



When they were in their twenties, Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic, Thomas Edison made the first phone call, and a young Dane named Bohr published a theory of the atom which rocked the physics world. At 24, William Pitt became Britain's youngest prime minister; at 25, J. K. Rowling started a wizardly empire; and at 29, Elizabeth Taylor became the highest paid actress in Hollywood when she signed a \$1 million contract to take Cleopatra down the Nile. And, during their second decades, Steve Jobs founded an Apple empire and Bill Gates began his long Microsoft rule.

When I was in my twenties, I started drinking coffee. I also learned that if you push hard enough, you really can get a sleeper sofa up the 5 narrow flights of stairs of a Beacon Hill apartment building. The coffee probably helped. Kidding aside, in my twenties, I graduated from college, took a solo trip to Finland without knowing a *sana* of Finnish (a *quiet* adventure), commuted from Boston to the Cape regularly in the summer (*quite* an adventure), got married, and got a dog. I also joined The Cape Cod Foundation, which is now in the first days of its thirtieth year.

Just as the Roaring Twenties was a period of growth and prosperity for the nation, the Foundation experienced accelerated growth during its second decade as well. Bottom line, we doubled our assets (now over \$60 million) and distributed more than \$30 million back into the community in the form of grants and scholarships. While, it will always be tempting to be "29 again," we're ready to tank up on coffee, take on our thirties, and make an even bigger impact in the community in the years to come.

To date, we've raised \$400,000 in new discretionary funds for our Vision 2020 initiative. Our goal is to reach \$1 million in three years. The funds will be used to strategically and significantly impact two areas of the Cape community: Youth Development and Nonprofit Organizational Capacity-Building.

Last year, my columns focused on our capacity-building initiatives, what we are doing to help bring nonprofit organizations to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity. These include awarding Strategic Focus Grants to nonprofits for capacity-building projects,

creating development opportunities for nonprofit leaders, providing shared resources, and forging partnerships and alliances with broad, regional impact. As always, we'll continue to share news on these fronts with you.

We're also rolling out our Youth Development initiatives this year. To start, we've made a multi-year commitment (our first!) to invest \$150,000 in Y Achievers, a program of YMCA Cape Cod. The super-successful program for young people ages 12-18 focuses on post-secondary education and career exploration. It's in its fourth year at Barnstable High School and recently expanded to Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. Stay tuned! We'll also continue to identify and invest in other local youth organizations that are working to expand their impact in the community.

Soon, we'll share even more **news**: new grants, new scholarships, new funds, new business partnerships, and a new study to learn more about the needs of our community. We'll also let you know what our Town Funds are up to.

Yes, it's a new year. A happy new year. Our thirtieth year. Join the celebration. It's all about making a difference in our community. Together.