



**For immediate release**

March 8, 2012

## **Falmouth Housing Trust Announces Grant & Foundation Support!**

The Falmouth Housing Trust announced earlier this week the receipt of the following grants and foundations from local funders;

The Falmouth Housing Trust received \$3,000 from the Herb Willett Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation for general program support. "The Willett Foundation Grant Committee is guided by the giving philosophy of its founder, Herbert L. Willett, III, a thoughtful and generous philanthropist. He sought ways to help improve the lives of Falmouth residents, favoring support of fundamental needs for shelter, medical services, education, and enrichment. Led by his example, the Grant Committee recognizes the important work being done by the Falmouth Housing Trust and is pleased to help support its mission," said local estate attorney, Jodee Bishop, Chairperson of the grant review committee.

"Thankful, appreciative, and supported is how we feel," said Falmouth Housing Trust Board President, Addie Drolette. "So much of what we do is unfunded, and is done because it is the right thing to do for the Falmouth community, whether it is working with municipal government on monitoring, new unit creation, or the sober house issue. We do it because we care and we take our mission and role very seriously," she continued, "every once in a while it is nice to get a pat on the back, and the financial support we've received is that and then some! It will allow us to improve and increase what we do, how we do it, and who we are able to help find decent, safe, affordable housing."

The Falmouth Housing Trust is a proud recipient of the 2012 funding round of the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation, and was awarded \$1,500 to finish the Falmouth Housing Trust web site, which will include an extensive affordable housing referral section for Falmouth residents and a listing of available housing units. Part of the grant allows for the purchase of software and training on its use to allow the Trust staff to update their site themselves, which will save resources and provide more current content and information.

"It is difficult to put into words the feeling I had after The Falmouth Fund's 3rd annual grant review meeting. For nearly three hours, 16 committee members deliberated over 36 grant proposals totaling \$127,220. The Advisory Board had allotted \$30,000 for the 2012 grant distribution and the committee members were determined to award the money as

equitably as possible. Our committee ranges in age from 30 to 80+ and from varied backgrounds and careers. The discussion, the thoughtfulness, the respect of one another's opinion and the caring would make the greater community proud. The Falmouth Housing Trust's request for web site development, including a page for affordable housing in Falmouth was well received by the Committee. The members could see this being a resource for individuals, and for other agencies helping individuals find appropriate housing," said Eileen Miskell, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation.

The Falmouth Housing Trust was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Technical Assistance Program of the Cape Cod Commission, to fund a facilitator to lead the Falmouth Housing Trust through the Strategic Planning process.

"In this challenging time for affordable housing organizations, the Commission is pleased that we are able to assist FHT in its strategic planning process. It is important that organizations periodically take the time to review the opportunities that exist that best enable them to achieve their mission," said Paul Ruchinskas, Affordable Housing Specialist for the Cape Cod Commission in Barnstable County.

In mid-February Mass Housing's Center for Community Recovery Initiatives announced the award of \$68,213 to preserve affordable sober housing in Boston and Falmouth. The Falmouth Housing Trust, owner of the Gerald Flynn House located on Palmer Avenue, received \$25,213 to help preserve seven units of affordable sober housing for men and women. The funding will support the purchase and installation of replacement windows that are both historically correct and energy efficient. The Flynn House is located in one of Falmouth's seven historic districts.

The grant is a match for funds previously raised by the Falmouth Housing Trust. Past support came from the Kelley Foundation, the Austin Foundation, the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, the Future Hope Foundation, and the Woods Hole Foundation, and has allowed for improvements to floors, bathrooms, the pink granite foundation and chimney, roof replacement, painting and electrical work.

"Having an affordable place to live in a sober setting and receiving effective support services is critical for people trying to overcome substance abuse," said MassHousing Executive Director Thomas R. Gleason. "These CCRI grants are an important funding resource in helping people overcome their addictions."

The Falmouth Housing Trust was officially incorporated in 1991, and organized in 1986 under Massachusetts General Law as a Community Development Corporation tasked with combating homelessness and promoting individual home ownership for persons of low to moderate income. The Falmouth Housing Trust is responsible for the completion of two local neighborhoods designated as 100% affordable with a total of 24 homes. The Trust acts as an

independent monitoring agent during the resale of affordable housing stock for the Town of Falmouth and reports annually to the state, county and local government.

In 1994 the Falmouth Housing Trust purchased the Gerald Flynn House, located at 170 Palmer Avenue in Falmouth, from the U.S. Veteran's Administration, who had previously owned and operated the property as a half-way house for alcoholic U.S. Veterans. The Flynn House is operated as a drug free supervised sober house for the chronically homeless and dually diagnosed population. A contract with the Gosnold Treatment Center provides for a live-in House Manager and case management services for residents. The Falmouth Housing Authority manages the federal Housing Assistance Payment for tenants living at the property and assists in annual federal reporting and compliance. U.S. Veterans and Falmouth residents received preferential placement in the program.

For more information on the Falmouth Housing Trust, or the Gerald Flynn House, consult their web site, [www.FalmouthHousingTrust.org](http://www.FalmouthHousingTrust.org) or contact the Trust via email, [info@FalmouthHousingTrust.org](mailto:info@FalmouthHousingTrust.org), or by telephone, 508-540-2370.