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Groundbreaking For New Vineyard House Campus Takes Place May 5.

Successful Capital Campaign funds new sober living campus in Tisbury.

April 16, 2014 – Vineyard House has announced that the Groundbreaking Ceremony for its new campus on Short Hill Road in Tisbury will be held at the building site 10 am, Monday, May 5.

“As a result of the dedication and generosity of our capital campaign donors and the support of our community, Vineyard House starts a new chapter in our mission to provide safe, structured, sober housing for Vineyard men and women in early recovery from drug and alcohol abuse,” says Board president Mark Jenkins. “This new campus replaces the three older houses with one efficient campus, specifically designed to meet the needs of its population. Islanders who want to give up alcohol or drugs need the support of other sober individuals in the first months to replace their old habits and friends with new healthier ones. More than a sober house, Vineyard House is a safe haven for Islanders to develop the sober living skills to make it successfully in recovery.”

Vineyard House was founded in 1997 to address the unique needs of the Island population struggling with substance abuse. Founders Hazel Teagan RN, CAC, Charlie Silberstein MD, Sandy Broyard MSW, and Clarence “Trip” Barnes created the 501c(3) to manage the first house (VH1), a gift from Julie Norman. The generosity of Wally and Marge Scheuer helped Vineyard House buy its second house very soon after opening VH1. Thanks to its lean volunteer-based operations, Vineyard House was able to purchase its third home for the exclusive use of women.

As the costs and limitations of using traditional houses for group living became insurmountable, plans for a new campus took shape. Jerry Goodale sold land at below market rate as a gesture of his support for Vineyard House's mission, and the capital campaign received an enormous boost with a gift of \$500,000 from a benefactor. The capital campaign went dormant through the economic downturn but was revived by a challenge grant in September 2012 under the leadership of its new campaign chair, Mary Nada. "Support from the community was steady so we took our time fundraising to avoid risky arrangements to build quickly," explains Mary. "Vineyard House addresses the Island's most pressing health problem - addiction. Support from Islanders and seasonal friends increased as the extent of the problem dominated the headlines and touched more families directly." Then in September 2013 Vineyard House received a \$75,000 show of support from the Massachusetts Housing Office via a one-time Center for Community Recovery Innovations (CCRI) grant, the only public funding. Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$250,000 late in 2013, the finish line came into sight. By January 2014 revenue in the Vineyard House Capital Campaign account from donations and the projected sale of the three houses was sufficient to fund the project. Squash Meadow Construction was selected to build the new campus based on plans by Mashek MacLean Architects, designers of the MV Hospital and the YMCA.

The new consolidated campus, designed specifically for group living, provides accommodations for 17 men and 7 women, larger common areas to encourage healthy interactions, and an administration building with room for public 12 step meetings. Both the men's and women's houses will be certified by the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in energy and Environmental Design) for Homes program. LEED certification involves rigorous third party verification to ensure a high performance, sustainable and energy efficient building. The hilltop location is convenient to public transportation and shopping, the energy efficient buildings were designed to reduce operational costs.

Supporters of Vineyard House interested in attending the Groundbreaking Ceremony are asked to RSVP to Managing Director Dawn Bellante Holand at 1.508.693.8580.

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