

Foundation invested \$5 million in projects

Projects

Daily News staff

NEWPORT - The van Beuren Charitable Foundation invested \$5 million in more than 45 community projects and initiatives during 2016, according to a report released by the foundation on Monday.

The major grants included \$670,000 toward a new building on the campus of the International Yacht Restoration School on Thames Street, \$500,000 for Sail Newport's new community sailing center at Fort Adams State Park, and \$400,000 toward St. Clare Newport's new senior living complex, specifically for the rehabilitation and physical therapy center.

“Our grantees advanced a number of transformative projects in 2016,” said Archbold van Beuren, chairman of the foundation, in a prepared statement. “We continue to be inspired by the

vision and actions of so many of our grantees to make Aquidneck Island an extraordinary place to live or visit.”

Many of the grant recipients collaborated with other organizations and individuals on their projects, said Elizabeth Lynn, the foundation's executive director.

“Whether it's the partnership of local agencies and the Newport Public Schools to reduce chronic absenteeism or building upon our collective strength in undersea technology to generate future economic opportunity, organizations that collaborate find there is a multiplier effect applied to their impact,” she said in the statement.

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Other major grants were \$235,600 to the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission for its initiative titled “One Island Community: Building Partnerships for Shared Solutions”; \$200,000 for Redwood Library and Athenaeum security, technology and data collection enhancements; and \$200,200 to the Aquidneck Land Trust for three separate projects that include park planning and putting into operation its strategic plan.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport received \$150,000 to support Phase V of its master plan, which is the restoration of the external steeple

and church front. The Robert Potter League for Animals in Middletown received a total of \$110,000 to support an executive transition and building maintenance, as well as a contribution toward its Training, Leadership, and Coaching Fund.

Founded in 1986, the foundation is a family philanthropic organization that has made more than \$65 million in grants to benefit the Newport County community. The next deadline for applications is June.

More about the foundation and the awarding of grants can be found on its website, vbcfoundation.org.