



community development partnership

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

Supporter Spotlight: Anne Sigsbee and Cecil Newcomb

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Anne Sigsbee
CDP Supporter



“My history with the CDP goes way back,” says Anne Sigsbee. In 1993, she and her husband Andy, who died in 2012, moved to Eastham from Worcester with their 8-year-old daughter. “We had these wonderful neighbors, Joe and Sandy Bayne, who immediately started connecting us with a number of non-profits on the Cape.” The Community Development Partnership was among the first that caught their attention.

“When we first arrived and started working here we soon realized why there were so many social service organizations serving the Lower and Outer Cape,” recalls Anne. “It became apparent to me that

there were two worlds on the Lower Cape – one in which people were comfortable and another where people struggled.” Anne soon found herself supporting and volunteering at several non-profits including Cape Cod Children’s Place (CCCP), where she served as a Board member, and the Lower Cape Outreach Council (LCOC).

Anne recently retired from her career as a rheumatologist and was remarried three years ago to Cecil Newcomb, an Orleans local and Select Board member. In a heartwarming tale of fate, the two had been high school sweethearts whose lives went in different directions during the Vietnam War. Fifty years later both Anne and Cecil found themselves at the The Chocolate Sparrow. They reconnected and Cecil began helping at the annual Waffle breakfast and LCOC fundraiser that Anne and her late husband had started 20 years earlier. It was at that same holiday event Cecil and Anne held a flash mob wedding. Soon after, Cecil ran for Select Board with a platform that prioritized housing and addressing the needs of local families. “Although we had already been supporting the organization,” recalls Anne, “we now came to the CDP as a leader in this area and as a way to learn more about the

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critical housing problem facing the region.” Anne noted that “the CDP has grown significantly in its outreach, competency, and stability and it is recognized as the go to place when it comes to housing and economic development issues.”

Anne says she and her husband Cecil support the CDP because “this part of the world is not going to survive by just purely loving it and the CDP is trying to keep the people who want to live here working and those who want to work here living in a stable and safe place.” When the Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) program was established in 2014, which provides a 50% tax credit to anyone who gives a gift of \$1000 or more, it enabled Anne and Cecil to support the CDP’s work in a way that maximized their impact. “I am delighted that I am in a position to support the CDP because it is making a difference. Just the training and education of our local leaders is invaluable.” Anne is referring to the Cape Housing Institute, a component of the Lower Cape Community Housing Partnership which the CDP created in 2018 to help address the need for more affordable housing on the Lower Cape.

Anne not only helps to promote the efforts of the CDP but serves on the Medical Reserve Corps as well as the Recreation Advisory Committee in Orleans. She is excited about the possibility of creating an intergenerational space in the form of a recreational and community center. In a statement that reflects the CDP’s commitment to nurturing diverse communities, Anne notes that “While there is a focus on families it is so important that we include our seniors. We cannot lose the inter-generational component which creates community and diversity.”

The importance of supporting a diverse community is underscored by the current housing market which has been on fire as a result of the pandemic. More people are buying second homes, and homeowners are either staying longer or staying permanently, which both reduces inventory and drives prices even higher. “What we are starting to see now is a kind of gentrification of the Lower Cape where people who can afford to live here are driving up the prices,” says Anne. “With increased second homeownership, we run the risk of losing of our sense of community and an understanding of who are our neighbors.”

The CDP leads the Lower Cape in building a diverse year-round community of people who can afford to live, work and thrive here. And a diverse, year-round community is what attracts second home owners and retirees to put down roots in the Lower Cape. Thanks to support from donors such Anne and Cecil the CDP’s work to preserve the vibrancy of this community continues.