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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **WINGS FOR FALMOUTH FAMILIES ELECTS NEW BOARD, PRESIDENT**

**May, 2013 – Founders Circle members Ruth Augusta, who was newly elected president, and Harry Turner return to the board with a focus on fundraising, increasing the endowment, and community outreach.**



Wings For Falmouth Families Board of Directors (from left): Todd Bidwell (immediate past president), Jessica Culley-Kozens (secretary/clerk), Mark Petersen (treasurer), Stephanie Litterer (vice president), Harry Turner, Ruth Augusta (president), Debra Levy, Scott Muma, and Margaret Abisla. Missing from photo are board members Erin Denmark and Donna Noonan. (Photo: Bill Levy)

At the annual meeting held May 11, the Board of Directors of Wings For Falmouth Families welcomed two of the organization's Founders Circle members back to the board. Ruth Augusta (elected president) and Harry Turner will rejoin existing board members Todd Bidwell (immediate past president), Stephanie Litterer (newly elected vice president), Mark Petersen (treasurer), Jessica Culley-Kozens (secretary/clerk), Margaret Abisla, Joanne Bayles, Erin Denmark, Debra Levy, Scott Muma (immediate past vice president), and Donna Noonan.

Ruth Augusta returns to the board as newly elected president. She is an original board member having completed two prior terms, serving as secretary, chairman of the Aid Committee, and member of the Auction and Golf tournament committees. She initiated Comedy Night, a major fundraiser for WFFF. She comments “I have worked on every single event that Wings has ever had!” She and husband Steven are Founders Circle Gold Wing members.

As president, Ms. Augusta will focus on fundraising in an effort to increase the endowment fund currently valued at \$142,000. “I’d like to see it exceed \$200,000. This will require a huge commitment from all board members, and I look forward to working with them and our wonderful group of volunteers to achieve this goal. I’m also interested in encouraging people in other towns to open their own chapters of Wings. We have already heard from interested parties in Mashpee.” Ms. Augusta will utilize social media like Facebook, to stay connected with donors and supporters. “I am honored to be chosen the next president of Wings. I truly believe in this organization and feel strongly that WFFF changes lives for the better.”

Harry Turner returns to the board after a brief absence. As a Founders Circle Platinum Wing member along with wife Linda, his involvement has remained consistent since the beginning. In addition to being named a Pillar Donor in 2012, Mr. Turner’s companies - Turner Inc., Obsession Boat Sales and Marine Services, and Green Pond Yacht Club - were the primary sponsors of WFFF’s Autumn Seaside Gala. As a board member he served on the Christmas Parade committee, and on the Aid committee, meeting with families who applied for assistance from WFFF. Asked why he’s happy to be back on the board Mr. Turner replied “Being able to help people who really need it, especially since every penny goes to the families. I’m just a guy trying to help.”

The board thanked outgoing president Todd Bidwell for his extraordinary leadership the last three years. During his presidency Mr. Bidwell focused on organizational structure, and oversaw the redesign of the brochure and the development of the website. He is especially proud of the donor recognition program introduced in 2012, *Wind Beneath Our Wings*. “This program allows us to recognize all those who empower WFFF to assist local families in crisis”, says Bidwell. In 2012, WFFF acknowledged 138 donors who collectively contributed over \$31,000 to the organization. *Cornerstone Donors* Charlie and Pamela Bardelis, and *Pillar Donors* Harry and Linda Turner and Sallie Peterson were recognized at the Night of Comedy fundraiser held in April. Along with partner Mark LiCalsi (a member of the original WFFF board), Mr. Bidwell is a Founders Circle Blue Wing member, active with the organization since it was founded in 2003 by Lisa and Eric Asendorf. He will remain a board member. “I am excited that Ruth is coming back as president and I look forward to working with her in the coming year.”

Wings for Falmouth Families is a community based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, providing local families with minor children an immediate safety net of financial assistance during a time of medical crisis or tragic event. WFFF empowers the family to focus on the needs of the family member who has become ill, and not worry about the monthly bills. To date more than \$125,000 has been disbursed. All funds are raised by the completely volunteer board of directors through fundraising events and direct appeals. WFFF’s next fundraising event is a yard sale scheduled for Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at the PAL facility on Brick Kiln Road. For more information visit the website [www.WingsForFalmouth.org](http://www.WingsForFalmouth.org)

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If you would like more information regarding this topic or wish to schedule an interview, please contact Ruth Augusta at 508-548-4420 or email [Ruth@WingsForFalmouth.org](mailto:Ruth@WingsForFalmouth.org).