



## Jen Andruzzi

### *Executive Director*

Jennifer Andruzzi, wife of former New England Patriot Joe Andruzzi, is the Executive Director of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF), which is committed to providing emotional and financial support to cancer patients and their families when it is needed most. Stemming from early involvement with the Boston community through charity work with the Patriots, getting to know and support families fighting the disease has become a life-long passion and mission for Jen.

Joe, Jen's husband, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma on May 30, 2007. After becoming cancer-free, the two decided to never stop fighting the disease. In 2008, the pair co-founded the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, which dedicates itself to aid in lifting the financial burden of cancer from patients as well as providing ongoing funding for pediatric brain cancer research at Boston Children's Hospital.

As Executive Director, Jen fully commits herself to the life and growth of the Foundation. In 10 years, JAF has grown from \$200,000 to \$9 million+ in fundraising under her leadership. Additionally, 8,000+ grants have been awarded to patient families, and more than \$850,000 has been donated to Boston Children's Hospital C.J Buckley Brain Cancer Research Fund since Jen and Joe created it in memory of a close family-friend who passed away from a brain tumor.

Jen further invigorates raising funds through obtaining corporate sponsorships. Along with ALEX AND ANI Charity By Design, Jen oversaw the creation of a "Positive Is How I live" bangle made specifically for the Joe Andruzzi Foundation. Tens of thousands of the bracelets have been sold to date, of which twenty percent of the proceeds are donated to support the Foundation's mission.

Jen oversees several of the Foundation's major fundraising events, including the annual Gratitude Gala and Joe Andruzzi & Friends Golf Tournament. However, it is not just about the money for Jen; the success in the Foundation lies with her dedication to improving the lives of cancer patients not only on a financial level but also on a personal level. In 2012, Jen helped launch the Foundation's (Up)Beat Cancer initiative, emphasizing the need for patients to lead a life of joy despite the limitations of their condition. Each year, Jen invites patients and their families to join her and others from the Foundation on a Codzilla Thrill Ride around Boston Harbor – taking their minds off of treatment for an afternoon. Furthermore, in 2015 & 2016, Jen led a team of the Foundation's "Team JAF" Boston Marathon runners to spread JAF's upbeat philosophy while also raising crucial funds for patient families.

Joe and Jen have received significant recognition for their commitment to the mission of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation. In 2011, the Hockomock YMCA awarded the duo with its Character Count's Award in celebration of their unmatched dedication to furthering the work of the Foundation. That same year, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women recognized Jen as one of their 100 Unsung Heroines of 2011, which is awarded to women recognized for hard work and contributions to their organizations and communities. This past year, they also received the Walpole's Friends of St. Patrick's People of the Year award in recognition of their selfless nature and noble aspirations.

When Jen is not managing an extremely successful foundation, she is spending time with her five kids. She envisions a great future raising her family alongside the growth of the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, an initiative she hopes will soon extend to all health systems within New England.