



October 18, 2011

Re: **Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Sustainable Vineyard 2020 Report and Map Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Martha's Vineyard Commission has worked with the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development on Martha's Vineyard and the project that evolved from this, namely the Sustainable Vineyard 2020 Report and Map Project. We are prepared to continue to collaborate with making this project a success. I am pleased to serve on their Advisory Council with other Vineyard leaders.

After several years of effort, the Martha's Vineyard Commission recently completed a sustainable development plan – the Island Plan – for Martha's Vineyard. We are very aware that it will be up to the next generation realize these ambitious goals and see the Youth Summit as a unique opportunity to realize our goal of engaging Vineyard youth in the issues addressed in the Island Plan.

We note that the Institute was founded on the Island in 1997 to develop educational tools, trainings, and initiatives to prepare young and emerging leaders to build a more sustainable world. The Institute's book and educational curriculum, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*, written on the Vineyard, features the story of two Vineyard farmers Andrew Woodruff (an MVC Commissioner) and Rick Anderson who rallied the community to preserve the Island's traditions and build the Ag Hall.

The Institute's goal of preparing our youth to learn how to sustain the delicate balance of the economic, environmental and social issues on the Island, is closely aligned with that of the MVC.

The Sustainable Vineyard 2020 Report and Map Project should encourage coordination, collaboration and communication among the members of the conservation, education and scientific community on Martha's Vineyard, and will help provide the community with an understanding of how we can move to a higher level of sustainability in the coming decade.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is prepared to serve as a resource for Vineyard youth providing data and background materials to help them make this project a success. We look forward to working together to prepare a new generation of leaders on Martha's Vineyard for the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Mark London, Executive Director
Martha's Vineyard Commission