****

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Dan MacPherson; [DMacPherson@patriots.com](mailto:DMacPherson@patriots.com); 774-226-3031

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES $200,000 IN THE NAMES OF 2015 MYRA KRAFT COMMUNITY MVP AWARD WINNERS**

Twenty-six New Englanders honored at Gillette Stadium during the 2015 Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards.

**Tracy Johnston** of **Scituate, Mass.** wins **second prize** of **$10,000** for the **Scituate CORSE Foundation.**

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** — The Kraft family and New England Patriots Charitable Foundation’s Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards place a spotlight on those who give their time to help others and exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving their communities through volunteerism. Each year, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation host the awards program as part of the ongoing Celebrate Volunteerism initiative in honor of Myra Kraft’s example of being a lifelong volunteer.

On June 9, 26 volunteers were recognized for their contributions at a luncheon and awards ceremony at Gillette Stadium. Each Community MVP received grants for their respective nonprofit organizations. Fifteen New England-based organizations were presented with $5,000 grants in honor of their volunteers’ work. Ten others received grants of $10,000 and one grand prize winner was presented $25,000.

“It is truly inspiring to hear the incredible stories of each Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner,” said Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft. “Every volunteer has such a unique story about how they got involved in their community and it is very touching to learn about their impact. These individuals are making a lasting impact on a daily basis and we are excited to have the opportunity to thank each of them for their commitment. This is truly one of my favorite programs and I know Myra would be proud of the work each of these volunteers are doing.”

On hand to congratulate the award winners was Patriots Chairman and CEO **Robert Kraft**, New England Patriots Charitable Foundation President **Joshua Kraft**, Patriots and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs **Andre Tippett**, and Patriots players including linebacker **Jerod Mayo**, tackle **Nate Solder** and kicker **Stephen Gostkowski**.

**Tracy Johnston** of **Scituate, Mass.** was selected as a **$10,000** second prize winner.

“This award brings out so many emotions in me: excitement, honor and affirmation that something I started almost 10 years ago really has made a difference in the lives of so many children and families on the South Shore of Massachusetts,” said Johnston. “When my son, Billy, was one and a half, he was diagnosed with Autism. The news was overwhelming. Life with a special needs child can be very isolating; people may not have understood why Billy would act out in certain situations.”

Johnston co-founded the nonprofit organization over nine years ago and has been volunteering full-time ever since. She saw a lack in available programming for children with special needs and wanted to develop an organization that provides high quality educational, recreational and social experiences. Johnston now leads 15 board members, organizes over 2,500 volunteers and has received the support of school administrators to implement new programming for children with special needs.

"When I read about Myra Kraft and her commitment to volunteerism and community, I immediately thought of the tireless work of Tracy Johnston here in our south shore community and her selfless volunteer commitment to the CORSE Foundation which has done so much to benefit my daughter and so many others,” said Mariah Avallone, a fellow volunteer. “I was proud to nominate Tracy for the New England Patriots Myra Kraft Community MVP Award. I know Tracy is most proud of the joy that is felt when a child, like mine with autism, achieves an ordinary milestone like riding a bike or shooting a basket.  These seemingly minor impacts are the major ones for Tracy, giving her volunteer work true meaning and an enduring legacy for families like mine.”

“The Myra Kraft Community MVP Award will bring so much benefit in countless ways to CORSE,” Johnston continued. “We will be able to reach many more families and create more innovative programming through this prestigious affiliation with the admirable work of the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation.”

The 2015 MVPs represent all six New England states, a variety of nonprofit organizations and range in age from 17 to 83 years old. The Kraft family and New England Patriots Charitable Foundation received a record number of applications this year from nonprofit organizations looking to recognize their outstanding volunteers. Nominations open each spring and the awards are open to all nonprofit organizations in the New England region. For more information on these awards, please visit [www.patriots.com/community](http://www.patriots.com/community).

****

Patriots Chairman and CEO **Robert Kraft** and Patriots and Pro Football Hall of Famer **Andre Tippett** congratulate Tracy Johnston from the Scituate CORSE Foundation for being selected as a 2015 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award second prize winner. During the June 9 luncheon, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation awarded $200,000 in grants to 26 New England nonprofits. The Scituate CORSE Foundation received a $10,000 grant in honor of Johnston’s volunteer efforts.



Patriots Chairman and CEO **Robert Kraft**, Patriots Charitable Foundation President **Joshua Kraft**, and Patriots and Pro Football Hall of Famer **Andre Tippett** were joined by Patriots linebacker **Jerod Mayo,** kicker **Stephen Gostkowski** and tackle **Nate Solder** to celebrate their award on the field of Gillette Stadium. The 26 volunteer winners range from 17 to 83 years old, with one winner from each state in the region. Winning nonprofits provide support for many causes, including education, domestic violence resources, healthcare, homelessness, mentoring, military support and more.

**Below is a complete list of the 2015 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Winners:**

**Name                            Hometown                    Organization                  Organization Town**

**$25,000 Grand Prize Winner**

Susan Canning               Westfield, Mass.             KEVS Foundation          South Hampton, Mass.

**$10,000 Second Prize Winners**

Claire Bloom                   Somersworth, N.H.          End 68 Hours of Hunger

Holly Brown                    Whitman, Mass.              Looking and Feeling FAB, Inc.

Robbin Burns-Laubi         Westport, Mass.              Devin Laubi Foundation

Michele Dillon                 Framingham, Mass.         Jeff’s Place Children’s Bereavement Ctr

Chaskiesha Figueroa       Lawrence, Mass.             Beyond Soccer

Robert Glidden, Jr.          Proctorsville, Vt.              Proctorsville Fire Department

Tracy Johnston               Scituate, Mass.               Scituate CORSE Foundation

Charlie Lenore                West Hartford, Conn.       Hartford’s Camp Courant

Deirdre Carmody Millones Narragansett, R.I.           Domestic Violence Resource Center

Alex Tomaszewski           Wells, Maine                  Camp No Limits

**$5,000 Third Prize Winners**

Nonie Bouthilette            Florence, Mass.              Sibling Connections

Suzanne Carter               East Dennis, Mass.          Flower Angels USA

Ian Clemence-Schreiner   N. Woodstock, N.H.         New England Disabled Sports

Brad Cole                       Milford, Conn.                 K9 First Responders

Forrie Cotten                  Bangor, Maine                The Shepherd’s Godparent Home

Hallie Fuchs                   Fairfield, Conn.               Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center

Aprill Lane                      Mansfield, Mass.             AGC Scholarship Foundation

John Mauro                    Auburn, Mass.                National Ataxia Foundation

Macey Miller                   Newtonville, Mass.          Greater Waltham Arc

Rebecca Moniz                East Greenwich, R.I.        Realtor Foundation Rhode Island

Corin Nava                     Warwick, R.I.                  Project Sweet Peas

Rev. Dr. Robert Odierna   Nashua, N.H.                  The Front Door Agency

Dana Siegal                   Stoneham, Mass.            Voices of Hope

Alyssa Silva                    Cumberland, R.I.            Working on Walking

**--PATRIOTS--**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: This message and any attachments are solely for the intended recipient and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this message and any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us by reply email and immediately and permanently delete this message and any attachments. Email transmission may not be secure and could contain errors. We accept no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email. Please do not send to us by email any information containing personally identifiable information without appropriate encryption. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



