

QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND FINAL REPORT- 2018

Please complete and submit completed form via e-mail to dcanning@cfgnh.org at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven by March 29, 2019 (or as otherwise stated on the terms of grant).

Date: March 28, 2019

Group/Organization Name: Canal Dock Boathouse, Inc.

Address: PO Box 8442

City, State, & Zip: New Haven, CT 06530

Telephone #: 203.464.5938

Project Name: Hiring of Asst. Programs Manager/Asst. Coach

Grant Number: 20180206

Name & title of person completing this form: John Pescatore, President of Board of Directors

E-mail address: john@canaldock.org

Please respond to the following statements:

1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable).

Nicole Moody was originally hired on October 9, 2017, and was then retained in October of 2018 for another year with Canal Dock as Assistant Programs Manager & Assistant Coach. Nicole now works full-time, 40 hours/week, and earns \$32,500 annually. The QRF grant in 2018 enabled Canal Dock to switch Nicole from hourly to salaried, increasing her hours working for Canal Dock, and at a lower hourly rate. Primarily, Nicole was hired to increase Canal Dock's capacity for providing increased public access to the Quinnipiac River. Nicole works to accomplish this goal by attracting and introducing new participants to Canal Dock boating opportunities, which include dragon-boating, kayaking, paddle-boarding and rowing. This time last year Canal Dock had nearly 100 members, and now the membership roles have grown beyond 150. In addition, in order to remain properly aligned with our eventual University of New Haven Marine Biology Program partnership, Nicole is also tasked with doing her job in an environmentally conscious manner.

2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward?

Currently, Canal Dock's successes and challenges are directly linked to opening the new boathouse on Long Wharf Drive. The organization finally took possession of Canal Dock Boathouse on December 7, 2018. It's been a monumental task to not only open, but also operate, a \$40 million facility with a 2 ½ person staff. The boathouse is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5, and other than on the weekends when we have private reception and security services, our tiny staff (and one full-time volunteer) keeps the building open while preparing for the upcoming boating season.

Additional challenges include sorting out the insurance and legal ramifications of operating an organization with responsibility for such an expensive and highly recognized facility. The costs and time demanded by these matters have quickly outpaced the growth of the organization and its membership. These should balance out in time, but the board of directors is feeling the pressure to accelerate growth, find greater success in fundraising, and raise event revenues from renting the boathouse event spaces.

Nicole spends most of her time on membership and participation related tasks, and is successfully adjusting to the expanded responsibilities that have come with opening the new boathouse. Her primary duties include: coaching existing members in fitness classes such that they are fit, motivated and prepared for the boating season, organizing recruitment events like the Indoor Rowing Relay and Dragon Boat Regatta, preparing our boating equipment for the upcoming season, communicating with existing and interested members about boating opportunities, and importantly, on-boarding new members.

3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River?

Canal Dock has been waiting for over 6 years to open the new boathouse. Now, with respect to how Canal Dock supports getting people out onto the water, the opportunities appear to have swelled dramatically. However, New Haven and Canal Dock still both face the challenge of waking up bigger chunks of its population to these increased opportunities, and to the combined benefits of interacting with and supporting our rivers and waterfront.

Helping potential and existing paddlers and rowers create healthy, positive, on-water experiences is what will keep them coming back for more, and what we also hope produces more stewards of New Haven waterways. Thus, like mentioned last year, increasing Canal Dock's support staff with experienced, safety-minded individuals is the biggest barrier we face when new, big chunks of the New Haven population actually start showing up.

Also, please include a photo or image that can be uploaded along with your report to The Quinnipiac River Fund website.