



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TD Charitable Foundation supports Essex National Heritage Commission and the National Park Service through a donation for the Youth Summer Jobs Program**

August 6, 2012 (Salem, MA) -- TD Bank, through the TD Charitable Foundation donated \$5,000 to the Essex National Heritage Commission in Essex County as part of the bank's commitment to giving back to the community.

The Essex National Heritage Commission and the National Park Service are thankful for the generosity from the TD Charitable Foundation for the Youth Summer Jobs program. The grant has enabled Essex Heritage to hire three additional under-engaged youth to work throughout the two national park sites in Salem and Saugus and at The Trustees of Reservations Appleton Farms.

“This program has been a successful partnership that brings under-engaged youth from our region into the Park System,” said Annie C. Harris, Executive Director, Essex National Heritage Commission. “We hope that through their meaningful work this summer that these youth will become the future stewards of our heritage and our natural resources.”

The Youth Summer Job Corps program is sustained by funding through the National Park Service (NPS) along with investments by Essex Heritage. The Youth Summer Job Corps program is directed towards youth ages 14-18. For many of these students this is their first job experience and they are hired by Essex Heritage and the NPS to work for 8 to 12 weeks in the summer under the supervision of NPS staff. The youth rotate through a variety of jobs including maintenance, administration, visitor services and interpretation. They are also given assistance on how to prepare for work, work place expectations, resume preparation, and career development. Essex Heritage is instrumental in enabling new students to join the program, but many of the older youths continue to work during the fall tourist season, and in future years.

“This summer we are working with youth who are just starting in our program, thanks to the TD grant, along with youth who have been in the program from one to four years,” said Michael Quijano-West, Superintendent of Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites. “The youth are engaged in a number of projects from painting to cleaning up exhibits and more. And, this year, we are collaborating with The Trustees of Reservations and have two of our youth working at Appleton Farms. Our park staff are committed to working with under-engaged youth to encourage their appreciation for our local resources, to learn about maritime history and, ultimately, to become future leaders in our national parks.”

“The mission of Essex Heritage is to work in partnership with local non-profits, and the National Park Service,” said Annie C. Harris, Executive Director, Essex National Heritage Commission. “The work at Appleton Farms strengthens our mission, and that of the National Park Service, to promote the resources of our region while we engage students across the Heritage Area.”

“We are pleased to be a part of the Youth Jobs program to enable our future leaders to experience our sites through hands-on work at Appleton Farms. They’ve made a real contribution to North Shore agriculture this summer, and we’re proud to have had this opportunity to partner with them and the National Park Service and Essex National Heritage Commission,” said David Beardsley, Director of the Ipswich Center for Enterprise and Engagement, which encompasses Appleton Farms and The Crane Estate. “Programs and partnerships like this one are an important part of our effort to educate the next generation of farmers and conservationists.”

Founded in 1636 by Samuel Appleton, Appleton Farms is the oldest continuously operating farm in the country. Nine successive generations of the Appleton family worked the farm before the family donated it to The Trustees of Reservation in 1998. Now the home to New England’s largest community-supported agriculture program, a 40-cow dairy herd, a 50-head beef herd, 200 hundred chickens, and a robust series of public educational programs, Appleton Farms seeks to operate it as a vibrant community resource that emphasizes the role of local food, sustainable agriculture and heritage preservation in building stronger communities.

Essex National Heritage Commission is the non-profit steward of the Essex National Heritage Area. Their mission is to preserve and enhance the historic, cultural and natural resources of Essex County for the benefit of all who live in, work in and visit the Area. Established in 1997, Essex Heritage has fostered many significant public-private partnerships throughout the 500 square mile area. One of Essex Heritage’s most significant collaborations is with the National Park Service. Working with the NPS, Essex Heritage seeks to advance their mission of conservation, education, preservation and recreation within and beyond the two national parks in this region.

### **More about The Trustees of Reservations**

The Trustees of Reservations is the nation's oldest, statewide land conservation organization founded by open space visionary Charles Eliot in 1891 to "hold in trust," and care for properties of scenic, cultural and natural significance for current and future generations to enjoy. Supported by members, donors and thousands of volunteers, The Trustees own and manage 106 spectacular "reservations" (over 20 of which are on Boston's north shore) located on more than 26,000 acres in 75 communities throughout Massachusetts. The Trustees work to promote healthy, active, green communities locally and around the state by providing hundreds of year-round programs, events and engagement opportunities for all ages. Most property entry fees, programs and events are free-of-charge or heavily discounted for members. Accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, The Trustees are an established leader in the conservation movement and model for other land trusts nationally and internationally. To find out more about membership, volunteer, job and other engagement opportunities with The Trustees visit <http://www.thetrustees.org>.

### **About the Essex National Heritage Area**

The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) is the non-profit management entity for Essex National Heritage Area, one of forty-nine heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the Essex Heritage promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that preserve, promote and enhance regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the website at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or call (978) 740-0444.

### **About Salem Maritime National Historic Site**

Salem Maritime National Historic Site was designated in 1937, the first National Historic Site in the national park system. The nine acre site includes the homes of merchants and mariners, the Salem Custom House in which the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne worked, and a replica of the three-masted cargo vessel Friendship. Today, the park rangers and volunteers of Salem Maritime NHS continue to inform and inspire visitors with the maritime history of New England and the United States. For more information, visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/sama](http://www.nps.gov/sama) or call 978-740-1650.

### **About Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site**

Site Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site was designated in 1968 as a unit of the national park system. This national park commemorates the first integrated iron works in North America, established 1646. The nine acre site includes working waterwheels, hot forges, mills, an historic 17th century home and a lush river basin. Today, the park rangers and volunteers of Saugus Iron Works NHS continue to inform and inspire visitors with the industrial history of New England and the United States. For more information, visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/sair](http://www.nps.gov/sair) or call 781-233-0050.

### **About the TD Charitable Foundation**

The TD Charitable Foundation is the charitable giving arm of TD Bank N.A., which operates as TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank<sup>®</sup>, and is one of the 10 largest commercial banking organizations in the United States. The Foundation's mission is to serve the individuals, families and businesses in all the communities where TD Bank operates, having

made \$84.9 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002. The Foundation's areas of focus are affordable housing, financial literacy and education, and the environment. More information on the TD Charitable Foundation, including an online grant application, is available at [www.TDBank.com](http://www.TDBank.com).

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