



## SPIRIT OF NICHOLAS SAILING FUND ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

**Dear Family and Friends,**

**December 2024**

It's been just over one year that the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund was established at the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC) to inspire future generations of sailors to learn to love sailing and create a lasting legacy in memory of sailor Nicholas Papadopoulos. As Nicholas' mother, the fund started as a way to channel my grief and navigate life without him, to honor his legacy and give back to the local sailing community we love. The charitable purpose of the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund is to support organizations who encourage young sailors to actively participate in junior training programs, scholastic teams, competitive racing and related maritime and STEM educational activities in Annapolis and on the Chesapeake Bay. The Donor Advised Fund is administered by the CFAAC and together with the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund Advisors determine where the grants are rewarded annually. "We are profoundly grateful for the trust that the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund has placed in the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County to honor Nicholas's legacy," said Mary Spencer, President and CEO of CFAAC. "Together, we are committed to sharing the light of his passion for sailing and ensuring that future generations of sailors have the resources and opportunities to thrive."

I am pleased to announce that thanks to the generous support of donors we were able to grant our very first award this fall. At the end of October, the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund Advisors announced the first grant award of \$5,000 to Key School's Varsity and JV Sailing Teams. Nicholas sailed competitively at the Key for four years and was team Captain his senior year. Sailing at Key made a positive impact on Nicholas so the grant award couldn't be more meaningful to me, his teachers and coaches and the Key School community.





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"We are deeply honored to receive this grant from the Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund," said Key School Athletic Director Brian Boyd. "Nicholas' passion for sailing and his leadership as Captain of our team left a lasting impact on our school community. This generous support will help us continue to build that legacy, providing our sailors with the tools and opportunities to excel both on the water and in STEM education." The grant funding will provide financial assistance to the Key School Sailing Teams for equipment, supplies, travel and STEM sailing education for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 athletic seasons. The Key School Sailing Varsity Team took first place in the MDISA District Keelboat Qualifier and will head to the High School Keelboat Nationals in St. Petersburg, Florida next spring. The Spirit of Nicholas Sailing Fund grant funding was timely indeed as their win is an incredible honor and opportunity, Go Zags!

I am also pleased to announce that we have met our goal is to permanently endow the fund to support the purpose in perpetuity. In 2025, our goal is to give two grant awards to junior sailing organizations who need financial support. In order to achieve this goal, we will ramp up our fundraising efforts as we know the success of the donor advised fund is contingent on building our base of supporters. Individuals can donate to grow the fund through the CFAAC website. Your generosity will continue our grant-making efforts.

Thank you for your generous support. I am truly grateful for the Spirit of Nicholas sails on.

Sincerely,

Heather East  
Founder, Fund Advisor and Nicholas' Mom

