

THE FABULOUS FOUR

Hundreds of lives across Cape Cod have benefited from four dedicated men committed to the well-being of their communities.

IT MAY SEEM overwhelmingly impossible for one person to make an impact on a life, yet within our own communities, four men's hearts were touched enough to help fellow Cape Codders in need. Their creativity in fundraising is unbridled, their love for their coastal communities is infinite, and their passion is contagious. Think one person can't make a difference? These men prove otherwise.

DEWITT DAVENPORT: RACING FOR CHILDREN

Born on Cape Cod to a family that prided itself on giving back to its community, DeWitt Davenport is following in his family's footsteps as the leader of Davenport Companies, which employs more than 1,300 people at more than a dozen companies throughout New England. Although Davenport spent his school years off Cape and began his career as a public accountant, the pull of the tides was too strong to keep him away and he returned to join the family business in the 90s. After a teambuilding event at F-1 Boston, where he and his co-workers were racing around the track, Davenport thought it would be fun way to give back to the community he loved and created the Cape's most unique fundraising efforts, the Seaside LeMans.

"Philanthropy has been an integral part of my family and it started before my family founded the Davenport Companies in 1956," says Davenport. "Part of our legacy is to give back to the community. Charitable fundraising through the Seaside LeMans is the

process of understanding what we have, what we need and what we appreciate."

Unfortunately, Davenport's debut LeMans was scheduled for September 15, 2001, just four days after one of our nation's darkest moments. Rather than cancel the event, Davenport knew pulling the community together was never more important than that time. "In light of the seriousness of the terrorist attacks, we decided that the unity for the community was critical," says Davenport, recalling the first Le Mans, which raised \$120,000.

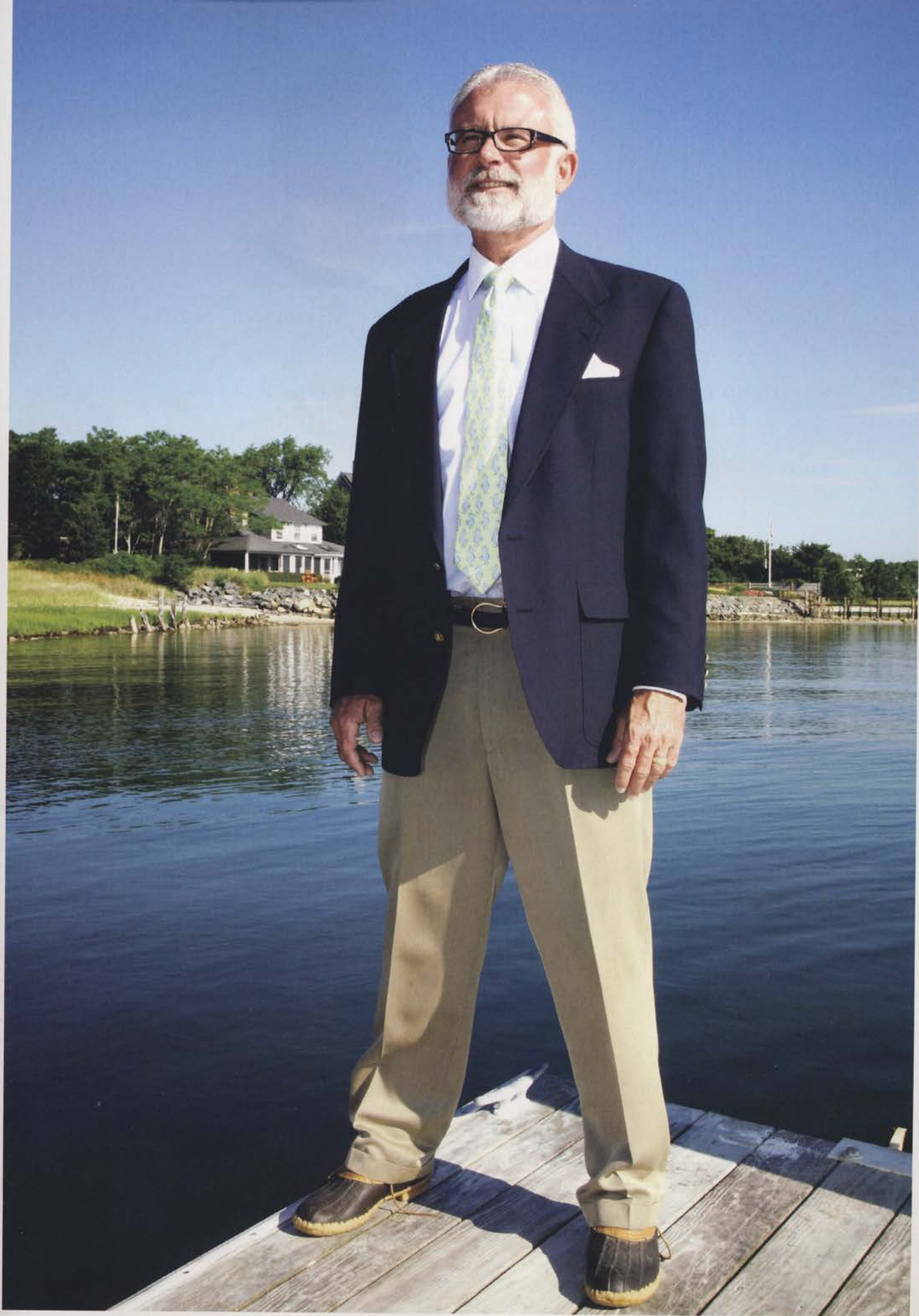
The event, which takes place on the streets of Mashpee Commons, features relay racers from corporate sponsors like Cape Cod 5 Cents Bank and Glen Builders & Associates, where businessmen and women literally change gears to climb into Formula One-style go-carts, dressed head-to-toe in race attire. Ensuring 100 percent of all donations raised goes to charity, Davenport Companies and F1 Boston, who supplies the vehicles, mechanics, tracks and race management, cover all costs.

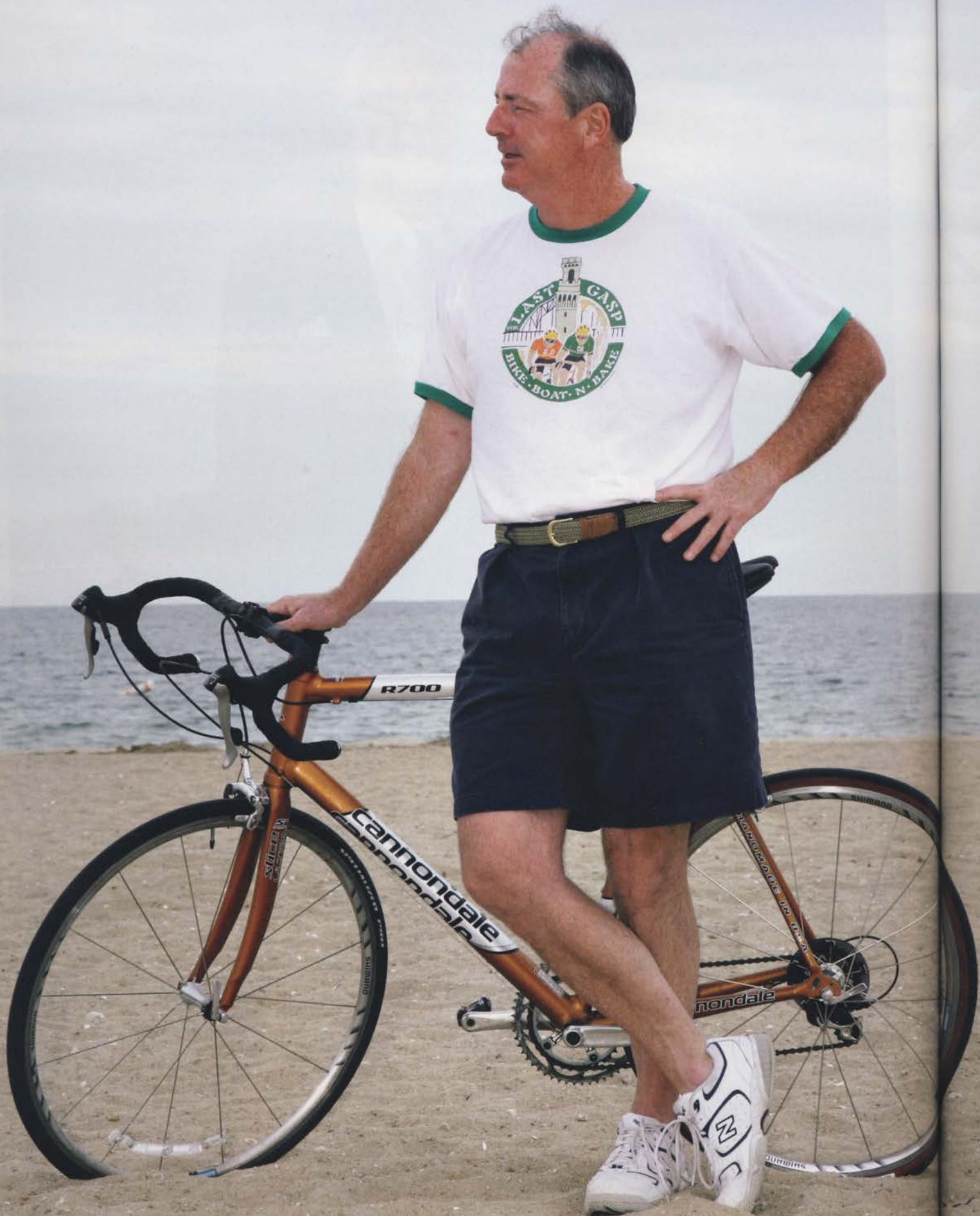
"The LeMans creates a fun way to fund raise," says Davenport of the event that has now raised \$2.4 million for charities such as Alzheimer's Services of Cape Cod & the Islands, Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod, Independence House and Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

The Davenport Companies' board of directors and executive director and Seaside LeMans event committee spend 12 days each year identifying the race beneficiaries, which fall into one of three categories: health and human services, social services and children. With so many organizations soliciting donations, a due-diligence process to approaching goals is followed and after reaching unanimous agreement on the organization, funds are distributed.

Davenport hopes his dedication to his community sets an example for future generations of Davenports saying, "With an 80 to 90 percent participant return rate and the generosity of our sponsors we're able to make significant donations to Cape Codders in need."

BY TOM KEER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY ELLIOTT





BILL MURPHY: BIKING FOR HIS COMMUNITY

Formerly a workaholic, J. William (Bill) Murphy remembers the day he chunked it all to move to the Cape. It was after a year he logged nearly a quarter of a million miles in air travel. "I decided that was enough. I resigned and bought and ran a package store in Sagamore," he reflects.

The slower pace and better quality of life got Murphy, an avid biker, back on the pavement, logging between 30 to 60 miles on his bicycle every morning. One summer in 1991, after Murphy and friends decided they would bike to Provincetown, meet a friend with a boat and sail home, he had an epiphany. "I had been looking for a way to memorialize my father, who had passed of cancer in 1983. After we biked and boated our way around the Cape, it struck me that this was the perfect opportunity to blend fun with fundraising."

The next year, he launched The Last Gasp, a bicycle ride from Sandwich to Provincetown that ends with a cruise back to Sandwich across the Bay. The first year, 47 people took part in the fundraiser, raising \$3,750. By 2008, the event has raised \$3 million, with half of that raised within the past six years alone and proceeds benefiting children, the homeless, the community, medicine and cultural/arts.

"Our events fall under our parent organization, Cape Cod Charitable FunRaisers. Our objective is to design, organize and implement special events for the benefit of other non-profit organizations headquartered on the Cape and Islands," he says.

The Last Gasp now attracts some 300 participants for the 62-mile ride along Route 6A. The average ride time is about four hours, and then is followed by an hour-long cruise across Cape Cod Bay followed by a traditional Cape Cod Clambake with all the fixin's.

Although successful, The Last Gasp did not remain Murphy's only venture. Seeing the number of people interested in helping a good cause while having a good time, he developed two more fundraising events: Roll the Rock and the Spectacle of Trees.

"The three events represent a Trinity of Seasonality. The Last Gasp is held in the summer, Roll the Rock is a springtime bowling event comprised of 40 corporate teams competing, and the Spectacle of Trees is a Winter Christmas tree-decorating event. We handle all the event set up and facets of marketing, promotion, organization and orchestration so that 98 percent of the participants' efforts are on fundraising. We are blessed with a true partnership on all fronts," says Murphy, adding, "We have fun, we stay fit and we help Cape Codders in need. I think that of all the accomplishments I've had in my life, The Last Gasp would probably make my dad the most proud."

BOB MURRAY:

WALKING FOR HOUSING

“As a child, we used to spend summers at our family cottage in Rexhame, which is part of Marshfield on the South Shore,” says Bob Murray while taking a break during walking legs of the 2009 Housing for Love Walk, the six-day walk from Provincetown to Falmouth he founded in 1993. “It was a wonderful childhood at the beach, very different from my home town of Arlington, Mass., and I

absolutely loved that place. When I was 13, my father pledged the house in a business deal that went bust and he lost the house. I was crushed. I realized the difference between a house and a home, and how important a home is to a family. The bad times are manageable if tackled from the security of a home, and the sweet times, well, they’re simply sweeter.”

After a life-long career as a pharmacist and owner of a string of North Shore pharmacies, Murray retired to Falmouth in 1987, looking to reconnect with the pleasurable feelings of the beach and the saltwater he enjoyed in his youth. Never forgetting how it felt to lose a home, he began working with local groups that focused on issues surrounding homelessness and stumbled on an idea: the cheapest way to reduce homelessness is to prevent it.

“One doesn’t plan to be homeless,” says Murray, “but sometimes it just happens. The leading reasons are job loss, illness or death of the primary income generator. More common these days are elderly folks waiting for public-provided elderly housing to open up.”

Dedicating his new-found free time to help raise money for housing, Murray decided a walk would be the perfect motivator. “Walking is something everyone can do, which makes an event fun. And the moderate elevations on Cape Cod combined with scenic and historical views is motivating.”

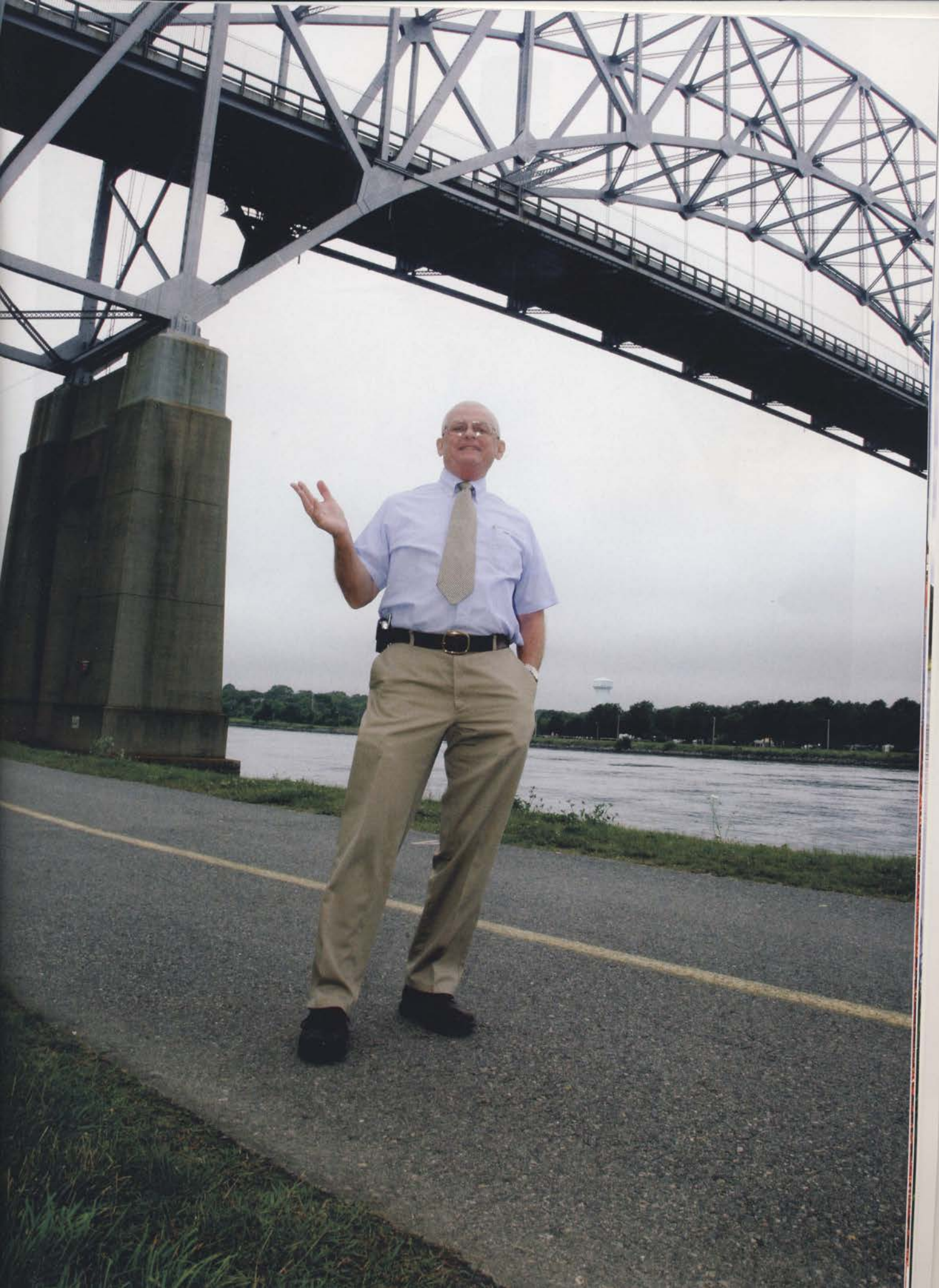
The first Housing with Love Walk began in

1993, generating \$28,000. By 2008, Murray’s 104-mile walk from Provincetown to Falmouth through all 15 Cape Cod towns generated just over \$300,000. This summer, Murray’s walk included nearly 400 participants and was set to eclipse that record and hit \$350,000.

“I’m 70 years young, so we break the walk into manageable sections. Participants will come for the day, walk the designated stretch, and then head home until the following morning. We have a tremendous amount of fun along the way,” he says.

The event, which collects funds budgeted for temporary housing in hotels and other associated relocation expenses, are channeled through 12 participating agencies to individuals in need of assistance. The series of daily legs are walked by groups of volunteers from the Cape-wide agencies including Orleans’ Homeless Not Hopeless to Hyannis’ Champ Homes and Falmouth’s Homeless Prevention Program, with corporate sponsors like Cape Cod Five Cents Bank, which has sponsored all 17 walks, and new sponsor Cape Air, also dedicating both time and money along the way.

“Housing for Love Walk donations in the form of additional monthly income helps folks stay in their homes until public housing becomes available,” says Murray. “Over the years we’ve helped a lot of folks, and we’ll be right back at it next year helping more.”





E.J. JAXTIMER: FISHING FOR CANCER FUNDS

“The first person I lost to cancer was my good friend and Osterville neighbor, actress Lee Remick,” recalls E.J. Jaxtimer. “It was in 1991, and it made me reflect on what life is really about. For me it has always been family, friends and children. Family and friends are the ties that bind, and children are our future.”

Jaxtimer knew he didn't want to let more friends go without a fight, but it wasn't until sisters Susan Foodwin and Harriet Sesen approached him to finance cancer fundraising efforts that the lightbulb went off. Approached for being a successful businessman (he is well-known Cape-wide for his custom homebuilding and remodeling business based in Hyannis, E.J. Jaxtimer, Builder, Inc.), Jaxtimer decided to put the “fun” in fundraising and launched a fishing tournament.

“What better way to add to a charity event on Cape Cod than through a fishing tournament?” says the passionate fisherman, who called on his equally successful friends to initiate the tournament in 1993. The first tournament featured only eight boats, but the fisherman had a ball and raised \$20,000.

Held at Natuicus Marina in Osterville, owned by friend Bill Koch, who donates the marina for the event, word spread about the tournament, with leisure fisherman wanting to enjoy the spirit of competition for a good cause. Named for their fellow Osterville friend, resident and former Red Sox standout and manager during the 1930s and 1940s, the annual Joe Cronin Fishing Tournament peaked with 71 boats in 2003, pushing Jaxtimer to cap the number of boats at 55. “And we've been at full capacity most years since,” he adds.

In 2008, the tournament raised and donated more than \$300,000 to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. “Our objective is to create a “Life Raft” for families with members receiving cancer treatment. A Life Raft is a financial donation that covers some of the bills surrounding medical visits and treatments. Uncovered medical expenses, meals and lodging while on overnight hospital visits, gas, parking, you name

it. Our goal is to help families focus on what is important: getting their patient well by beating cancer,” says Jaxtimer.

Jordan Leandre, a teenager receiving ongoing cancer treatment at Dana Farber, has attended the tournament every year for the last five years, including last year's event, where he watched from a wheelchair, weak from cancer treatment. Last week, Jaxtimer received an e-mail from the boy's father, announcing that Jordan recently pitched his first baseball game. “To me,” says Jaxtimer, “that's what it's all about.” ♦

Join the Cause

Housing With Love Walk

Held annually each July. www.capecdp.org

Joe Cronin Memorial Jimmy Fund

Fishing Tournament

Held annually each August. www.joecroninfishing.com

The Last Gasp

Held annually each September, this year's event takes place September 20. The Cape Cod Charitable FunRaisers' Spectacle of Trees will take place in Hyannis December 3 – 5. The organization also hosts the Roll the Rock bowling event each April. www.thelastgasp.com

Seaside LeMans

Held annually each September, this year's event takes place September 12 in Mashpee Commons. www.seasidelemans.org