



February 11, 2010

Re: **Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is prepared to collaborate with making a success of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development on Martha's Vineyard. I am pleased to serve on their Advisory Council with other Vineyard leaders.

After several years of effort, the Martha's Vineyard Commission just 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 Youth Summit should encourage coordination, collaboration and communication among the members of the conservation, education and scientific community on Martha's Vineyard. I am especially eager to meet the Institute's seasoned youth leaders who've transformed their lives and developed a 2020 Report on Sustainable Development for the Island. I look forward to attending the Youth Forum at the completion of the Youth Summit and getting to know our youth delegates.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is prepared to serve as a resource for Vineyard youth providing data and background materials as these youth delegates develop their Sustainability-In-Action projects in the coming years. 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