



community development partnership

Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape

Supporter Highlight: Angelina Bologna adds a resident's perspective to CDP Board

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Angelina Bologna
CDP Board Member



CDP resident, donor and Board Member Angelina Bologna knows how important the Community Development Partnership's work is to the Lower Cape. Angelina is a single mother of a 17- and 2-year old, as well as a small business owner in Chatham. The challenge of providing housing that is safe and affordable for her family, coupled with the struggle of building a sustainable business, has been at the forefront of Angelina's life for years.

A licensed massage therapist, the backbone of Angelina's business plan is to offer massages at a reduced rate, particularly to individuals who need them for pain management and therapeutic reasons. "Many people cannot afford to pay \$100 for an hour and it was extremely important to me that I focus my business on this group of clients," says Angelina. Originally working for a spa, she felt it would be more advantageous to work on her own and started Hands of an Angel Healing in 2013. In 2016 she joined the Chatham Wellness Center.

Her ability to launch her own business was directly correlated to being able to move into affordable housing at Thankful Chases Pathway in Harwich, a development of the CDP. She and her oldest daughter moved into Thankful Chases in 2010 and still live there today.

In 2015, Angelina became a member of the Board of Directors after meeting Jay Coburn, CEO of the CDP, while participating in the Cape Cod Young Professionals Mentor Exchange program. At one of the monthly networking events, they struck up a conversation during which Jay learned she was a

3 Main Street Mercantile, Unit 7 Eastham, MA 02642
P 508.240.7873 F 508.240.5085 E contact@capecdp.org

www.capecdp.org



resident of Thankful Chases. Jay felt that she would be a valuable asset to the Board, bringing a fresh perspective as a client and helping the Board to better represent the people served by the organization. Angelina agreed to Jay's offer of becoming a Board member and is now serving her second term.

"I definitely didn't realize the scope of the work that the CDP does," says Angelina. "There is a real commitment to helping the underdog." She adds, "Small business is the backbone of the economy on Cape Cod and it's a real challenge. I also love the passion and dedication the CDP has to making things sustainable here with an eye to the future." This desire is also personal as Angelina adds, "I would love for my older daughter to come back to the Cape after college and for there to be a successful economy for her to participate in and a place that was affordable for her to live."

Of all the things the CDP does, it is the efforts around advocacy and education (such as the Lower Cape Community Housing Partnership) that Angelina feels are some of the most important work. "It is a really strong aspect of the organization, and it is critical. You can work on the ground until you're blue in the face - but if you're not engaging the rest of the community it makes it very difficult to move forward and make lasting change."

Also a member of the CDP's monthly giving program, Angelina finds it makes giving extremely easy. "I can budget for \$10 or \$20 a month, but if I had to give that total amount in one gift it could be overwhelming." Angelina adds, "I also have it automatically deducted from my bank account which means I don't even have to think about it, so it is extremely convenient."

We are grateful to Angelina for her dedication to the CDP through her work on the Board and through her monthly gifts which help to secure the CDP's financial future.