



2017 Cape Youth Force Grantees

The 2017 Cape Youth Force Committee was composed of students at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School who are interested in making the community a better place by supporting projects that positively affect youth on Cape Cod.

The Cape Youth Force Committee sought proposals from schools, after-school programs, and organizations or groups that work with teenagers on Cape Cod, with a preference for projects and programs in the mid-Cape area. Priorities for 2017 included projects and programs that:

- Support animal welfare and protection
- Support community centers and recreational facilities for youth
- Offer services for drug awareness and substance abuse prevention
- Provide mental health services and support

The 2017 Cape Youth Force grantees are:

Cold Noses Foundation, Inc. was awarded \$500 to support free microchipping for dogs at the Paws at the Beach Pet Festival on September 23rd, 2017. Free microchipping will promote responsible pet ownership and help keep Cape Cod dogs from becoming lost and ending up in the shelter. With a microchip, the animal can be scanned at the shelter and the owners contact information will be provided, allowing for a quick reunion. All shelters check new intakes for microchips. Microchips are more reliable than collars or tags as collars and tags can fall off or wear out before an owner notices.

Shea's Youth Basketball Association was awarded \$500 to support the basketball program. Shea's YBA is a youth development program that primarily utilizes volunteers to provide free programs including basketball leagues, mentoring services, and community outreach projects that educate participants on the importance of camaraderie, responsibility, teamwork, sacrifice, and respect for self and others. SYBA serves boys and girls ages 11–16 from all over Cape Cod free of charge, with a special focus on including and recruiting at risk and underprivileged youth in Barnstable County. Participants are served through a winter basketball league at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center, a coed summer league with two age divisions held at the outdoor courts behind the HYCC, community service projects held throughout the year, optional tutoring services, by addressing important social issues, by exposing participants to positive mentors and role models, and by having seasoned guest speakers to share messages of wisdom and perseverance to encourage participants and to assist them in making healthy choices.

Cape Youth Force is a program of The Cape Cod Foundation and Barnstable County UMass Extension/4H. This program was originally started with funding from Massachusetts Environmental Trust, and now is funded by local contributions and the Community Fund for Young People & the Fund for Youth Activities, both funds of The Cape Cod Foundation.