



community development partnership

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

Sally Digges...a career in building communities

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Sally Digges
Member, CDP Advisory Council

CDP Advisory Council member and supporter Sally Digges understands community development better than most. A native of Baltimore, Sally worked for the city as a city planner, responsible for supervising neighborhood planning, transitional housing for homeless families, economic development, and coastal resources for over 15 years.

Sally also worked for a non-profit developing rental housing for low to middle income residents, people living with AIDS, and individuals with special needs. Her last position prior to retirement in 2004, was administering a national program for the Hauser Center for Nonprofits at Harvard Center in which she worked with Executive Directors of non-profit housing organizations to develop leadership and planning skills.

It is accurate to say that she has spent her life in housing and community development.



After retiring in 2004, Sally and her husband Jim, an architect, summered on the Cape for the next twelve years. Then, in 2014, they decided to set down new roots and moved to Eastham. “We really liked it here and wanted to try something new,” she says. “We were attracted to the scale and the sense of community that was so prevalent.”

Once settled, Sally began to explore opportunities to get involved with the local non-profits. Her interests range from the arts and education, to housing and community development. At this point, however, Sally was “a bit burned out on housing” so she began with serving on the Board of the Cape Cod Children’s Place (CCCP) in 2017. Sally “remembers what it was like to work and raise my children when there were virtually no daycare.” It also resonated with the work she had done with families in the rural areas outside of Baltimore.

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Last year another CDP Advisory Council member introduced Sally to the CDP and to its CEO, Jay Coburn. Sally reflects that at their meeting “I was intrigued by the economic development work the CDP was doing. I was also extremely impressed by the results of the Housing Institute.” She believes the goals and approaches used by the Institute could be co-opted for other efforts. “I have suggested that we use it as a model for climate change,” says Sally.

Last year Sally and Jim also became Community Investors, taking advantage of the CDP’s Community Investment Tax Credit Program.

As she is both on the Board of the CCCP and the Advisory Council of the CDP, Sally is excited about the strategic partnership between these two organizations and Homeless Prevention Council that was announced in late November 2018. The linkage between social services and housing is not unfamiliar as she worked for the non-profit St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center in Baltimore, which connected families with the social services and housing they needed.

In regards to the alliance, Sally is brimming with optimism. “I think it is overdue and this marks a terrific first effort,” says Sally. While she is cautious and notes that “It is a challenge to preserve the unique character of each organization while still collaborating,” she stresses that “There is an open and collaborative feeling between the two organizations and a sense of ‘come one let’s get going’.”

In the end, it is about the change you are able to effect, says Sally. “The great thing about the Cape is that it is small. You can actually have an impact, and that’s really nice.”