

North Family Trust – Blue Access For All Project

Grant Donor: The North Family Trust

Grantee: Clean Ocean Access

Value: \$1000

Time: 2018 – 2019

Grant Overview:

The Blue Access for All project is a new project that compliments the Aquidneck Island Experiential Environmental Education (AIEEE) initiative, an innovative approach that leveraged the highly successful decade of Clean Ocean Access environmental science programs with our more recent environmental education efforts to create an experiential environmental education opportunity, that sustains long-lasting benefits for the entire island, and develops the next generation of ocean stewards. The efforts have covered topics including watershed model, nutrient pollution, impacts of water pollution, reducing water pollution, marina trash skimmers, marine debris pollution, environmental stewardship, overfishing, hazardous waste and noise pollution. The Blue Access for All project will connect underserved youth to the coastline along the Cliff Walk, Newport Harbor Walk, waterfront and watershed, inspiring and motivating the students to get outside in nature, maintain a healthy life-style, and connect with local environments through the educational activities provided in this program. Each youth will receive a reusable water bottle, team t-shirt, healthy snacks, backpack, and a journal. During the activities along the shoreline, time will be spent to educate the youth about the benefits of an active lifestyle, a healthy diet, and connection with the ocean and coastline. –This grant will allow us to purchase the supplies necessary for the success of this program including the water bottles, snacks, backpacks, t-shirts and journals.

Expected Impact:

The goal is that the children will develop an active lifestyle with improved sense of happiness, health, and a strengthened connection to the natural environment. The Newport Harbor Walk, Cliff Walk and areas in our watershed are free and accessible to everyone, providing a space for the youth to experience their local environments and develop an appreciation of the long-lasting wellness and health benefits of being near the water. By engaging students in “hands-on and minds-on” activities we will build a sense of confidence, accomplishment, and belief that healthy living is possible, right here in Newport. The project goals are closely aligned with our outreach education efforts to get the youth out of the classroom into nature to develop a personal relationship with the ecosystem of Aquidneck Island. Whether it is exploring for fun, doing field work for science, or participating in an art project, these are activities that combine healthy living, education, and enjoyment and will tap everyone’s curiosity in different ways. Clean Ocean Access is integrating this effort into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County Summer Learning initiative and plan to invite local fitness specialists, dieticians, and wellness non-profit organizations to participate in all sessions to bring subject matter expertise into the process.