



Annual Report 2025

Stronger Individuals, Connected Communities,
Accessible Waters





Table of Contents

A Letter from the Program Director	3
A Letter from the President	4
Our Foundation	5
Sustaining Our Mission	8
The 2025 Donor Honor Roll	11
News & Recognition	12
The Row Ahead	14



A Letter from the Program Director

To Our RowCMI Community,

The 2025 season was another landmark year for RowCMI, defined by swelling numbers of adult summer rowers, several new programs, and the close of our gROWingCMI Campaign. I am most inspired by the fruitful efforts of our volunteers, directors, and hard-working summer staff.

Our mission to provide accessible coastal rowing came to life through several standout achievements:

- **New Horizons:** We launched our first indoor rowing season in Scituate and introduced corporate team-building events for companies like Johnson & Johnson.
- **Inclusivity in Action:** We honored a 90-year-old memory care patient with deep roots in our community by helping her fulfill a lifelong wish to row, embodying the heart of our mission.
- **Community Engagement:** We revived the Minot's Light Roundabout and introduced 16 French exchange students to rowing and the heritage of Cohasset Harbor.
- **"Row Forward" Initiative:** This program for cancer survivors in remission is now a permanent pillar of RowCMI, aspiring to create a unique method for healing and fitness.

Looking toward 2026, we are energized to expand programs for individuals with cognitive and physical differences and to refresh our youth outreach. Thank you for helping us make the water a place for everyone.



Ready All

Frank Townsend





A Letter from the President

To Our Community,

The 2025 season was a landmark year for CMI. We have achieved a new level of sustainability, with program fees now covering the vast majority of our core operational costs, particularly for our youth and adult rowing programs.

While fees keep our boats in the water, **fundraising remains vital** to our growth and our mission. Your support allows us to move beyond daily operations and invest in the future of our club. Our current fundraising priorities include:

- **Expansion:** Adding new ergs for Scituate and a refurbished triple to our fleet.
- **Maintenance:** Addressing essential structural and cosmetic repairs for our fours.
- **Accessibility:** Funding new programs and scholarships to ensure rowing remains financially accessible to all.
- **Talent:** Increasing compensation for our dedicated coaches and coxswains.

Our goal for 2026 is to shift from stabilizing our foundation to investing in the future, securing and improving our permanent home on Cohasset Harbor while positioning the club for expansion. Thank you for your continued trust and for ensuring that CMI remains a vital resource for our community.



Sincerely,

Eric Penanhoat
President, Board of Directors





Our Foundation

Our Mission

Cohasset Maritime Institute - known as RowCMI - is a non-profit community-based organization founded in 1994. We are dedicated to providing recreational and competitive coastal rowing opportunities to area youth and adults and to encouraging a lifelong appreciation for our community's unique maritime heritage, and environment. We aspire to support mental and physical health, and to connect area individuals with the natural world and each other.

Our Vision

To inspire a healthier, more inclusive community by blending Cohasset's rich maritime heritage with the transformative power of rowing – fostering physical wellness, lifelong sportsmanship, and environmental appreciation for participants of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.



OUR CORE VALUES



CAMARADERIE & TEAMWORK

We build a powerful sense of community through human-powered boating. By prioritizing sportsmanship & collaborative effort, we ensure every participant finds support on the water, creating bonds that last beyond the rowing.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

We are dedicated to strengthening both body and mind. Our programs provide a sanctuary for fun, fitness, & competition, using rowing to promote lifelong vitality and resilience.



INCLUSIVE MARITIME HERITAGE

We celebrate Cohasset's coastal history by making the water accessible to everyone. By removing barriers & providing safe, challenging opportunities for all skill levels, we ensure our unique legacy is shared by all.



Board of Directors: 2025

Around the boardroom or at the boathouse, our Board is invested in CMI's financial stability and quality program growth with a commitment to community connection and outreach.

Eric Penanhoat
President (2027)
Kathy Desjourdy
Vice President (2027)
Kurt Livermore
Treasurer (2027)

George Baumgarten (2027)
Jack Buckley (Emeritus)
Bruce Gehrlein (2027)
Lisa Hewitt Dick (2026)
John Liffmann (Emeritus)

David Martin (2028)
Bruce McMeekin (2028)
Michael Riffle (2028)
Emily Vlasak (2028)

Board Members are elected at the annual meeting for terms of two years.

Our Programs

Adult Summer Season (May-August)
Youth Summer Program (July-August)
Fall Rowing – Youth Team & Adults
(September-October)
Indoor Rowing – For Youth and Adults
(October-March)

Indoor Tank Rowing –
Hosted at Duxbury Bay Maritime School
(Winter Sundays)
Spring Rows – For Adults (April)
Spring Youth Team (April-June)
Row Forward –
for cancer survivors to find fitness &
camaraderie in rowing (Year Round)

Minot's Light Roundabout –
A race for seaworthy rowing vessels,
hosted at Sandy Beach with thanks
to the Sandy Beach Association.
(September)
Lectures, Readings, Social Events –
Hosted at Cohasset Lightkeepers with
thanks to the Cohasset Historical Society.

Success in 2025



A "BUCKET LIST" ACHIEVEMENT: In September, RowCMI supported a 90-year-old Alzheimer's patient in achieving a lifelong wish to row. The joy in Barbara's eyes as she achieved her goal was unforgettable!



ROW FORWARD: Proposed by member Lisa DiTullio, this program designed for cancer survivors in remission became a permanent pillar of RowCMI in 2025. By providing a supportive environment to transition from ergs to open water, RowForward raised nearly **\$10,000** to become a self-funded success.



SYSTEM UPGRADE & INTEGRATION: Laura Kennedy modernized systems infrastructure and processes, improving operational efficiency and scalability.



CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT: Mike Pecca and his colleagues at Johnson & Johnson piloted our corporate team-building events, and we gave eight brand new rowers a day of team building and leadership work on the water.





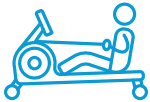
MINOT'S LIGHT ROUNDABOUT: Laurie Kelly directed a revived fall classic, allowing **20 crews and 97 participants** to experience Cohasset's waters.



LIFFMANN HONORED: Long-time coach and Board Member John Liffmann was recognized by CMI and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for his significant contributions to the youth of Cohasset and surrounding communities.



MAINTENANCE & REPAIR: *Anne & Eddie* (last February) and *Wilson* (in December), received much needed fiberglass repair, upgraded rigging, replacement rails, and a gorgeous coat of paint. Thanks always to our volunteer repair crew!



SCITUATE RECREATION CLASSES: We added our first season of indoor rowing based in Scituate to our busy Cohasset Recreation Schedule.



ROWING HOME: In October, we hosted a reading and discussion with record-breaking rower and author Suzanne Pinto.



CAMPAIGN COMPLETE! We finished our 3-year, \$200,000 campaign in October **raising a total of \$214,166 –\$14,000 over goal!**



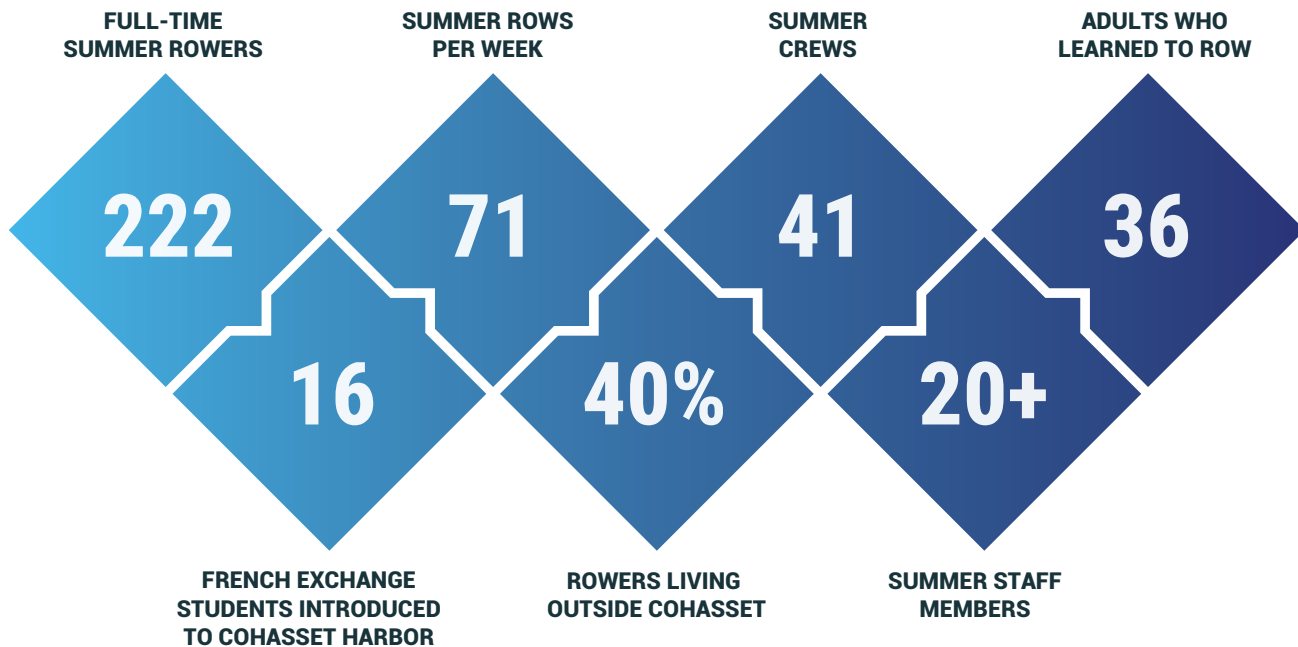


Sustaining Our Mission

THE 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2025 fiscal year was a period of strong financial performance and strategic growth for CMI. By focusing on operational efficiency and expanding our community outreach, we successfully strengthened our financial position. This year, our disciplined approach allowed us to **add \$30,413 to our reserve funds** and bolstered our liquidity.

Our Impact

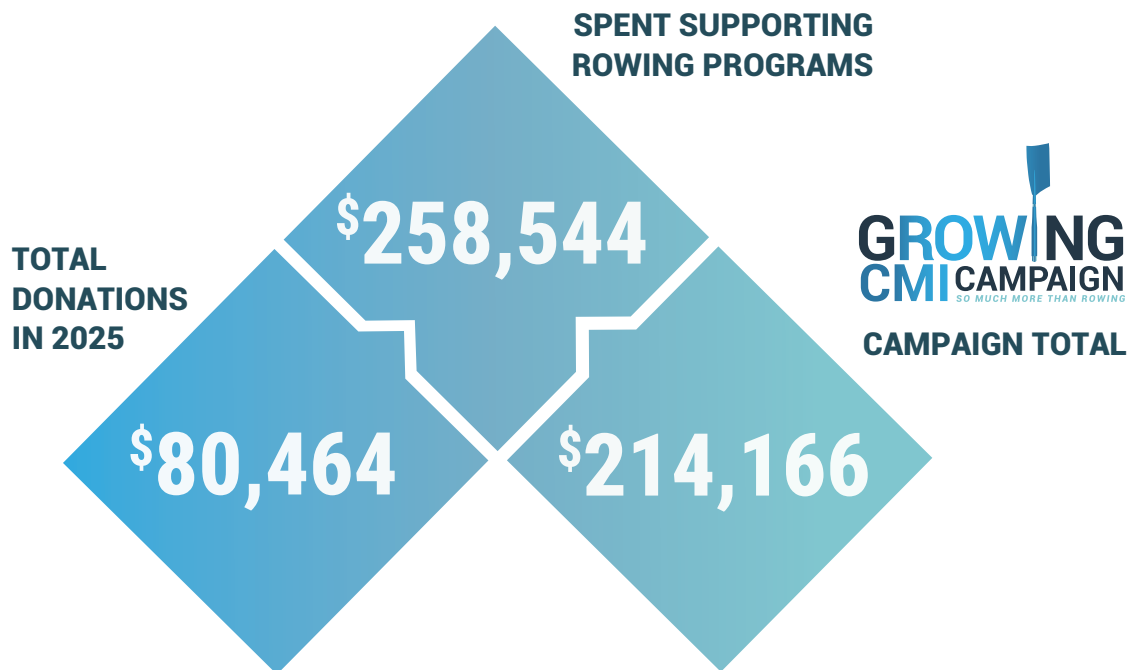


The Impact of **Your Support**

This progress was driven by a remarkable **79% increase in donations, totaling over \$80,000**. These contributions provided the essential capital needed to expand our reach and enhance our programs, ensuring we could grow our impact while continuing to add to our reserve funds.

A Deeper Dive on the Mission

2025 was a year of strong financial performance and strategic growth for RowCMI. Increased community support and operational efficiency strengthened reserves while expanding programs and accessibility initiatives.



Your support helps fund:

➤ Scholarships

➤ RowForward for Cancer Survivors

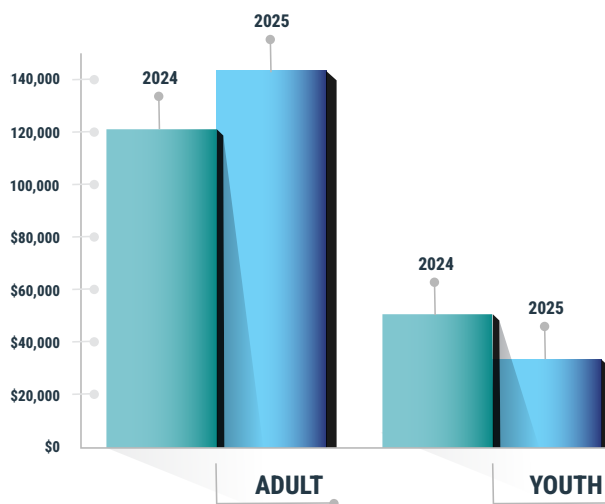


Revenue Shifts & Drivers

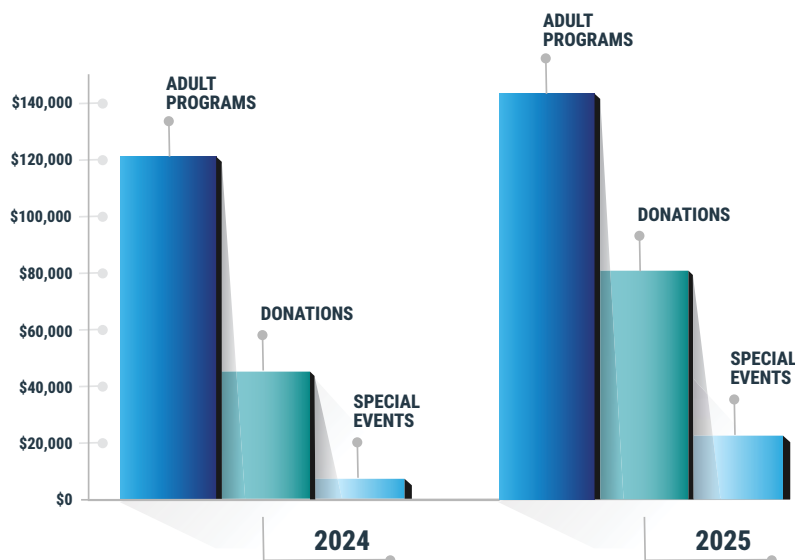
In 2025 the sources of our revenue shifted in interesting ways. Adult program revenue rose while youth program revenues dipped. Overall program revenue flipped from youth programs leading to adult programs generating more revenue.

Growth was driven by the adult programs, donations and special events. All categories saw growth, with both donations and special events seeing particularly strong growth performance for the year.

PROGRAM REVENUE SHIFT: 2024 vs 2025



KEY REVENUE GROWTH DRIVERS





\$84,464 in Annual Giving

The 2025 Donor Honor Roll

Generous friends like you advance CMI's mission to be welcoming to all, to enhance our programs for youth, to hire and retain the best coaches and staff, and to invest in boats, equipment and infrastructure that enable our members to experience the teamwork and camaraderie unique to rowing in the amazing coastal waters off Cohasset, Scituate and Hull.

Builder \$10,000+

The Penanhoat Family

Platinum Oar \$5,000+

The Desjourdy Family
Carolyn & Heber Nielsen
Paul Previte

Gold Oar \$2,500+

The Baumgarten Family
Joan Cassiani
CAbbie Harvey
Mod-Tech Homes
South Shore Playhouse
Associates (Grant)

Silver Oar \$1,000+

George Bushnell
Mike Dick & Lisa Hewitt-Dick
Eleanor Hickey
Brian House
John Liffmann
Bruce McMeekin
Maggie Merrill
David & Karen Parker
Sheryl Percy
Mitch & Jen Schmidt
Tim Nash Fund
for Sustainability
Louis Trubiano
Chubb Charitable (Match)
Cohasset Rotary (Grant)

Bronze Oar \$500+

Angel Armendariz
Sherri Caplan
Coastal Volkswagen
of Hanover
Elizabeth Dunne
Kathleen Griffin
Pamela Kelly
William Litwin
Jay Lupica
Patrice McInnis
Marty Narten
Chris & Nancy Oddleifson
Andrew Quigley
Charleen Tyson
Emily & Tony Vlasak
Ginger Walsh
Leslie Worris
Rotary Club
of Hingham (Grant)
Rowing Cares (Grant)
State Street (Match)

Friend Of CMI \$250+

Thomas Baker
Andrew Barish
Jennifer Boylan
Jack & Barbara Buckley
Cosmo's Caffe
Ed Craven
Curtis Liquors
Elizabeth Frazier
Martha & Michael Gangemi

Bruce Gehrlein
Anne Gilbert
Susan Greenbowe
Lauren Kelly
Sarah Livermore
Joan Meschino
Michael & JoAnne Pecca
Astrid Peisch
Nikki Salvatore
Annette Sawchuk
Andrew Short
Lorraine Tarpey
James Topper
Victoria's Wellington (Match)

Thank You up to \$249

Maribeth Ahearn
Jennifer Alba
Kristen Baker
Jennifer Bunge
Kristin Carcio
Louis Dahan
Laura Davidson Kennedy
Kristin Fraser
Caroline Gallacher
Kevin Gaughen
Gary Glines
Amy Gurtz
Claire Haddad
Patrick Hamner
Jessica Hauser
Lawrence Kavanaugh

Joan Kovach
Bruce Kristal
Corinne Leung
Doug McLellan
Elizabeth Merryweather
Christine Perlett
Dave Kneeland & Sandra Perry
Ross Reel
Francis Rockett
Susan Ross
Kerrin Ryan
Nick Salvatoriello
Mary Hayes Shea
Robert & Karen Shusterman
Deirdre Stropp
Wayne Thompson
Frank Townsend
Anthony Viola
Michael Vlasak
Susan Vroman
Chad Wolfe
Susan Wood
Deirdre Yemeni
Blackbaud Giving (Match)
Giithub (Match)
Row Forward Donations

This list reflects gifts received from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. For questions, concerns or details, please contact George Baumgarten at geobaum@comcast.net.





News & Recognition

In the News



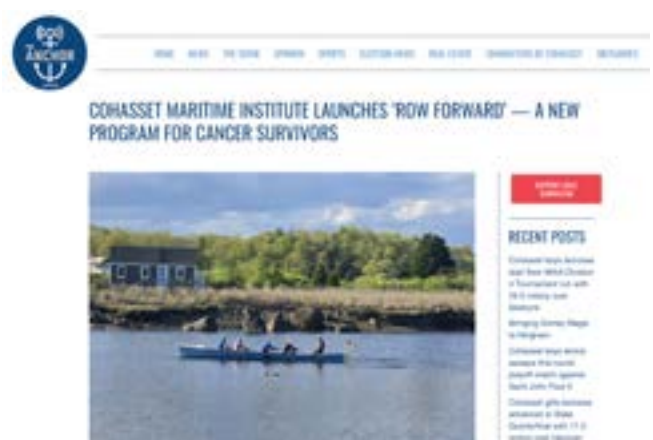
[Click Here](#) to see the story.



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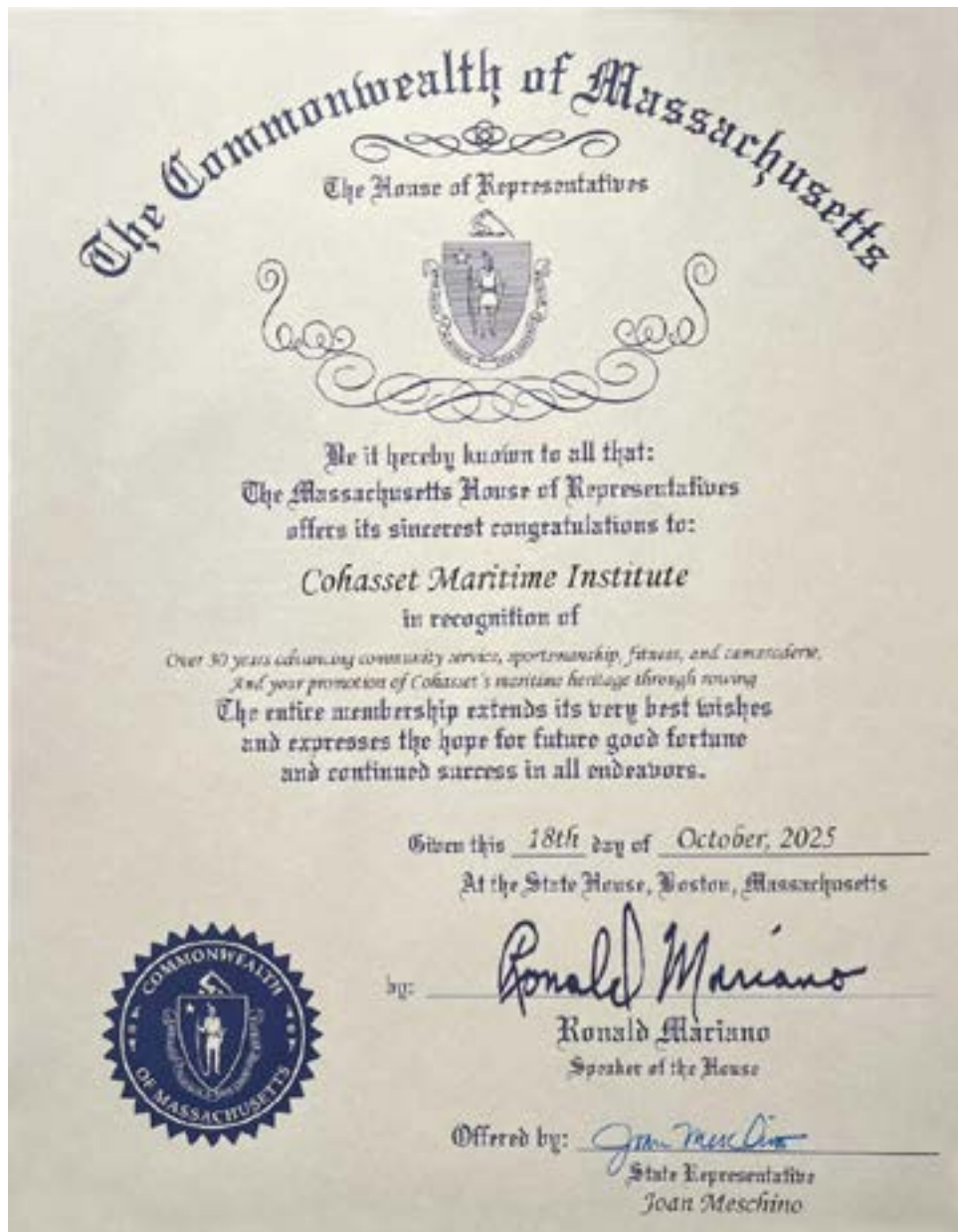


[Click Here](#) to see the story.



Special Recognition

In October 2025 the Massachusetts House of Representatives recognized CMI for **over 30 years** of advancing community service, sportsmanship, fitness, and camaraderie; and for promoting the maritime heritage of Cohasset. We are so proud to be a unique resource for students, area residents, and the rowing community.





The Row Ahead

As RowCMI enters 2026, we are positioned for expansion. Our strategic objectives include:



While our current position is strong, the continued need for donations remains vital to our long-term vision. **We require sustained funding to maintain momentum and plan for the future.**



Your continued partnership ensures that RowCMI can meet these ambitious goals while maintaining the healthy reserves necessary for the long-term sustainability of our community programs.

