

Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation donates \$200,000 to help individuals and families on Martha’s Vineyard

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Martha’s Vineyard, MA Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation has completed a \$200,000 investment in the Martha’s Vineyard community through grants awarded to two local nonprofit organizations: Island Housing Trust and the YMCA of Martha’s Vineyard. These grants will support initiatives focused on youth programming, community engagement, and housing insecurity.

Island Housing Trust received a \$100,000 grant in support of Bellevue Veterans Community, a neighborhood of 12 affordable housing rental apartments in Oak Bluffs. This development is designed specifically for low- to moderate-income Island veterans and will include a dedicated community center offering wraparound services. These services will support residents with peer-to-peer social networks, mental health care, and food security resources.

The YMCA of Martha's Vineyard received a \$100,000 grant to expand its facilities and services to better address community needs. With a 24% increase in the year-round island population over the last decade, and approximately 85% of families relying on YMCA programming, the YMCA is currently serving over 1,200 individuals each day. To meet growing demand, the YMCA has developed an expansion plan that will double the facility's size.

The planned three-level addition will enhance opportunities for leadership development, physical wellness, and community connection. The new space will include two additional toddler rooms, additional group exercise studios, a training center, and a multi-purpose gymnasium with an elevated track, enabling collaboration with local schools and organized sports for Island youth.

"These grants reflect our deep commitment to investing in the organizations that support and strengthen the Island community," said Andrea Borowiecki, Vice President of Charitable Giving & Community Engagement at Rockland Trust. "Both the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard and Island Housing Trust are creating lasting change – from expanding essential youth programs to addressing the urgent housing needs of Island veterans. We are proud to support these initiatives and build a better tomorrow, not just for the individuals and families who live here today, but for generations to come."

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