

When The Bishopric Companies received a beautifully restored 1962 Red Cadillac convertible as partial payment from a client, it first considered putting the vehicle up at EBay. Then, owner Steven J. Bishopric and its president Chris Lynch, had a better idea. Why not donate it to the Cape & Islands United Way for Best Night's Live Auction at Willowbend Country Club on June 27.

THE RED CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE

For The Bishopric Companies, it's a symbol of community connections

When Steven J. Bishopric talks about carpentry, it's like listening to an artist wax passionately about the colors of a palette. After nearly 40 years, he still can't separate the successful business he has painstakingly built from the creative calling he first felt as a very young man with only dreams on his resume.

That growing business also cannot be separated from the Cape Cod communities

division, The House Carpenters, and Chestnut Bay Cabinet manufacturers in East Falmouth.

This growth has exposed both Bishopric and Lynch to an ever-wider and diversified community of towns, businesses and residents. "We see the connections so much more clearly now," says Lynch. "If we don't do our part to support the

For The Bishopric Companies, it began last year when Richard Brothers, the president of the Cape & Islands United Way, asked it to sponsor the first Cape & Islands Way, which reaches tens of thousands of second homeowners.

Then, it was an invitation to Lynch to join one of the many volunteer committees that keep the Cape & Islands United Way operating 24/7. This volunteerism is a major reason that 99 percent of every dollar contributed to the organization reaches programs and recipients. In fact, the nonprofit, which must raise more than \$1 million a year, employs only two staff, including Brothers.

For most businesses, such involvement would be enough. But, Bishopric and Lynch recently got a better idea. Why not donate to the Cape & Islands United Way the restored 1962 Red Cadillac convertible they received as partial payment from a client?

Neither Bishopric nor Lynch wanted the car themselves, and fleeting thoughts of an EBay online auction were easily trumped by the prospect of helping The Cape & Islands United Way raise critical dollars at its flagship charity event, Best Night, on June 27.

That silent and live auction has brought in as much as \$130,000, which is one-



that he and Chris Lynch, The Bishopric Companies' president, work and live in.

"Steven and I appreciate every day that our business and its economic health depend increasingly on the Cape's social well-being. Every business must build its commitment to the community into its business plan."

What once was a small custom-building business located in Osterville has grown rapidly into a diversified company that includes a home improvement

Cape's health and human safety net, the quality of life for everyone will suffer significantly. When that happens, business suffers too."

That's why The Bishopric Companies are among a growing array of companies – no matter their size – that are getting involved with the Cape & Islands United Way, which distributes more than \$1 million annually to scores of nonprofits and government agencies dedicated to the region's health and human resources.