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Program Coordinator

March 22, 2011

Youth Members of the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative  
c/o Marianne Larned  
P. O. Box 4551  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Youth Members, Leaders,

Last Friday I staffed a table in the lobby of the Children, Youth and Family Summit at Barnstable High School, and had the chance to meet some of you.

I was immediately impressed by what amazing, powerful and articulate young leaders you are. All day, as I was in and out of the sessions, and trying to keep track of what was happening, I saw you all stepping up and taking responsibility, and it renewed my hope for our communities. When I saw your website, it reinforced this impression.

For the last three years, we have partnered with the University of Massachusetts to sponsor the "Cape Cod Youth Empowerment Initiative" ([www.compassionmassachusetts.org](http://www.compassionmassachusetts.org)), and at present, we partner with UMass Medical School and UMass Dartmouth to host focus groups and "community conversations" on issues like teen dating violence on Cape Cod and the Islands.

This work has offered us the opportunity to get to know many young people, and we are committed to amplifying your voices.

We commend you for the work you do, and we commit to working with you, as we are able, to provide opportunities for you to bring your power and compassion to Cape Cod.

Thank you for attending last week's summit. Keep up your great work. It matters, and we notice.

Very truly yours,

Steve Brown  
Program Coordinator

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