



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

KRAFT FAMILY, PATRIOTS FOUNDATION AND GILLETTE DONATE \$275,000 IN THE NAMES OF 2023 MYRA KRAFT COMMUNITY MVP AWARD WINNERS

Twenty-six volunteers were recognized during an awards luncheon at Gillette Stadium on Thursday, June 8

Coleen Downs Dinneen of Plymouth, Mass. presented with \$10,000 donation for Ellis Early Learning

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – For the past 25 years, 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.

On Thursday, June 8, 26 volunteers were recognized for their contributions 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 the Brian Dagle Foundation received this year's grand prize of \$25,000.

"Hundreds of nonprofit organizations annually nominate candidates to be recognized and hearing the heartwarming stories of volunteerism restores faith in all humanity," said Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft. "Myra loved volunteering and positively impacting the lives of others. I am proud that we continue to honor her legacy of volunteerism in association with this award ceremony and love giving people who do so much for so many the recognition of being a Community MVP."

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 Kraft Family Philanthropies Josh Kraft; Patriots, College and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett; and Procter & Gamble's VP of Communications & Community Affairs, Global Grooming, Kara Buckley.

"Each year we have the privilege of reading hundreds of stories about volunteers who go above and beyond to build stronger New England communities," said Josh Kraft. "This program is incredibly important to my family and we are honored to celebrate these remarkable individuals for their commitment to volunteerism. We are excited to once again partner with our good friends at Gillette for this year's program."

"We are proud to help recognize this incredible group of volunteers and the nonprofit organizations they serve, who all make a meaningful difference in our local community every day," said John Claughton, Vice President, North America Gillette. "Their stories are powerful, and their contributions are immense, and we are thankful that the Kraft Family and the New England Patriots Foundation are giving them this very special award. Our brand has long championed the importance of positive role models and there is no better example than these Myra Kraft Community MVPs."

Coleen Downs Dinneen of Plymouth, Mass. was recognized as one of this year's honorees and presented with a \$10,000 donation for Ellis Early Learning.

Ellis Early Learning partners with families to provide high quality early childhood education to over 275 children annually. They spend \$130,000 a year on food, feeding students three times a day. An active volunteer with many organizations, Coleen has served on the board of directors for Ellis Early Learning for seventeen years, and currently serves as the Chair of the board.

"I am incredibly honored to be recognized as a Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner. The theme for my volunteerism at Ellis and elsewhere is joyful," said Coleen. "The children at Ellis demonstrate joyfulness for learning, playing and making new friends. Ellis teachers and staff show joyfulness every day in educating and caring for their young charges. Ellis families are joyful that their children are in a safe place where they get high quality education to form a strong foundation for their future and I am joyful that I have the opportunity to help others."

During the pandemic when organizations had to cut back, Coleen's visionary leadership allowed Ellis to add a third center and support additional children. Coleen has dedicated countless hours to volunteering, stepping into the role of CEO for two months when the current CEO was on maternity leave.

"My loving family helped ground me in compassion and volunteering. My mother was my earliest role model who, together with my dad, raised five marvelous children and ran a successful business," said Coleen. "But what made the deepest impression on me is how she thrived in community involvement -- volunteering for countless organizations, founding others where she saw a need and always making people feeling valued and loved."

The 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP winners range from 21 to 80 years old and represent every New England state. The selected nonprofits provide support for many causes, including education, domestic violence prevention, healthcare, homelessness, mentoring and military support.

Since its inception, the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards program has recognized more than 475 volunteers and donated more than \$3.5 million to support nonprofit organizations across New England.

The Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation received more than 350 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.



President of the New England Patriots Foundation, Josh Kraft (far left), Patriots Pro Football Hall of Famer Andre Tippett and Procter & Gamble's VP of Communications & Community Affairs, Global Grooming, Kara Buckley congratulate Coleen Downs Dinneen from Ellis Early Learning for being selected as a 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner. During the June 8 luncheon, the Kraft family, the Patriots Foundation and Gillette awarded \$275,000 in grants to 26 New England nonprofits. Ellis Early Learning received a \$10,000 grant in honor of Coleen'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 2023 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 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Winners:

First and Last Name	Hometown	Organization	Organization Town
Tom Baird	Dracut, N.H.	Operation Delta Dog	Hollis, N.H.
David Britto	Cranston, R.I.	Lighthouse Community Development Corporation	Providence, R.I.
Tim Carey	Jamaica Plain, Mass.	Nativity Preparatory School of Boston	Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Daniel Crossen	Natick, Mass.	One Summit, Inc.	North Andover, Mass.
Ann Dagle	Niantic, Conn.	Brian Dagle Foundation	East Lyme, Conn.
Amy Doherty	Centerville, Mass.	WellStrong, Inc.	Falmouth, Mass.
Coleen Downs Dinneen	Plymouth, Mass.	Ellis Early Learning	Boston, Mass.
Bobbi Dynice	Marblehead, Mass.	The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, Inc.	North Haven, Conn.
Jeff Feingold	Needham, Mass.	Hope & Comfort	Needham, Mass.
Susan French	Barnstable, Mass.	Independence House, Inc.	Hyannis, Mass.
Tina Gee	West Roxbury, Mass.	Ovations for the Cure	Boston, Mass.
Elizabeth Hukowicz	Agawam, Mass.	Meghan's Lights	Feeding Hills, Mass.
Nick Hungerford	Boston, Mass.	Elizabeth's Smile	Trumbull, Conn.
Cynthia Jones	Mashpee, Mass.	Heroes in Transition	Mashpee, Mass.
Robert Sam Kelley	Scarborough, Maine	Vet to Vet Maine	Biddeford, Maine
Fran Latch	Intervale, N.H.	Starting Point	Conway, N.H.
Dr. Justin Maykel	Worcester, Mass.	UMass Memorial Health	Worcester, Mass.
Nancy McDonough	Abington, Mass.	Have A Sammi Kinda Day	Abington, Mass.
Liz Mead	North Chittenden, Vt.	Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	Killington, Vt.
Madison Quinn	Pittsfield, Mass.	Strong Little Souls	Pittsfield, Mass.
Tom Richissin	Reading Mass.	National Braille Press	Boston, Mass.
Chelsey Simoni	North Attleboro, Mass.	HunterSeven Foundation	Providence, R.I.
Peach Warren	Hopedale, Mass.	Community Harvest Project, Inc.	North Grafton, Mass.
Kurt Webber	Gilford, N.H.	Camp Resilience	Gilford, N.H.
Toby Whitney	Reading, Mass.	Mission of Deeds Inc.	Reading, Mass.
Regina Wu	Newton, Mass.	Newton Food Pantry	Newton, Mass.

--PATRIOTS--