need to reimagine it. We need to work strategically, creatively, and collectively to get it to be the best version possible. This year. Next year. And all the years to follow.

There's an old adage: "When in doubt, do nothing." I'm more in tune with the late singer/songwriter and humanitarian Harry Chapin. His credo was "When in doubt, do something." His "something" was to fight to end world hunger. Here are a few possible "somethings" for you.

- Stay Connected. We'll continue to update you through monthly columns and eblasts.
- Attend/view our Community Forums. Information leads to transformation.
- Help us raise an additional \$1.5 million through our ["Respond, Rebuild & Reimagine" Matching Gift Challenge](#) for pandemic relief and nonprofit capacity-building.
- Support the Foundation's work by becoming a [Community Partner](#) or through a [planned gift](#).
- [Start a fund](#) or contribute to an [existing fund](#) to expand impact.
- Be a Foundation Ambassador. Share our work with others who might be interested.