

Introducing our “Housing with Love Walk” Celebrity Walker – Mary Lou Petitt

Mary Lou Petitt was an early champion of affordable housing and support for the small business community because she clearly saw that housing availability and a strong business sector were inextricably linked if the Lower Cape was to remain a vibrant, diverse community. It was Mary Lou Petitt who, 19 years ago, answered the call from former Senator Henri Rauschenbach to create an organization that could direct resources and attention to the specific needs of the Lower Cape community. The result of their vision and their commitment to the Lower Cape was the creation of the Community Development Partnership (formerly the Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation). She has steered that course as a member of the Board of Directors for 18 years and as co-chair of the Housing Committee. Under her board leadership, 1,700 individuals and families have directly benefited from the CDP’s housing and economic development programs:

- \$4.9million invested in housing rehabilitation loans;
- \$1.2 million invested in business microloans.
- The CDP has developed, solely or in collaboration, 60 units of affordable housing for rent or ownership.
- Over 80 men, women and children are living in stable, safe and year-round rental housing owned or managed by the CDP including an 8 room sober home – Canal House.
- 81 households have been guided toward homeownership in CDP first-time homebuyer classes.

In addition, Mary Lou Petitt’s wide ranging interests led her to serve on the Task Force that developed the Cape’s 10 year Plan to Prevent Homelessness, championed the creation of the Flex Bus, chaired the Lower Cape Cod Community Coalition for many years and served on the Assembly of Delegates. A woman of extraordinary intelligence, drive and principle she has had a significant impact on the CDP, the Lower Cape and all of Cape Cod and we are pleased to honor her contributions.