

My Home Town



KRISTIN O'MALLEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO



Some people think you can't go home again. I don't. I grew up in Dennis. (Ok, I know. It's a very short trip, but that's not the point of this story.) See, whenever I hang out in my home town, I still get all those warm and fuzzy feelings of childhood. No matter how many things have changed there over the years, my feelings haven't. Going home still gives me goosebumps.



I grew up down the street from Captain Frosty's, home of the most heavenly, chocolate-vanilla-twist ice cream on the planet. It was also home to Pepper, my devoted dumpster-diving dog. No joke. The folks at Frosty's called us almost daily to come pick up our four-legged, fried-food fiend.

I made seaweed pudding at a 4-H camper on Corporation Beach. (Don't knock it 'til you try it.) I also spent many hours looking for my brother's lost baby teeth in the sand. I'm not sure why, but if you plunked that kid down by the shore and gave him a bologna sandwich, we'd eventually wind up searching for the proof the tooth fairy required for her under-pillow payout.

I also had my first brush with fame in Dennis. Gavin McLeod (Captain Merrill Stubing from the 1980s TV series, *The Love Boat*) sailed into a Bandstand Concert and autographed, of all things, my popcorn bag. That silly souvenir hung on my bedroom wall for many, many years.

Most people have good memories of their home town. Most people call many towns *home* during their lifetime. I live in Barnstable now, and we're making great memories there. I think people are geo-centric by nature. We need a sense of "place," and we want that place to be everything it can be. For us. For everyone who lives there.

That's how our Town Funds came about. A group of Falmouth residents started fundraising to create a permanent, growing endowment for the town's future. This year, the Fund will award up to \$100,000 to nonprofit organizations serving its community. Earlier this year, The Chatham Fund, established in 2011, awarded \$27,000 to local nonprofits, and in November, The Fund for Sandwich will award its inaugural grants. Murray Rust, one of our founders, used to say, "We are not smart enough to know what the needs of the future will be, but we are smart enough to know that we need to plan for them." And we have a great start.

I know you love your town. Whether it's your home town or your *home-for-now* town, it will always be special. It will also always have immediate and long-term needs. A Town Fund is a powerful way to meet those needs. Every year, our Town Funds generate revenue to put back into the community through grants. Every year, the endowment continues to grow to meet the needs for the next year...and the next. In perpetuity. It's a gift that keeps giving.

Please take a moment to read the current Town Updates in this issue of *The Hub* and see how the Town Funds are making an impact in each community. If you'd like, you can donate to any of our Town Funds in any amount at any time. If your town doesn't have a Fund, creating one is just a grassroots movement away. Watch this short [video](#) for some background, and then give me a call. There's a well-blazed trail for your home town. I can help you follow it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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