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The Joe Andruzzi Foundation Raises Over \$700,000 at 16th Annual Gala

Event featured celebrity guests, launch of new app, and 2023 Game Changer recipients

North Attleboro, MA - (October 27, 2023) – The [Joe Andruzzi Foundation \(JAF\)](#), providing help, hope, and a reason to smile for New England cancer patients and their families through financial support when it is needed most, **hosted its 16th Annual Joe Andruzzi Foundation Gala on Thursday, October 26th and raised over \$700,000 to help New England-based cancer patients and their families. The event was held in Boston for the first time at the Fairmont Copley Plaza.**

More than 300 guests attended the event which included a host of sports figures and celebrities including: former Olympic Figure Skater **Nancy Kerrigan**; former New England Patriots **Tim Fox, Pete Brock, Ronnie Lippett, Vernon Crawford,** and **Jarvis Green**; **Bob Soggi**, Voice of the New England Patriots; **David Andrews**, New England Patriots & 2022 JAF Game Changer; **Greg Hill**, Host, “The Greg Hill Show”; **Tully Banta-Cain**, NFL Players Choir & former New England Patriot; and **Louie Bello**, Musician. Entertainment was provided by [The Hess Twins](#) and the [NFL Players Choir](#).

This year’s gala theme was “**Believe,**” and highlighted the inspiration, collective support, and pure magic that has allowed the Foundation to remove financial barriers for New England cancer patients over the past 16 years. Since its start, the Foundation has granted more than \$10 million to more than 40,000 cancer patients across New England to help ease the pressure of household expenses, food, transportation, extraordinary needs, and wellness resources while undergoing treatment.

“We are so thankful to our wonderful donors who allow us to continue helping those who are facing life-altering diagnoses and treatment,” said Joe Andruzzi, Co-Founder and Chief Engagement Officer, Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF). “After my personal battle with cancer, I know all too well the financial burden that this disease can create and we never want a patient or their family to choose between paying for medication or paying their rent.”

The Foundation unveiled its new Universal Community Oncology Resource Network (UniCORN) for New England cancer patients, families, and healthcare professionals. UniCORN offers patients convenient access to tools and information that are vital on the heels of a cancer diagnosis. It serves as a resource directory, a financial management tool, and a new application system for patients and oncology team members to apply for multiple layers of assistance through one single application.

“UniCORN will transform how cancer patients access support when they need it most,” said Jen Andruzzi, CEO and President, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “The resource directory is now active and the financial tool and common application are in development and will follow soon.”

The event also recognized the Foundation’s 2023 “Game Changers” for their commitment to the Foundation and helping patients and their families. The honorees are: **Nick “Fitzy” Stevens**, Broadcaster at WEEI; **Dana**

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D'Alessandro, Manager, Oncology Social Services at [Women's & Infants Hospital](#); **Rob Hale**, Founder & CEO, [Granite Communications](#), and his wife, **Karen Hale**; **Todd Patkin**, Foxborough, MA; [The Castle Group](#); and [5 Tool Productions](#).

"We are pleased to honor this year's Game Changers for their amazing dedication to the Foundation," continued Jen Andruzzi. "We are thankful to have them on our team as we continue to help those in treatment and their families make ends meet."

Guests wore festive cocktail attire and enjoyed an evening filled with food, drinks, celebrities, auction items and more, to celebrate and support those impacted by cancer and receiving assistance through the Foundation's variety of grants including household expenses, food, transportation, extraordinary needs, and wellness resources.

In 2022, more than \$1.25 million was distributed in direct assistance to help 4,580 individuals with financial assistance to pay for housing, transportation, utilities, food, insurance, and other household expenses. Since 2008, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has been able to grant over \$10 million in support to thousands of cancer patients and their families across New England.

PHOTOS/VIDEOS:

BRoll (Credit: 5 Tool Productions)

Photos (Credit: Melissa Ostrow Photography)

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation:

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most. Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots three-time Super Bowl Champion offensive guard Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation grew out of Joe's own successful battle with cancer and the couple's ongoing work with young cancer patients. In 2007, Joe's football career abruptly ended when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe and Jen chose to dedicate their lives towards solving the financial distress a cancer diagnosis can cause in the lives of patients and families. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit: joelandruzzifoundation.org or [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

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