



community development partnership

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

Serving the Community Comes from Knowing the Struggles

“I want to work on solutions that address our housing challenges and help to create jobs... I want a vibrant and sustainable outer Cape.”

Raphael Richter
Owner, Mercedes Cab Company, Inc.
and CDP Board Member



Vida and Raphael Richter with their son in front of their new home.

Raphael Richter understands the challenges that go along with being a business owner and trying to find an affordable home on the Lower Cape. “It all dovetails for me,” says Richter. He and his wife Vida, who is also a local business owner, are also parents of a young child and have just moved in to their new home. With so much going on, it would be reasonable to think Richter would take some time off as the busy season has come to a close. Not so, Richter has always been deeply engaged in the community as a former Select Board and Finance Committee Member in Provincetown and now as a member of the CDP’s Board of Directors.

The Richters have deep rooted connections to the outer and lower Cape. They both attended Provincetown High School and lived in Provincetown until just recently. Raphael is the grandson of Barbara Rushmore, a well-known Provincetown activist and Vida’s parents began Global Gifts, one of the oldest businesses still running in Provincetown.

The couple have business ties of their own. Raphael owns Mercedes Cab Company, Inc., the parent company of Cape Cab and The Funk Bus. He is also co-owner of Mayflower Trolley, Inc. Vida is the co-owner of Nor-East Beer Garden, a popular eatery and pub right on Commercial Street.

Despite all their connections, Richter makes no bones about the problem of housing, especially in Provincetown. The work the CDP does on affordable housing was one of the reasons why he wanted to become more involved with us. “The outer Cape is faced with a housing shortage that is driving young people away and making it difficult for employers to staff their businesses due to the lack of housing. Working with CDP was a way in which I could have a direct impact.” In fact, Raphael and Vida

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moved numerous times before they were able to secure an apartment. And once they decided it was time for their own home, it took a really patient real estate agent helping them on a search spanning four years, 50+ showings, and numerous failed offers before they found a suitable option. They even considered leaving the Cape. One thing was certain, buying or building in Provincetown was not an option, even for this young couple with successful businesses.

Eventually the pair was lucky enough to find an affordable lot in Truro, where they just finished building a modular home. They've only been there a few weeks but are already quite content and looking forward to making it a family gathering spot for years to come.

Richter feels that his own experiences, both as a home buyer and as a local, successful entrepreneur with longtime ties to the area, help him serve the CDP board with dedicated energy and commitment and he looks forward to many years of involvement.

“People on the edge need a little extra help, including first time home buyers and the CDP does a lot to help in that area,” he says. He is also a fan of the Business and Credit Programs. “I had a lot of mentors along the way,” he said. “The loan program the CDP offers to small businesses is one of the best programs around.”

Raphael has been generous with his support for the CDP, donating shuttle services for special events through his business, Mayflower Trolley. He said that serving on the board is “in line with what I want to do in the community. I want to work on solutions that address our housing challenges and help to create jobs which is important to me. I want a vibrant and sustainable outer Cape.”



Richter's Mayflower Trolley shuttles riders, from the Last Gasp charitable bike ride, into Provincetown.