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Contact: Andrea Skawinski; AndreaS@kraftse.com; 774-266-5099

KRAFT FAMILY, PATRIOTS FOUNDATION AND GILLETTE DONATE \$275,000 IN THE NAMES OF 2024 MYRA KRAFT COMMUNITY MVP AWARD WINNERS

Twenty-six volunteers were recognized during an awards luncheon at Gillette Stadium on Thursday, June 6

Virginia Ryan of Boston, Mass. presented with \$10,000 donation for Haley House

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – On Thursday, June 6, the Kraft Family and New England Patriots Foundation celebrated the 2024 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Winners. They recognized 26 volunteers for their contributions to the New England community at an awards ceremony at Gillette Stadium. In total, \$275,000 in donations were distributed to the nonprofits represented by each volunteer. Twenty-five organizations each received \$10,000 and Ricky, Inc. received this year's grand prize of \$25,000.

Since 1998, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation have been recognizing volunteers for going above and beyond to give back to their communities through the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards program. Formerly known as the Community Quarterback Awards, this volunteer recognition was renamed in 2011 in memory of Myra Kraft.

"Every year, nonprofit organizations across New England put forth candidates that demonstrate what volunteerism and giving back truly is and who represent the very best of our community," **said Robert Kraft, Chairman and CEO of the Patriots.** "My late wife Myra, of blessed memory, was passionate about giving back and making a difference in people's lives. I am proud to see her legacy of volunteerism upheld through these awards, celebrating those who selflessly serve their communities as true Community MVPs."

Gillette, a longtime supporter of the New England Patriots and a cornerstone partner of the Patriots Foundation, served as the presenting sponsor for this year's program. On hand to congratulate the award winners were President of the New England Patriots Foundation Josh Kraft; Patriots, College and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett; and Gillette's VP of Communications & Community Affairs, Global Grooming, Kara Buckley.

"This program is incredibly important to our family, it's one of our favorites that we do each year," **said Josh Kraft, President of the New England Patriots Foundation.** "It is our honor to read hundreds of stories about volunteers who are committed to making their community a better place. We are privileged to once again partner with our good friends at Gillette to recognize these outstanding volunteers."

"These 26 volunteers and the nonprofit organizations they support are making a profound impact within our local community," **said Kara Buckley, Vice President of Communications & Community Affairs at Gillette.** "We are grateful to the Kraft Family and New England Patriots for recognizing them with this meaningful award. As a brand, we have long championed the significance of inspiring role models, and these Myra Kraft Community MVPs exemplify the very best of the best."

Virginia Ryan of Boston, Mass. was recognized as one of this year's honorees and presented with a \$10,000 donation for Haley House.

Haley House uses food to break down barriers between people, empower individuals and strengthen neighborhoods. Virginia leads volunteers shifts twice a week, leading eight volunteers each shift in tasks including preparing the meal and cooking. She takes the time to develop relationships with guests, listening to them explain a dish from their culture in hopes to provide more culturally relevant options.

"Food with purpose, to me, means communicating to folks that society has deemed undeserving of basic necessities that they deserve not only to survive but to enjoy one of life's greatest pleasures: sharing a home-cooked meal," **said Virginia.** "At Haley House, we incorporate culturally diverse meals and work to ensure that those who cannot afford the time, ingredients, or supplies for complex and varying meals can still enjoy them." Because much of their food is donated, it can be hard to think of tasty meals. Virginia helped develop a menu of recipes to pull from to diversify their service. The connections she builds and the effort she puts in creates a warm and welcoming environment, playing a big role in why guests come back day after day.

"I love hearing guests explain a dish from their culture to someone unfamiliar with the cuisine, and I find so much beauty and hope in cross-cultural connection through food as guests share tips and recipes with me and express their excitement when I cook something that reminds them of their childhood," said Virginia. "This sense of community grounds me and fills me with a sense of belonging and purpose that I have never before felt, and I am enormously grateful for the connections I have forged through Haley House."

The 2024 Myra Kraft Community MVP winners range from 14 to 85 years old and represent four of the six New England states. The selected nonprofits provide support for many causes, including education, food insecurity, grief support, healthcare, homelessness, mental health, violence prevention and more.

Since its inception, the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards program has recognized more than 500 volunteers and donated more than \$3.75 million to support nonprofit organizations across New England.

The Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation received close to 300 applications this year from nonprofit organizations looking to recognize their outstanding volunteers. Nominations open every February and the awards are open to all nonprofit organizations in the New England region.

For more information on the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards, please visit www.patriots.com/community.



Patriots Pro Football Hall of Famer Andre Tippett (far left) and Gillette's VP of Communications & Community Affairs, Global Grooming, Kara Buckley, congratulate Virginia Ryan from Haley House for being selected as a 2024 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner. During the June 6 luncheon, the Kraft family, the Patriots Foundation and Gillette awarded \$275,000 in grants to 26 New England nonprofits. Haley House received a \$10,000 grant in honor of Virginia's volunteer efforts. *(photo courtesy of Eric J. Adler/New England Patriots)*



Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft, President of the New England Patriots Foundation Josh Kraft, Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett and Procter & Gamble's VP of Communications & Community Affairs, Global Grooming, Kara Buckley take a group photo with the 2024 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winners at Gillette Stadium. (*photo courtesy of Eric J. Adler/New England Patriots*)

Below is a complete list of the 2024 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Winners:

First and Last Name	Hometown	Organization	Organization Town
Marie Boutin	Cumberland, R.I.	MAE Organization, Inc.	Cranston, R.I.
Mick Brunache	Hyde Park, Mass.	NXT ERA PANTHERS	Roxbury, Mass.
Natalie Cafeteiro	Dracut, Mass.	Adam Keenan Foundation	Lowell, Mass.
Kyra Conciatori	Boston, Mass.	Soccer Without Borders	East Boston, Mass.
Richard Giacoppo	Norwood, Mass.	Ricky, Inc.	Norwood, Mass.
Bryan Grillo	Watertown, Mass.	Association of Blind Citizens Boston Renegades	Holbrook, Mass.
Linda Holtslander	Peaks Island, Maine	Preble Street	Portland, Maine
Joan LeMay	Derby, Conn.	The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services	North Haven, Conn.
Steve Lepow	Longmeadow, Mass.	Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts	Springfield, Mass.
Christine E. Margulies	North Easton, Mass.	Schools on Wheels of Massachusetts	East Bridgewater, Mass.
Nina Skolsky Metz	Holyoke, Mass.	Cancer Connection	Northampton, Mass.
Donna Moore	Cherry Valley, Mass.	Project New Hope, Inc.	Worcester, Mass.
Alisha Neal	Buzzards Bay, Mass.	Angel Babies	Buzzards Bay, Mass.
Julie Norton	Wayland, Mass.	Eliza J. Norton Foundation	Wayland, Mass.
Tanya Oliveira	Attleboro, Mass.	Love Life Now Foundation	Avon, Mass.
Gail Pryce	Oakham, Mass.	Dismas House of Massachusetts	Worcester, Mass.
Dale Robinson	Randolph, Mass.	No More Murder National Organization	Randolph, Mass.
Virginia Ryan	Boston, Mass.	Haley House	Boston, Mass.
Alan Sauer	Vernon, Conn.	The Cornerstone Foundation, Inc.	Vernon, Conn.
Glenn Shapiro	Longmeadow, Mass.	KodiakCare	Simsbury, Conn.
Alan Simpson	Woburn, Mass.	The Children's Room	Arlington, Mass.
Michael Thompson	Providence, R.I.	Coaching4Change	Taunton, Mass.
Ciro Valiente	Stoughton, Mass.	First Literacy	Boston, Mass.
Carol White	Peabody, Mass.	Cycling Without Age	Peabody, Mass.
Angela Whitten	Wells, Maine	Stay; For Life	Wells, Maine
Connor Wright	Lynnfield, Mass.	Connor's Kindness Project	Lynnfield, Mass.

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