



THE CAPE COD FOUNDATION May 2017



You Can't Play Hockey In High Heels

Kristin O'Malley, President and CEO

Last winter, I became a new mom: a *hockey* mom. Every Tuesday and Friday I raced out of the office to pick up my 4-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter for practice at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center rink. To be honest, I looked totally out of place in full business attire and seriously hoped there would never be a parental duty requiring me to skitter across the ice in 3-inch high heels. The kids, however, were expertly outfitted. Somewhere under the helmets, jerseys, pants, socks, gloves, elbow pads, shoulder pads and shin guards were 30 super-excited kids on skates wielding sticks. Scary? Somewhat. But every week they had the equipment--and the coaching--they needed to power up their game. And they did.

As I sat in that icy cold rink for 5 months watching the kids not just excel but *thrive*, I thought about our work at the Foundation, specifically our new Strategic Leadership Platform. We've been moving towards a new way to help nonprofits expand capacity by giving them the resources and opportunities they need to positively impact life on Cape Cod. We're doing this through Civic Leadership (more about that next month) and strategic grantmaking.

Because the Foundation's purview is regional and all-inclusive, donors have entrusted us with funds to use at our discretion in six key areas. We not only fund specific capacity-building requests from local nonprofits; we also actively look for opportunities to set into motion that wouldn't be possible without resources behind them.

For example, earlier this year, we awarded \$48,500 in [strategic grants](#) to five local nonprofits with very different needs--everything from advanced technology to additional personnel. Why? Because you can't play hockey in high heels. You need the right equipment to build a winning team and execute a game plan. We gave these nonprofits the metaphorical elbow pads, shin guards and hockey sticks they needed to power up important programs, services and collaborations. And that's a very powerful assist--on and off the ice.

There's power in numbers. Help us reinvent grantmaking--and make a greater impact on Cape Cod together--with your gift to [The Community Fund](#) today.

komalley@capecodfoundation.org
508-790-3040

NEXT MONTH: What Princess Poppy Taught Me About Civic Leadership

