

Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc.

Offices of the Town Administrator
Memorial Town Hall
54 Marion Road
Wareham, MA 02571

May 11, 2021

Attached, please find the Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center's response to the "Oak Grove School Lease - RFP" issued by the Town of Wareham, consisting of one original plus three copies, as requested. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adelio DeMiranda".

Adelio DeMiranda
President, Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE
(Corporations Only)
(To be submitted with proposal)

At a duly authorized meeting of the Board of Directors of the

OAK GROVE Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc. held on 4-29-2021
(Name of Corporation) (Date)

it was voted, that

Yvonne Vieira - Cardoza Treasurer
(Name) (Officer)

of this company, be and hereby is authorized to execute contracts and bonds in the name and on behalf of said company, and affix its corporate seal hereto; and such execution of any contract or obligation in this company's name on its behalf by such officer under seal of the company, shall be valid and binding upon this company. I hereby certify that I am the clerk of the above named corporation and that Yvonne Vieira - Cardoza is the duly elected officer as above of said company, and that the above vote has not been amended or rescinded and remains in full force and effect as the date of this contract.

Marianne June Rose
Clerk

5-11-2021
Date

Corporate Seal Here (if applicable)

Disclosure of Beneficial Interests in Real Property Transaction
(Sample – to be completed prior to execution of Lease)

This form contains a disclosure of the names and addresses of all persons with direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real estate transaction described below. This form must be filed with the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance as required by M.G.L. c.7, §40J, prior to the conveyance of or execution of a lease for the real property described below. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

1. Public agency involved in this transaction: _____
(Name of Jurisdiction)

2. Complete legal description of property:
314 Onset Avenue, East Wareham, MA

3. Type of transaction: Sale Lease or rental for 5 yrs (term):

4. Legal Name of Lessor: Wareham Redevelopment Authority

Legal Name Lessee(s): Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc.

5. Names and addresses of all persons who have or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real property described above. Note: If a corporation has or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real property, the names of all stockholders must also be listed except that, if the stock of the corporation is listed for sale to the general public, the name of any person holding less than ten percent of the outstanding voting shares need not be disclosed.

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Continued on the Next Page)

5. Continued


None of the persons listed in this section is an official elected to public office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts except as noted below:

Name	Title or Position
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. This section must be signed by the individual(s) or organization(s) entering into this real property transaction with the public agency named in item 1. If this form is signed on behalf of a corporation, it must be signed by a duly authorized officer of that corporation.

The undersigned acknowledges that any changes or additions to item 4 of this form during the term of any lease or rental will require filing a new disclosure with the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance within 30 days following the change or addition.

The undersigned swears under the pains and penalties of perjury that this form is complete and accurate in all respects.

Signature: 

Printed name: A. DeMiranda

Title: President

Date: 5/11/2021

* The Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and none of the Officers or Board of Directors have a beneficial interest.

**STANDARD HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY CLAUSE FOR
USE IN LEASES, USE AGREEMENTS, PROCUREMENT
CONTRACTS, ETC.**

(To be submitted with proposal)

Oak Grove Cape Verdean
Cultural Center, Inc., its officers and members all through the signing of
signing of this document by an authorized party or agent, indemnify, hold harmless and
defend the Wareham Redevelopment Authority, the Lessor of Wareham, and its agents and
employees from all suits and actions, including attorneys' fees and all costs of litigations
and judgment of every name and description brought against the Lessor as a result of loss,
damage or injury to person or property by reason of any act by
Oak Grove Cape Verdean
Cultural Center, Inc., its agents, servants or employees.



Authorized Signature

A. DeMiranda/President

Name and Title (Print or Type)

5/10/2021

Date

Corporate Seal Here (if applicable)

CERTIFICATION TO PAYMENT OF TAXES BY CONTRACTOR

(To be submitted with proposal)

Oak Grove Cape Verdean
Cultural Center, Inc.

Pursuant to G.L. c. 62C, §49A, I hereby certify that Form 990-EZ,

has complied with all laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relating to the payment
of taxes. Signed under the penalties of perjury.

Linda J. Cooley

Authorized Signature

Linda J. Cooley, CPA

Name and Title (Print or Type)

May 5, 2021

Date

Corporate Seal Here (if applicable)

CERTIFICATE OF NON-COLLUSION

(To be submitted with proposal)

The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this proposal is in all respects bona fide, fair and made without collusion or fraud with any other persons. As used in this section the word 'person' shall mean any natural person, joint venture, partnership, corporation, or other business or legal entity.

Uptane Vieira-Castro
Authorized Signature

5/11/2021
Date

PTD#: 20-0097147
Social Security Number or Federal ID Number

Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc.
Legal Name of Business Entity (Please Print or Type)

Address:

314 Onset Avenue
East Wareham, MA

Corporate Seal (if applicable)

Responses to Oak Grove School Lease - RFP

1. *Full legal name, Federal Tax Identification or Social Security Number, identification of authorized contact of proposed Lessee (Tenant), contact information (telephone and email).*

- Legal name: **Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center, Inc.** (herein after referred to as “OGCVCC”)
- Federal Tax ID: **20-0097147**
- Authorized contact: Adelio DeMiranda; (617) 515-5523; deldemirandalaw@gmail.com

2. *Business or trade name, if different from above:* NA

3. *Acknowledgment of receipt of addenda issued by the Town (if any).*

The OGCVCC has not received the Addenda issued by the Town, if any.

4. *Statement of proposer’s intended use of property, including acknowledgment that the use is permitted either by “right” or “special permit” under the Lessor’s zoning by-law and land use regulations. The proposer should also state the expected lease commencement date, and its expected normal operating days and hours once the lease is underway.*

The OGCVCC acknowledges that the intended use of the property is permitted either by “right” or “special permit” under the Lessor’s zoning by-law and land use regulations. The proposed lease commencement date is July 1, 2021. Initially, the expected normal operating days will be mainly, 4:30pm - 9pm. The majority of community gatherings will take place on the weekend. The OGCVCC in recognition that the pre-school is interested in remaining on the property until they transition to a new facility will limit its hours of operation so as to not cause any disruption to the pre-school activities.

The OGCVCC proposes to use the property for two purposes: (1) a Cape Verdean cultural center will be created, where all generations come together for events, activities and other resources. (2) A museum and Gallery will also be established to display the many artifacts donated to the OGCVCC over the years.

Programming of the cultural center will include language classes and events where Cape Verdean elders share history and stories of their rich culture; we will also encourage other cultures to tell us the story of their history and to participate in programs sponsored by the OGCVCC. In addition, based on the need in our community, we plan to offer workforce readiness programs such as EMT, CNA, GED credentials, nutrition, writing, preparing a resume and other classes for professional development. Mentoring programs - matching job-seekers with experienced tradespeople - will also be considered as our program develops. The Cape Verdean community encompass many tradespeople who have expressed an interest in working with our youth (masons, welders, electricians, carpenters, interior design, etc).

The OGCVCC would provide assistance to individuals who require help in applying for services (fuel assistance, unemployment benefits, Mass Health, etc).

The OGCVCC will work with schools and colleges in outreach programs to talk with students about Cape Verdean culture and encourage student to participate and volunteer to assist with activities at the cultural center.

The OGCVCC has collected donations from the community to provide scholarships to qualifying high school students.

5. Information about the proposed user, such a length of time that business/organization has been in operation, type of business/services provided, length of the authorized person's affiliation with business or organization. This should include information that will enable Town of

Wareham to evaluate the proposer's operational and capacity and stability.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The OGCVCC, an IRS 501©(3) non-profit organization committed to preserving the historical significance of the property located at 314 Onset Avenue. The OGCVCC was formed in 2003 and was granted 501©3 status by the IRS in 2008. Each of the corporate officers and members of the board of directors have been members of the organization well in excess of five years. Two of which have been members, officers and directors since 2003. The organization will provide service and activities as described in Section 1 (A), Paragraph 4.

The OGCVCC began this journey in 2003. The building was built in 1913 and was known as the Oak Grove Elementary School and was utilized to segregate the Cape Verdean children from their white peers. Cape Verdean children throughout the entire Town of Wareham were required to attend the Oak Grove Elementary School. Over a period of about 40 years, thousands of our children (grades K – 3) were educated there; with no running water, no playground, poor bathroom facilities and too few teachers. The school closed in the early 1950's – perhaps catalyzed by the civil rights movement. This building, located in the heart of the Cape Verdean community, is a physical reminder of not only the culture and experiences of our forebearers and homeland, but of history: even in Massachusetts – in this very community – institutional discrimination existed.

Despite the many hardships attendees of the school were forced to endure, as a community we have many accomplishments. We have NFL players, noted author and artist, the owner of one of the largest construction firms in Boston, doctor, nurses, lawyers and numerous successful trades people.

Currently, the main floor of the building is occupied by South Shore Community Action Council, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as

“SSCAC”)which provides pre-school services to the community. The OGCVCC Inc. signed a sub-lease with SSCAC in 2020 to utilize the basement as a meeting place. The OGCVCC has made renovations to the meeting space. The OGCVCC intends to continue to maintain a good working relationship with SSCAC. The OGCVCC recognizes how vital the pre-school center is for local families who rely on its services and will maintain a lease with the center while they transition to their new home.

The basement will require extensive renovations prior to it being a feasible space for the services and activities we intend to provide to the public.

The Wareham Historical Society has issued a plaque commemorating its historical significance to the town. (See attached Exhibit “A”)

6. If a business, identification of proposer’s principals and key personnel. If a non-profit organization, identification of proposer’s key personnel and board of directors.

OGCVCC’s Board of Directors includes the following members:

Adelio DeMiranda	President
Marian J. Rose	Secretary
Yvonne Vieira-Cardoza	Treasurer
Jennifer A. Rose	Corresponding Secretary
Arthur Joia	Director
Darlene Joia	Director
Anthony Lopes	Director

7. *Information sufficient for Town of Wareham to determine how or if the proposer and its intended operation meets Evaluation Criterion Item IV.A.5 (see below).*

The OGCVCC shall not make or permit any use of the premises which will be unlawful or contrary to any applicable laws or municipal ordinances including, but not limited to, all zoning, building, sanitary codes, codes, statutes, regulations, or ordinances which will make voidable any insurance maintained on the premises. The OGCVCC intends to use the premises as a cultural center in accordance with its Articles of Organization and mission.

Comparative Evaluation Criteria

Below, we have explicitly responded to each of the “Comparative Evaluation Criteria” listed on page 5 of the RFP.

*A. **Offering Price.** Price will not be the sole basis of the award for this contract but shall be a consideration. Proposers offering a rent amount greater than the minimum amount cited in IV.D above will receive a rating of “Highly Advantageous” compared to the “Acceptable” rating to those meeting the minimum in “D” above. A lesser amount than the minimum that is combined with a public benefit will be considered “Acceptable.”*

The OGCVCC proposes the following “price” and terms:

Term 1: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2022

Proposed price: \$0/ month

Rationale: The basement of the Oak Grove School building is in dire need of rehabilitation. The OGCVCC proposes to complete needed renovations to the Oak Grove School at no cost to the Town of Wareham. Proposed work (contingent on approval from the building

inspector and other permitting requirements, as necessary) will include creating bathrooms, offices, and classrooms/ meeting spaces suitable for community. We propose that no rent be paid to the Town of Wareham during this period, as the value of the materials and labor to be imputed by the OGCVCC is expected to be considerable.

Term 2: 07/01/2022 - 6/30/2026

Proposed price: \$1,000/ month

Rationale: The OGCVCC is a non-profit, 501©3 organization and relies on donations and support from the community. In return our organization will provide much needed services to the economically disadvantaged citizens of the town and surrounding area who can access transportation through GATRA. Our organization intends to provide guidance and focus for the youth of our community through our mentoring programs with skilled tradesmen and colleges providing courses to achieve their goals. We can as an organization show our youth how it is possible to pursue their careers which will help them to provide for their families and become contributing members of our community, instilling a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

The organization will also provide an exceptional learning experience for tourist.

The services the organization will provide are not available through any other educational venues within the town of Wareham.

The organization will alter its programs as the needs of the community change.

By helping to ensure that the OGCVCC can more effectively pursue its mission, the Town is also helping to ensure that Wareham's connection to Cape Verdean history and culture, in the context of American local history, is not forgotten. The Town will be helping to preserve - and improve – a historical treasure which will create a stronger, more

diverse, more resourceful and most importantly, a more tolerant community.

B. Organization Stability. Firms or organizations that have been established for five (5) or more years will be rated “Advantageous” to those established for less than five years, who will receive and “Acceptable” or “Not Advantageous” rating.

The OGCVCC was incorporated in 2003 and was granted 501©(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service in 2008.

C. Key Leadership. Proposers who have at least one leader (an individual with one or more types of principal responsibilities for ongoing operations) that has been part of the firm or organization for five (5) or more years will be rated “Advantageous,” those that have been part of the organization for less than five years but more than two years will receive an “Acceptable” rating, and those for more than one but less than two years will receive a “Not Advantageous” rating.

All seven members of The OGCVCC have served on the organization’s board of directors for a minimum of 8 years, including 6 who were born in and/ or currently reside in Wareham.

Name	Position	Years with OGCV CC	Affiliation/ Wareham Connection
Adelio DeMiranda	President	12	Attorney in MA (38 years), born in Wareham
Yvonne Vieira-Cardoza	Treasurer	18	Judge (Department of Industrial Accidents) (retired), born in Wareham
Marian J Rose	Secretary	18	Registered Nurse, BSN (43 years), Retired Doctorate in Nutrition Born in Wareham
Jennifer A. Rose	Corresponding Secretary	14	Licensed Practical Nurse (30 years), resides in Wareham
Arthur Joia	Director	8	Licensed Builder - General/ Site Contractor (40 years), born in Wareham
Darlene Joia	Director	8	CNA, mother
Anthony Lopes	Director	18	High school Principal (29 years), born in Wareham

D. Employment Opportunities. Proposers who project that at least one new, full-time equivalent position will result within twelve months from the occupancy of the premises will be rated "Highly Advantageous."

Proposers who project that less than one full-time equivalent position will be added will receive a "Not Advantageous" rating.

The OGCVCC intends to engage a full-time Director within 12 months of the award of a lease. This new position will be responsible for overseeing improvements to the facility and planning, implementing and coordinating future programming at the site.

E. Tourism Opportunities. The purpose of the prospective Lessee's operation that has the additional benefit of driving tourism (beyond beach tourism) to the community will receive a "Highly Advantageous" rating while those who do not will receive a "Not Advantageous" rating.

The Oak Grove School represents an important intersection between Cape Verdean culture and local history. Our organization has studied, preserved and curated this history for decades. We have shared this history with our members with the broader community - both within and outside of Wareham. To date, our physical space has been a limiting factor. With adequate facilities - which we intend to create (described under 7.A. above) - we will transform the Oak Grove School into a historical/ cultural destination. We will create a museum with permanent as well as revolving exhibits that will not only educate the public, but will help nurture a stronger connection between Cape Verdeans - from throughout the region - with their culture.

The OGCVCC would be a unique and beneficial treasure to the Town of Wareham. The organization has consulted with the Ernestina committee in an effort to collaborate in joint ventures to provide tours and lectures as to the history of how Cape Verdeans came to be in the United States.

The organizations website and Facebook page have received vast attention throughout the United States and abroad. Advertising on community television would be utilized on a regular basis.

An Education Committee will be formed with the intent to collaborate with schools and colleges to speak to students and foster an understanding as to who Cape Verdeans are. Cape Verdean's

encompass many different cultures and traditions as people from around the globe settled in the islands.

The museum aspect of the cultural center will encompass the many artifacts donated to the organization over the years and we envision one full time employee to guide visitors through the museum and provide lectures on the meaning of the artifacts and history of the islands.

The organization will provide recipes to visitors along with a brochure of the history.

The organization intends to bring back into the community one of the most beloved cultural traditions known as the celebration of the Saints. Referred to as a “Maestro” in the Cape Verdean culture. Traditionally, this is a multi-generational experience. This is a full day of music, games for the children and cultural food. The highlight of the day being the tree (constructed of wood and pine) decorated with fruit and candy being taken down to the delight of the children.

F. Cultural Benefit to Population. Proposers who strive to be an incubator for the positive social, educational, artistic and historic impact of the diverse community that is proudly promoted in Wareham will be rated as “Highly Advantageous.” Proposers who do not will receive a “Not Advantageous” rating.

Built in 1913 as a means to segregate Cape Verdean children from their white peers, this building holds great significance in the community. Over a period of about 40 years, thousands of our children (grades K-3) were educated there; with no running water, no playground, poor bathroom facilities and too few teachers. The school closed in the early 1950s - perhaps catalyzed by the civil rights movement.

Despite the hardship which the Oak Grove School inflicted on our children and families, an unintended consequence was actually a strengthening of our heritage. Former Wareham resident Mary V. Rose, an attendee of the Oak Grove School, who was a Director and Historian

with the OGCVCC until her death in May, 2020 at 105 years old, aptly summed up the context in a 2013 interview about the school, “It (the segregated school) intensified the focus on the Cape Verdean Culture. It’s something we can look back at and realize how far we’ve come and how strong we are as Cape Verdeans.” Mary V. Rose visited the children at the pre-school on several occasions and answered their many questions about the Cape Verde Islands and the culture and traditions. (See exhibit “B”)

It is important for cultures to value their stories and customs of their heritage as they provide the basis for substance and guidance to new generations of members and community involvement. We intend to provide instructional and outreach to those in need residing in our local and regional areas. It is with this understanding of cultural diversity that Cape Verdeans who are well known for their hard work and affinity for family, will be able to bring the community together in a more focused and positive direction. (See exhibit “C” & “D”)

Why is this building so important to us? It is a physical reminder of not only the culture and experiences of our fore-bearers and homeland, but of history: even in Massachusetts - in this very community of Wareham - institutional discrimination existed. These are lessons which should not ever be forgotten, and our organization is committed to ensuring they never are. The goals and mission of the OGCVCC are designed to inform and provide information about Cape Verdean history, cultural heritage and contributions that Cape Verdeans have made in New England and throughout our country. By sharing information through books, artifacts, videos, language classes and cultural events, the ‘untold story’ of Cape Verdeans in New England will bring Cape Verdean culture and history to life to all who visit the Center.

By approving OGCVCC as the lessee for this building, the Town of Wareham will be not only validating its historical and cultural significance but providing us with an added layer of security and

stability so that we may continue to pursue our mission for years to come.

G. Support of the OGCVCC. Proposers whose operation is supportive and complimentary to the mission of the OGCVCC will be rated as “Highly Advantageous.” Proposers who do not will receive a “Not Advantageous” rating.

In addition to our own educational and cultural activities, we the OGCVCC are formalizing partnerships which will further enhance and expand services offered at the Oak Grove School. Bridgewater State University has expressed an interest in offering evening classes to adults in our community (after renovations have been completed). Classes to be offered will be determined based on community interest and demand. Possible class options may include a GED course, Adult Basic Education, and English as a second language.

Additionally, the Multi-purpose room would be available to local groups/organizations to hold meetings and presentations on the Cape Verdean Culture.

State Senator Marc Pacheco has also endorsed the utilization of the OGCVCC as a satellite for educational opportunity for adults in our community. Oak Grove School’s central location offers a convenient option for adults who would like to complete their education and look toward better job opportunities in the future.

John Cruz III President and C.E.O. of the Cruz Construction Companies (Boston) has indicated his company’s support and willingness to provide some “in kind” services to our building project. Most of John’s family attended Oak Grove School and have been active supporters of the Oak Grove Building fundraising.

As noted throughout this proposal, OGCVCC has a vested interest in ensuring this “building” remains a vital part of Wareham - not just the physical structure, but all meaning, suffering, and hope that it embodies.

8. Proposer’s offering price, which meets or exceeds that cited in Evaluation Criterion Item IV.A.4.

See above.

9. Information sufficient for Town of Wareham to complete its overall evaluation, as per the criteria listed in Section IV A-C.

See above.

10. Required forms listed in E-H below

The OGCVCC has submitted the signed Certification of Payment of Taxes by Contractor, Certificate of Vote, Standard Hold Harmless and Indemnity Clause For Use in Leases, Use Agreements, Procurement Contracts, etc., Disclosure of Beneficial Interests in Real Property Transaction and Certificate of Non-Collusion forms.



Wareham, Mass

c. 1913

Historic Property

110-71



Connecting across time at Oak Grove

By Nadya Korytnikova
reporter@warehamweek.com

Wareham's oldest resident spoke with some of the youngest on Tuesday.

Accompanied by her daughter, 104-year-old Mary Rose came back to the school she once attended: Oak Grove School on Onset Avenue. Although now it operates as a Head Start childcare center, the school originally taught children in kindergarten through third grade.

During her visit, Rose shared memories of her youth with the children and took some questions from curious listeners.

Both of Rose's parents grew up on the island of Fogu in Cape Verde. Rose knew no English when she first got to the Oak Grove School and made huge efforts to master a new language.

She remembered that the students who could speak English well sat in front of the class and helped translate lessons from English to Creole.

"When I came home, I helped my six siblings to learn English, too," said Rose.

Rose also recalled the first time she



Wareham's oldest resident Mary Rose and her daughter Marian Rose visited children in Oak Grove School to answer questions and tell them about the life of the past.
Photo by: Nadya Korytnikova

learned about television and the day she surprised her family by bringing home a radio.

"My family, my dad, brothers, and sisters were walking around trying to figure out where the voices were coming from," Rose said.

Young listeners had many questions for Rose about her childhood. To their surprise, she neither owned a cell phone nor skateboard back when she was a kid.

"What did you play with?" asked one of the students.

"We played with each other," replied Rose.

Mary Rose's daughter, Marian Rose also noted that unlike modern girls who wear pants, Mary could only wear skirts and dresses.

"They had long dresses with lots of [undergarments]. Can you imagine walking around with a whole bunch of cloth?" said Marian.

Marian said she hopes to arrange another visit with the children, during which Mary could tell the students more about Cape Verdean music, culture, and food.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be 250 words or fewer and are subject to editing. Include author's address and phone number for verification. Longer commentaries will be published as space allows. Fax letters to (508) 997-7491 or email to letters@s-t.com.

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YOUR VIEW

Aug. 2017

Oak Grove Cape Verdean CC shares appreciation of family

By Marian J. Rose

This super fabulous weekend is over and believe me it was terrific. From across the United States, many Cape Verdeans arrived in Onset to share cultural ideas, hugs, camaraderie, and love.

It all started with Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center Inc.'s pre-festival annual dance, where you, family and friends sat down for old fashion Cape Verdean food and then got up and danced to rocking (because can't sit down any more) music. More and more local and visiting Cape Verdeans are realizing this is the official way to really start this memorable weekend.

Then the big Saturday arrived and the festival jumped to wide-awake capacity, with an array of foods, businesses and people. Lots of Cape Verdeans came to Onset knowing they would not be disappointed.

Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center Inc.'s motto — Keeping Our Culture Alive — was evident everywhere, especially at our souvenir merchandise booth. This year, there were many adult children with their parents, aunts and uncles, or grandparents. They came as one,

caring for each other and caring for all. They purchased our popular original Food Series T-shirts saying: "Mom, remember when you taught me how to make this?" or "This makes me think so much of home." Younger generations are, I see, being more expressively culturally knowledgeable with their children. Now it is the children themselves proudly asking for the T-shirts in their sizes and even buying for their friends. This is a real example of Keeping Our Culture Alive.

There were many touching moments at our souvenir merchandise booth this year and there are a couple I must share with you.

A son came with his aging, beautiful Cape Verdean mom and showed her our Food Series T-shirts featuring Goofongu, Coos Coos, Jag and Linguica and Munchupa. He was fully thrilled when she responded with joy at seeing the actual colorful cuisine printed on the shirts. Her eyes twinkled as she said: "Oh, my!" He looked at me with tears in his eyes, and said, "She loved cooking all this many times for me." He purchased one of each, for both his mom and himself. His mom turned to go and he came near whispering to me:

"She has Alzheimer's, but did you see, too, how she glowed at seeing these shirts? Thank you, " he said squeezing my hand. "Thank you so very much for this moment. I will cherish it always."

We unveiled a new fundraiser project this year: Photo Boards. Should you visit Cabo Verde even today, you will see men working the fields and women carrying water in containers on their heads walking home on the roadways. This is very characteristic of our homeland. Our Photo Boards are life-size, so one can stand behind them and show your head through the hole while someone takes your picture. In this way, you have a photo remembrance that is pop style, lighthearted yet authentic.

Well, along came a little boy about 7 years old and he was so excited. His mom explained to me that he, at the age of 5, had gone to Cabo Verde with his grandmother. While there, he was fascinated with how the men tilled the soil, and he decided he wants to be a "farmer to grow things."

Our Photo Boards display a Cape Verdean Man toiling in the fields with a hoe and a Cape Verdean Woman carrying a container of water. Of

course, the little boy had to have his picture taken. Being so small, he and I went to the back of the Photo Board and I held him up so he could poke his head through the hole. Now he was the farmer, with a big grin on his face while his mom took the photo. "Mommy, Mommy, Let me see!" He said.

I watched him look at his mom's smartphone photo and he was smiling happily when he thanked his mom. Again, my heart was moved. He had recognized the farmer on the Photo Board, and his vacation memory of his grandma came to life.

What I shared with you are moments that we all have the capacity to create every day.

These were just two incidents where loving caregivers thought of the joy they could graciously extend to others, and by doing so, receive greater blessings for themselves.

Thank you so much to everyone who stopped by our souvenir merchandise booth. More importantly, thank you for "Keeping Our Culture Alive" in your communities and in your personal lives.

Marian J. Rose is president of the Oak Grove Cape Verdean Cultural Center Inc. in the Onset section of Wareham.