

## On One Boston Day, Martin Richard Foundation and Sailing Heals Team Up to Care for Our Caregivers

*“Sailing Heals Meals” Will Feed Entire Overnight Shift at North Shore Medical Center Salem Campus*

*Initiative Will Continue Through COVID-19 Crisis, Supporting Caregivers and Local Restaurants*

**SALEM, MA** -- Today the [Martin Richard Foundation](#) and Salem-based nonprofit [Sailing Heals](#) announced the launch of *Sailing Heals Meals*, an initiative to feed frontline medical workers on the North Shore while giving local restaurants a much-needed boost to business and helping a local nonprofit keep its mission alive amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In honor of One Boston Day, *Sailing Heals Meals* will provide 350 boxed meals to feed the entire overnight shift at North Shore Medical Center’s Salem Campus.

“First and foremost, we want to show support and gratitude for our caregivers. These are the people showing up every day to take care of us and our loved ones -- putting their own health at risk, with families at home and a tremendous amount of stress and intensity at their jobs,” said Bill Richard, co-founder of the Martin Richard Foundation and Board Member of Sailing Heals. “At the same time, we hope this program will be a lifeline to local businesses who have been deeply impacted by this pandemic, as well as a bridge for our partners at Sailing Heals as they repurpose their mission on supporting caregivers with meals rather than a healing day at sea. We can do our part but we’re asking others to join the effort.”

Initial funding for the program is being provided through a grant from the Martin Richard Foundation, with a goal of attracting additional local funding partners to expand to additional restaurant partners and deepen impact for health care workers.

Sailing Heals has been a long standing supporter and provider for the caregiver community by offering healing trips at sea with local patients and their caregivers. Without the ability to host patients and caregivers on the water for the near future, and with their mission focused on caring for caregivers, the organization has refocused its support to providing meals to those serving the community in our hospitals.

“At this critical time, we are grateful to help provide nutritious meals to health care workers through the generosity of the Martin Richard Foundation and others who step up to the plate to join our effort,” said Trisha Gallagher Boisvert, Executive Director of Sailing Heals. “We are proud to support our caregivers; whether on the water or through this effort, the work continues.”

The first delivery of meals will come from Salem Gnu Kitchen, a commercial kitchen with a purpose of supporting local entrepreneurs, caterers and other small local businesses grow their organizations and become successful. Like so many others, Salem Gnu Kitchen has had to quickly shift to a “market and provisions” model in order to maintain its operations and serve the community.

For more information and to support *Sailing Heals Meals*, visit [SailingHeals.org](http://SailingHeals.org) or call 978-914-6609.

### **About the Martin Richard Foundation**

The Martin Richard Foundation works to advance the values of inclusion, kindness, justice and peace. We invest in community programs that broaden horizons for young people and encourage them to celebrate diversity and engage in positive civic action. On April 15, 2013, eight year old Martin Richard was one of three people killed while hundreds of others were injured when two bombs exploded near the Boston Marathon finish line. A photo of Martin holding a handmade sign spread across the Internet in the weeks that followed; the sign read “No More Hurting People, Peace.” Martin’s earnest commitment to peace became the impetus for the Martin Richard Foundation, founded by parents Denise and Bill in January 2014. Since 2014, the Foundation has worked to advance Martin’s values of sportsmanship, inclusion, kindness and peace by investing in programs that encourage young people to celebrate diversity and engage as community leaders.

### **About Sailing Heals**

Sailing Heals is a 501(c)(3) organization which has offered enjoyable sailing experiences to over 4,200 VIP patient guests, their caretakers and staff. Established in Marblehead, MA, in 2011, its mission is to simply give patients and caregivers a spirit-lifting day at sea. Sailing Heals is supported by generous donors and sponsors, Eisai Pharmaceuticals, an active board of directors, 250 host captains and hundreds of volunteers across nine states in the U.S. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.sailingheals.org](http://www.sailingheals.org).