

The house that Bill built



KRISTIN O'MALLEY, PRESIDENT & CEO



THE HOUSE THAT BILL BUILT TOOK SEVEN YEARS TO COMPLETE AND COST \$63 MILLION. It has six kitchens, 24 bathrooms, and garage space for 23 cars. The pool house is bigger than my entire house. So is the gym (probably because of the trampoline). And, the reception hall is the perfect place for a plated dinner if you keep the guest list to 150.

Don't like the artwork? Push a button to change it. Too hot? Don't sweat it. The pin you're wearing interacts with the home's sensors to keep any room you're in at your perfect, pre-programmed temperature. The whole house is tech heaven.

If you haven't guessed by now, Bill is Microsoft guru Bill Gates. His Medina, Washington, estate, *Xanadu 2.0*, is named after the fictional home of Charles Foster Kane in "Citizen Kane," which was named after the ancient city of Xanadu, known for its opulence and splendor.

When it comes to *living*, Bill does exactly what you'd expect a billionaire to do. But when it comes to *giving*, Bill is changing lanes.

Back in 1999, this philanthropic powerhouse consolidated his efforts to create the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest private charitable enterprise. Last count, the Foundation's \$43 billion endowment was making headway tackling issues of poverty, literacy and disease across the globe. However, things really got interesting last November when Bill and several, high net-worth partners launched Co-Impact. This philanthropic collaborative intends to pool funds (about \$500 million to start) to drive social change further and faster.

In last month's "Blue Skies" column, I hinted about the Foundation's newest strategic initiative to leverage resources for increased impact. It's called *Cape Cod 2020: A New Vision for Our Community*. Its goal, like every other one of our initiatives, is simple: to improve the quality of life on Cape Cod.

The conversation about a new vision started five years ago. In 2013, we received a substantial unrestricted endowment gift, and in 2014, we celebrated our 25th anniversary. The significant, but unrelated events, sparked a new exchange about expanding the Foundation's impact across the region. Over the next three years, we met with community leaders,

nonprofit executives, industry experts and funders to identify areas where the needs are the greatest, but the resources are not as strong as they could be. Or need to be.

Last Fall, we brought our ideas to several community influencers and asked them to join a LOCAL philanthropic collaborative with us. Their receptivity was only surpassed by their generosity. Each committed to invest a minimum of \$5,000 over the next three to five years to create a large pool of discretionary funds for us to use to strategically and significantly impact two areas of the Cape community: Youth Development and Organizational Capacity-Building. To date, we have raised almost \$400,000 in new discretionary funds. Our goal is to reach \$1 million in five years.

In the next column, I'll tell you more about the two impact areas under this initiative and how they align with and advance all the other areas that the Foundation has supported for decades, and will continue to support for many years to come.

Until then, back to Bill. I have a small bone to pick with him. I'm sure launching his strategic global collaborative, Co-Impact, before ours wasn't intended to steal our local thunder, but a little heads up would have been appreciated. And, truth be told, when faced with a big decision here at the Foundation, I have wondered from time to time "what would Bill do?" I pretty sure now, though, that given the lane we're in, if I asked Bill for advice, he'd probably say, "Keep doing what you're doing."



Kristin O'Malley
President and CEO

BE PART OF THE VISION

We are looking for Visionaries who want to empower us to drive social change intelligently, responsibly and effectively throughout the Cape. You don't have to be billionaire, a millionaire or even a thousandaire! You don't have to donate a certain amount or make a multi-year commitment. You just need to be committed to change.

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