

Friends of Belmar Harbor receive a \$1,000 grant

Grant was from Investor's Foundation to help maintain fleet

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By Patrick Campbell

BELMAR — Friends of Belmar Harbor was awarded a grant from the Investor's Foundation on March 8.

The grant, which was for \$1,000, will be used to help support the Friends of Belmar Harbor [FOBH] as they prepare their fleet of sailboats for use during the upcoming season and into the future.

"The Investor's Foundation grant will support the young people who come from families of limited means and are charged a modest fee for one week of training by certified instructors leading them from inexperienced to seasoned skippers of their own vessels," explained Roy Childers, president of the FOBH's board of directors.

The FOBH is a nonprofit 501[c][3] organization, composed of volunteers, that aims to instill a love of sailing into younger generations by offering courses and instruction to those willing to learn. Since its creation in 2000, the FOBH has helped train nearly 6,000 Monmouth and Ocean County children, from the ages of five to 18, in recreational and competitive sailing.



Representatives from Investor's Foundation and Friends of Belmar Harbor gathered as two of the group's young sailors displayed a grant check for \$1,000. Photo courtesy FRIENDS OF BELMAR HARBOR

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"Some FOBH graduates have gone on to sail competitively in area high schools and colleges, but nearly all have gone on to remain sailors and lovers of the maritime environment for a lifetime," said Mr. Childers.

The grant from the Investor's Foundation will help FOBH to maintain fleet sustainability by repairing and replacing more than 34 instructional sailing vessels, meaning that the foundation's gift will allow the group to instill a love of sailing in even more area children.

According to Brian Hull, sailing program director with the FOBH, getting people involved in sailing at a young age can not only be helpful on the water, but for the rest of their lives.

"I can say, from personal experience, that the joy, art and discipline of sailing instills and strengthens in our youth new and existing traits of character," said Mr. Hull. "Children learn independent thinking, determination, fortitude and adaptive reasoning."

Investor's Foundation is a function of Investor's Bank, headquartered in Short Hills, that assists nonprofit organizations in the New Jersey, New York and Long Island areas. To date, the Investor's Foundation has donated more than \$20 million to nonprofits, according to a press release.

More information about FOBH, their organization or any of the programs they offer can be found by calling 732-403-4154 or visiting their website, www.fobhnj.org.

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