

To the Citizens of the Town of Rockport,

We are now in the process of completing our fundraising efforts to construct a greenhouse between the two Rockport school buildings attached to the rear of the old Pathways facility that we were able to purchase last summer. The idea for this project has been a major goal of ours for many years.

The greenhouse will form the centerpiece of a new Health, Wellness and Sustainability Center for the schools and will provide environmental and healthy living education to all of our students K-12, provide fresh produce for our food service program, the local food pantry and also offer extension programs to the greater Rockport community through the provision for a student-run farmer's market and various exercise and other wellness programs. The plan includes the use of aquaponic technology and the addition of solar panels and possibly even a small wind generator to teach energy conservation to our students and to ultimately reduce the environmental footprint of the facility as much as possible.

The total cost of the greenhouse kit is between \$50,000-\$60,000 and we have already raised the amount needed to make that purchase a reality with generous contributions coming from the Educational Foundation of Rockport, the Rockport Parent Teachers Organization, the Institute for Savings in Rockport, Cape Ann Savings Bank, the Rockport Community Schools fund, The Rockport Garden Club, The Rockport Rotary Club, the Town of Rockport's Capital Improvement Planning Committee (which is the \$12,000 requesting your vote in Article E), and several major private donations from a number of Rockport residents.

Our vision, hope and dream would be to get the greenhouse kit here on site sometime late this spring and then to have an old fashioned community "barn raising" event to put the kit together with the goal to have the facility up and running for kids and classes and providing services to the greater Rockport community with the start of the next school year in the fall.

Rob Liebow, Superintendent of Schools