

This is the first in a series of updates to the Vinalhaven community about the work of the Star of Hope Foundation.

The Star of Hope Foundation – who we are and what we do

The Star of Hope Foundation was established by the artist Robert Indiana prior to his death and is the sole beneficiary of his estate. The Foundation's purpose is to support arts education and working artists in Maine. This includes serving the people who live on Vinalhaven, where Mr. Indiana made his home for several decades prior to his death.

As you know, there were a number of contentious legal issues related to the settlement of Mr. Indiana's estate. Thankfully, those matters have now largely been resolved, and the Foundation is able to begin taking the necessary steps to carry out its mission.

As a first step, we want to update islanders and island visitors – essentially, anyone who loves Vinalhaven – about the Foundation's purpose and ongoing work. To that end, this is the first in a series of updates which we will be providing you in the coming weeks. Some of the future topics we intend to cover include:

- The status of the art collection – pieces that were created or owned by Mr. Indiana
- News on the archives – the voluminous amount of papers, correspondence, memorabilia, and photographs belonging to Mr. Indiana
- The condition and status of buildings and land once owned by Mr. Indiana – 10 Main Street, 46 Main Street, 7 Windy Way, and 3 Clam Shell Alley – all located on Vinalhaven.

As an artist-endowed foundation, Star of Hope is a tax-exempt charitable private foundation created by an artist or the artist's heirs. We are regulated by the Maine Attorney General's office and the IRS. We must follow strict rules and reporting requirements and have a fiduciary duty to protect the Foundation and its assets. You can find more information about all of this by going to starofhopefoundation.org and clicking on the *Artist-Endowed Foundations* tab.

The Star of Hope Foundation is overseen by a nine-member board of directors, several of whom have deep and active ties to Vinalhaven. Led by respected Maine businessman and community leader Larry Sterrs, board members bring a wide variety of experiences and skills to the Foundation and its work. For more information about board members and their backgrounds, please visit the Foundation's website at starofhopefoundation.org and click on the *Board of Directors* tab.

The board is committed to carrying out the mission of the Foundation responsibly and with full transparency, and to always doing the right thing – factoring in the artwork and properties entrusted to it, for arts education and working artists in Maine, and for the people of Vinalhaven.

We look forward to sharing additional information with you throughout the winter and spring. In our next update, we'll tell you more about the status of our remarkable art collection.

Have questions or comments? We welcome your feedback. Please use the contact form on our Welcome page at starofhopefoundation.org.