



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / September 17, 2024**

### **The Mariners' Receives \$15,000 From Sentara Health to Support Lake Stewards**

**NEWPORT NEWS, Va**— The Mariners' Museum and Park has received a \$15,000 grant from Sentara Health to support the Mariners' Lake® Stewards program during the 2024-25 school year. The award will fund student transportation, the purchase of supplies, teacher professional development, and staff time. This school year, 2,000 ninth-grade students will participate in Lake Stewards, an immersive program empowering students to become environmental stewards as they gain knowledge of Mariners' Lake and its ecosystem.

“What I love about the Lake Stewards program is that students are given the power to take action on climate-based solutions in their environment,” said Senior Science Educator Shantelle Landry. “Many times, students might not feel as though they have much of a say or the ability to change things about their community. When we involve them, we show them that they are essential to their community and that they can have a positive impact on the health of their environment.”

The Mariners' Lake Stewards program builds on the success of the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) curriculum, which has served over 4,000 students and nearly 70 teachers to date. Funding from Sentara equips The Mariners' Education Team to successfully grow and maintain the Lake Stewards program by expanding reach to Hampton City Schools and York County Public Schools and increasing the number of community partners served.

“It is always extremely rewarding to see students' faces light up when they are helping us plant grasses in an effort to improve the health of Mariners' Lake,” Landry conveyed. “In the words of one of our participating students, ‘I learned that my voice matters in the environment. I learned that I can help no matter how small my voice is. I learned that I can make a difference in the world.’”

For interview requests or more information about The Mariners' Museum and Park, media should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at [sjones@MarinersMuseum.org](mailto:sjones@MarinersMuseum.org) or

(757) 591-7708.

**Image:** Students from Denbigh High School planting Eel Grasses in Mariners' Lake under the supervision of Mariners' Senior Science Educator Claudia Moncada in Spring 2024.



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### **About Sentara Health**

[Sentara](#), an integrated, not-for-profit health care delivery system, celebrates 135 years in pursuit of its mission—“we improve health every day.” Sentara is one of the largest health systems in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and among the top 20 largest not-for-profit integrated health systems in the country, with 30,000 employees, 12 hospitals in Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina, and the Sentara Health Plans division which serves more than 1.2 million members in Virginia and Florida. Sentara is recognized nationally for clinical quality and safety and is strategically focused on innovation and creating an extraordinary health care experience for our patients and members. Sentara was named to IBM Watson Health’s “Top 15 Health Systems” (2021, 2018), and was recognized by Forbes as a “Best Employer for New Grads” (2022), “Best Employer for Veterans” (2022), and “Best Employer for Women” (2020).

### **About The Mariners’ Museum and Park®**

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners’ Museum is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners’ Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners’ Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum’s world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners’ Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America’s National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners’ team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our

social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit [MarinersMuseum.org](http://MarinersMuseum.org), call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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