

THE SOLSTICE FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL'S YOUTH HEALTH CONNECTION

Kingston, MA November 2014-- The Solstice Foundation recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the South Shore Hospital's Youth Health Connection (YHC) to support critical substance abuse and suicide prevention programming in Kingston and Duxbury communities.

The grant will support two specific initiatives:

- lead sponsorship of the 5th Annual South Shore FACTS (Families, Adolescents and Communities Together against Substances) Conference in September 2015
- funding to hire a substance abuse and suicide prevention specialist, to work directly with officials and individuals in both Kingston and Duxbury to build sustainable community based coalitions.

"We're thrilled to put our fundraising dollars into specific, crucial initiatives designed to prevent future tragedies through education and awareness for local youth and families," said Allison Berry, Solstice Foundation board member and president of the Duxbury Student Union. "The annual FACTS conference is a critical forum for sharing tools and information among communities dealing with crisis. The trained professionals from the YHC network can help provide insight and objectives for community coalitions now forming in response to the growing drug abuse and addiction-related deaths in our area."

South Shore Hospital's YHC is dedicated to the positive mental health and physical well being of youth and families. The program advances positive youth health outcomes through knowledge sharing, risk prevention, respect, collaboration, connectedness and regional coalition building.

"We must work together as a community in a comprehensive way to address the crisis of substance abuse and addiction-related deaths in our community," said Barbara J. Green, PhD, Youth Health Connection Medical Director. "This grant is a wonderful step in the right direction and we are so grateful to The Solstice Foundation."

YHC has collaborated with many organizations and community leaders to create a regional coalition dedicated to helping individual towns create their own community coalition and to develop sustainable approaches to address underage substance use. Its FACTS program is supported by the Plymouth County and Norfolk County District Attorneys Offices and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The Solstice Foundation is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization, founded in 2013 by Solstice Restaurant owners John and Hollie Cataldi and board president, Theresa Breen, after nearly ten years celebrating the summer solstice with a community gathering at the family-owned restaurant; proceeds going to a specific charity each year. Formalizing the foundation has allowed Solstice Restaurant to continue to give back to the community while supporting wider-reaching initiatives embodying the same core values that have helped Solstice Restaurant thrive: family, community, health & education. "We continue to be in awe of the loyalty and generosity of our guests and patrons," said John Cataldi, "and this year, our donation is not only the largest

ever, but the one with the most potential to directly impact our local community and help prevent more devastating loss of life.”

The Solstice Foundation board is comprised of community leaders dedicated to its mission; John and Hollie Cataldi, Theresa Breen, Allison Berry, Jill Daly, Donna Roth, and Brian Whidden. Past beneficiaries of the Solstice Restaurant Annual Summer Solstice Party include One Fund Boston, Kingston Youth Sports Organization, The Kingston Public Library Foundation, Autism Speaks/ Boston Walk, Live Learn Love, The Souls Sisters Foundation, The Jett Foundation, The Jonathan Rizzo Memorial Foundation, The Brothers McWilliam Foundation, and Crossroads for Kids. Organizations and individuals are invited to apply for grants from the Solstice Foundation by completing our grant application available via our web site at [www.restaurantsolstice.com/About/Solstice Foundation](http://www.restaurantsolstice.com/About/Solstice%20Foundation).