CARE for the Cape & Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill Talladay

508-760-8187

[info@careforthecapeandislands.org](mailto:info@careforthecapeandislands.org)

[careforthecapeandislands.org](http://careforthecapeandislands.org/)

November 15, 2022

**CARE (Creating A Responsible Environment) for the Cape and Islands Announces: 2022 CARE Stewardship Awards.**

**Yarmouth Port, MA** – CARE’s 2022 Annual Stewardship Awards were presented November 3, during the Take Care Cape Cod Summit - Driving Change on the Cape & Islands: There is no ‘Away’ for Roadside Trash. The awards are presented to an organization/individual and a Youth/Youth Group that exhibits day-to-day practices that support CARE’s mission to preserve and protect the natural environment, culture and history of Cape Cod & the Islands.

This year’s award was presented to Hyannis photographer, Sarah Thornington for “A Year of Plastic”. Several years ago Sarah committed to a daily beach cleanup for a year that she began to document. She shared what she collected via social media and turned some of the beach trash into amazing art pieces.  Her art has been displayed throughout New England and beyond in order to educate the public and tell a story about its impact on our environment. It is her hope that this will have a positive impact upon people’s behavior to effect change.

The Youth Award was presented to the Falmouth High School Ecology Club. The club has been active for more than 30 years promoting environmental education and conservation. It began by collecting paper recycling within the school and has expanded significantly boasting many activities and accomplishments. Some of them include planting a pollinator path at the school, hosting a weekly TV show that provides environmental tips, conducting area cleanups and teaching other students about endangered species and habitats.

Some of CARE’s previous recipients include Compost With Me, Cape Cod Beer, Woods Hole Sea Grant, the Cape Abilities “Green Team”, Plastic Free MV and several local high school students. “Recognizing those within our community who are truly making a difference is one of the highlights of our work”, Jill Talladay, CARE’s founder and executive director explained.  “Through contributions of “time, talent and treasure” and mindful actions, this beautiful place will be preserved for future generations”.

The bi-annual summit held at Heritage Museums and Gardens featured two panel discussions that addressed the problem of roadside litter and solutions that would either prevent it or clean it up. One simple action that everyone can take to prevent unintentional littering is to make sure all trash is bagged tightly and that trash receptacles are not overfilled.

**ABOUT TAKE CARE CAPE COD**

Take Care is a messaging campaign that originated in Lake Tahoe and was introduced in 2019 to Cape Cod by CARE for the Cape & Islands. The messages are simple, eye-catching and humorous to encourage stewardship. For example, messages encourage proper disposal of dog waste, cigarette butts and general litter. Earlier this summer it introduced the three ARRR’s campaign using a friendly pirate that asks people to Reduce Reuse Recycle in order to reduce waste.

**ABOUT CARE FOR THE CAPE & ISLANDS**

CARE for the Cape & Island mission is to inspire stewardship to preserve and protect the natural environment, cultural and historical treasures of Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket.

Since 2012, CARE has

●      Activated 4,200+ volunteer hours (delivering $100k of value to the community) to clean up and improve community infrastructure.

●      Funded 50+ projects, including water filling stations, cigarette butt collectors, historical trail development and other amenities that benefit all of us.

●      Spearheaded the Take Care Cape Cod campaign and bi-annual summits that have brought together more than 70 like-minded organizations to educate, inspire and boost our collective impact and to address challenges of solid waste and plastic pollution that impacts our land and marine environments.

Learn more at<https://careforthecapeandislands.org/> and<https://takecarecapecod.org/>

Attached photos (photo credit Judith I. Selleck):

1.    2022 Award recipient Sarah Thornington, (L) and CARE Executive Director, Jill Talladay, (R)

2.    Falmouth HS Ecology Club students and their instructor, Chris Brothers, 7-12 Science Department Head