

Gifts without season

Dancing For A Cure ballerinas, Shayla Stewart, Centerville, Rachel Harris, Marstons Mills, and Erin Dow, Centerville, helped raise funds to battle cancer.

FOR THESE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, THE JOY OF GIVING LASTS ALL YEAR LONG.

Cape Cod has more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations. Add to that number the nonprofit groups located on the islands and just over the bridges, and you have an enormous cadre of workers – many of them volunteers – who are filling gaps in critical areas that include affordable housing, the environment, hunger, and health-care. Below are seven of these groups, a small sampling but enough to demonstrate the great work that local nonprofits are accomplishing. Now, at the threshold of the holiday season, is a perfect time to show your support for these charities and your other favorite causes.

text by mary grauerholz



Dancing for a Cure Dance Designs of Hyannis

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Dancing For A Cure's holiday show will be held December 18 and 19 at Knight Auditorium, Hyannis.

What started as one woman's quest to help her best friend diagnosed with ovarian cancer has blossomed into an official fundraising arm of Friends of Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In 2006, Susan Mendoza Friedman, owner of Dance Designs of Hyannis, was desperate to help her best friend Karen. Being a dancer and not a scientist, she knew raising money for research through dance was what she could do best. This is how Dancing for a Cure was born.

A DFAC planning committee formed and grew, with a quarter of the current membership comprised of Cape Cod breast cancer survivors. The first DFAC holiday benefit was held in the Dance Designs studio and raised approximately \$5,000. All involved were thrilled.

But that was just the beginning.

By 2008, the holiday event had grown into a full-scale show at Barnstable High School, with community merchants and restaurants hosting various DFAC benefits all year long. To date, DFAC has raised over \$50,000 for Friends of Dana Farber. Initially, the Friends were just the benefactor of the money, earmarked for cutting-edge research to cure breast and ovarian cancer. This past spring,

the Friends unanimously voted to make Dancing for a Cure an official Friends' fundraiser, one of four they sponsor each year.

The fifth annual DFAC Holiday show will take place December 18 and 19 at Knight Auditorium in Hyannis. A Dance Marathon is also planned for March 12, 2011 at the Hyannis Middle School.

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay

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Mission: The Coalition for Buzzards Bay is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research, and advocacy.

The Coalition's work spans the watershed from the Westport Rivers to the waters of Cape Cod. Accomplishments include the protection of more than 4,000 acres of land that are critical to the health of the bay, advocating for smart growth and development throughout the watershed, and documenting the declining health of the bay. The Baywatchers volunteer group monitors water quality.



The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has protected thousands of acres crucial to the ongoing health of the bay.