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Joe Andruzzi Foundation Announces 2023 Game Changers

Six JAF supporters honored during the 16th Annual Joe Andruzzi Foundation Gala

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, is pleased to announce its **2023 Game Changers**. The six honorees were recognized for their work and dedication to the Joe Andruzzi Foundation at the 16th Annual Joe Andruzzi Foundation Gala on Thursday, October 26th at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, MA.

The 2023 Game Changers are:

- WEEI Host, **Nick “Fitzy” Stevens**. The Braintree native has emceed several events for the Foundation, including the 2022 JAF Gala. His dedication and enthusiasm for the Foundation helped JAF reach its goals for two major fundraisers.
- Boston-based [5 Tool Productions](#). 5 Tool Productions was co-founded by **Tyler Pyburn** and **Phil DiMartino** and has worked with JAF for five years. They help clients produce video content such as hybrid events, feature stories, live-streaming, fundraising videos, and anything in between.
- Oncology Social Services Manager at [Women’s & Infants Hospital](#), **Dana D’Alessandro**. D’Alessandro is a member of JAF’s Healthcare Council, where she has provided valuable insight conveying the needs of cancer patients. She’s participated in the Falmouth Road Race running for team JAF five years in a row and the Newport Night Run twice for team JAF.
- Founder and CEO of [Granite Telecommunications](#), **Rob Hale**, and his wife, **Karen Hale**. The Hales are longtime supporters of the Foundation. In 2022, Rob Hale gave \$52 million to 52 grassroots nonprofits (\$1 million per organization) and the Joe Andruzzi Foundation was among one of those to receive funds.
- Boston-based [The Castle Group](#). The Castle Group, co-founded by **Wendy Spivak** and **Sandy Lish**, began collaborating with JAF in 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Castle Group put the full weight and force of its event team behind JAF to create a new fundraising model – the JAF Virtual Gala. Through their help and support, the Foundation was able to put on two successful virtual events and sustain its largest fundraisers.
- Foxborough, Massachusetts resident **Todd Patkin** is a new supporter of the Foundation and has committed to helping JAF reach out to cancer patients across New England.

“We are thrilled to announce this year’s Game Changers,” said Joe Andruzzi, Co-Founder and Chief Engagement Officer, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “We are thankful to have them on our team as we continue to fulfill our mission to help those in need to receive treatment and help those who are facing food insecurity, transportation issues, and who are struggling to pay off bills.”

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“With the help from these individuals, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation was able to deliver aid to those in need,” said Jen Andruzzi, President and CEO, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “We are thankful to have them on our team as we continue to help those undergoing treatment.”

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation helps New Englanders battling cancer through a variety of grants including Household Assistance, Extraordinary Needs, Food Security Assistance, Transportation Assistance, (Up)Beat Opportunities and additional resources. In 2022, more than \$1.25 million was distributed in direct assistance to help 3,762 individuals with financial assistance to pay for housing, transportation, utilities, food, insurance, and other household expenses.

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: joeandruzzifoundation.org or [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

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