

## ***WHY IS THE ST. ANTONIO PARADE IMPORTANT?***

*The Fox Point section of Providence, Rhode Island is the **second oldest Cape Verdean community in North America** after New Bedford, Massachusetts.*

*Cape Verdeans began arriving in Fox Point at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and grew into a vibrant, self-sufficient, multi-generational community with a strong connection to the language, culture and traditions of their homeland.*

*The St. Antonio parade celebrates and commemorates the St. Antonio Association, Rhode Island's first Cape Verdean Beneficent Society, founded in 1934 that provided health and death benefits to members, and contributed to the social, cultural and spiritual needs of the community. The first parade, held in 2009 celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization, and since 2010 has been a part of the annual Cape Verdean Independence Celebration. It is a symbolic return to Fox Point of the three generations of Cape Verdeans displaced by urban renewal and gentrification in the 1960s and 1970s.*

*This event is one of the initiatives of the The Fox Point Cape Verdean Project, a volunteer group comprised mostly of members/descendants of the founding Cape Verdean families in Fox Point. Launched in the fall of 2007 by Claire Andrade-Watkins, President of SPIA Media Productions, Inc. and Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, this multi-faceted project is dedicated to preserving, documenting and celebrating the history and culture of the Cape Verdean community in Fox Point.*