Nomination of the Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club

This year, we proudly nominate the Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club itself for support and recognition. While many organizations highlight individual achievements, the work of the Boys & Girls Club on Martha's Vineyard has always been the result of a collective effort. Our impact is built by a team of dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, families, and community partners who work together every day to support the Island's young people.

For 89 years, the Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club has served as a cornerstone of the Island community. Generations of families have relied on the Club as a safe, welcoming place where young people can grow, learn, and build confidence. Today, the Club serves 437 families and welcomes an average of 100 youth each day through its doors.

Across Martha's Vineyard, the Club now reaches 45% of the Island's school-aged children, offering programs that support academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, leadership development, and mentorship. These programs are delivered by a committed team that believes deeply in the potential of every young person who walks through the door.

The Club's impact extends far beyond structured programming. Each week, more than 4,500 snacks and meals are provided to members, ensuring that children have access to reliable nutrition in a safe and supportive environment. During the winter months especially, when many Island families face seasonal economic challenges, the Club becomes an essential resource and gathering place for youth and families alike.

The reason we nominate the Club itself is simple: the success of our organization belongs to everyone involved. The staff who show up each day to mentor and guide our members. The volunteers who contribute their time and talents. The donors and community partners who believe in the mission and invest in the future of Island youth. And the families who trust the Club as a place where their children are safe, supported, and encouraged.

At this moment in the Club's history, the power of that collective effort is more visible than ever.

After decades of planning and community support, the Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club is now constructing a brand new 22,000-square-foot facility designed to serve Island youth for generations to come. Each day, the progress of this building can be seen as walls rise and the vision that began many years ago becomes reality.

This project is truly 89 years in the making. It represents the shared commitment of an entire community that believes strongly in investing in its children and strengthening the future of Martha's Vineyard.

The new Clubhouse will dramatically expand the Club's ability to serve the Island. The facility will include modern spaces designed for academic enrichment, leadership development, arts and creativity, athletics and wellness, and community gatherings. It will

allow us to reach even more families while deepening the quality and breadth of the programs already offered.

Just as importantly, the new facility will provide a year-round hub for youth development and mentorship on Martha's Vineyard. For working parents, it offers a reliable and enriching place for their children after school. For young people, it offers a welcoming environment where they are encouraged to explore their interests, build relationships, and develop confidence in themselves and their abilities.

The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club has always believed that the most meaningful progress happens when communities work together. The new clubhouse is the direct result of that belief in action. Individuals, families, businesses, and foundations across the Island have come together to support a project that will benefit generations of young people.

In that spirit, this nomination recognizes not a single person but an entire organization working together toward a shared purpose.

Financial institutions such as Martha's Vineyard Bank play an essential role in strengthening local communities. The Bank's commitment to supporting organizations that improve quality of life on the Island aligns closely with the mission of the Boys & Girls Club.

A Community Choice Grant will help support the tools, resources, and programming we use each day to support youth development and prepare for tomorrow. More importantly, this support represents an investment in the young people of Martha's Vineyard and in the community that surrounds them.

That is why we proudly nominate the Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club in its entirety.

Because the work is shared. Because the impact is collective. And because the future of the Island's youth is something our entire community builds together.