

Summer 2014

# the nemasket group



Welcome to our quarterly newsletter.

The two-fold purpose of this newsletter...

- recognize and build upon the legacy left by Louis Nisenbaum, the founding Executive Director of the organization
- connect with our stakeholders and have a shared understanding of the organizations Mission and “Vision For the Future”

IMAGINE BETTER—people leading enviable lives define the true meaning of community.

*“Civilization is the process in which one gradually increases the number of people included in the term ‘we’ or ‘us’ and at the same time decreases those labeled ‘you’ or ‘them’ until that category has no one left in it.”*

~Howard Winters

## What’s in a Name?

A river meanders through the community in which I live. The river is called The Nemasket. Defined by those who named it, the Wampanoag Native American tribe, it means “the fishing place.” For centuries, the Nemasket offered people the opportunity to receive nourishment and renewal. I like this river, I walk there often, roaming along its banks. It was along one of these strolls shared with my friend Eileen Whiteside that the thought came to create an organization that like the river could offer support to our whole community. Eileen and I talked and talked of the idea. We shared our notions with others and created a dream. We wanted to create a place that expressed our ideology and our dreams of a fuller future for all it touched. Mostly we wanted to create an organization that dared express its heart and fit into the fabric of a community. We wanted The Nemasket Group to be open to loving and being loved, to weep if needed, and to permit the seeking of joy. To us as trained professionals these notions frightened us because all that we have been taught told us that these ideas were unprofessional, that we could not dare let our colleagues find out and least of all our funding sources know. The more we shared the clearer and more definite the vision became. Both of us had worked for years in organizations that were good, yet were not satisfying for us as people. Our feeling was, if we were not satisfied, then good chances the people we serve were not also.

We went ahead with our ideas. With much help from family and friends we created an organization. We then needed a community and a good opportunity to develop and grow in. As these things so often happen, the opportunity presented itself soon after we incorporated. The Nemasket Group is now part of a very giving and supportive community. The Greater New Bedford area is our home. We owe it much and hope to return to it some of what it has given to us. We feel excited about the services we offer now and hopeful of our future. Even though we dare not talk much about those early thoughts and feeling shared those days along the river, our hope is that what we do with The Nemasket Group will continually express them.

Written by: Louis Nisenbaum      Published by: Nemasket Works, September 1991

*Our “VISION for the future” .....*

**The Nemasket Group envisions individuals leading successful lives that are rich with meaningful roles**

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## Our first Annual 5K Walk/Run!

Our first annual **5k Walk/Run** was held on May 17th. The skies cleared and it turned out to be a nice day. We are grateful to all those that participated, our volunteers, staff, and corporate sponsors.



## 30th Anniversary Celebration

Our story began in 1984, when a group of families came together and made a decision. They wanted their sons and daughters to have a future — a future that included working and participating in everyday community life.

On October 10th, The Nemasket Group will be celebrating thirty years of providing community based services. Contact us for more information.



Join us for a great day of golf at the Country Club of New Bedford  
The day includes lunch, golf, dinner, auction & prizes!

For more information, visit our website at [www.nemasketgroup.org](http://www.nemasketgroup.org)  
or call Patricia Janiak at 508-999-4436 x101  
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