

LONG ISLAND FIGHT FOR CHARITY

MAIN EVENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

HILTON LONG ISLAND, MELVILLE, NY

SINCE 1838, NOBODY COVERS HUNTINGTON NEWS BETTER THAN THE LONG-ISLANDER



SPECIAL EDITION

Taking a Punch and Giving Back

Nearly 17 years ago, both Jamie Austin and Matt Silver were involved in numerous charities, each advocating and working towards worthy causes while helping those in need. However, one aspect was missing for them: "We wanted to know the people we were helping," Austin said. "People here on Long Island."

The pair formed a board and started asking fellow businesspeople for \$1,000, calling their initiative The Long Island Community Chest. "We raised about \$36,000 and started funding individuals in need on Long Island," said Austin.



Long Island Fight for Charity Co-Founders Jamie Austin, Jeff Cohen and Matt Silver (l-r)

The Long Island Community Chest is an on-going fund to provide immediate, short-term financial support to individuals and families in need on Long Island. Working with several local not-for-profit organizations, The Long Island Community Chest identifies people experiencing traumatic, life-altering setbacks who have exhausted all traditional means of help. It provides financial assistance to prevent a short-term crisis from turning into a long-term problem.

How the Long Island Fight for Charity began is intertwined with the history of The Long Island Community Chest where,

at a charity committee meeting, Jeff Cohen, who was an amateur boxer and whom became the third Long Island Fight for Charity co-founder, announced he wanted to get back in the ring and that he wanted to do it this time for charity.

"I asked if Jamie Austin and I could be the

continued on page 21



Long Island Fight for Charity volunteer boxers high-five members of the FREE Drum Corps. during a visit to the Bethpage headquarters.

Partnership with FREE Helping People with Special Needs Reach their Full Potential



Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (FREE) supports over 4,000 men, women and children with intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental illness and traumatic brain injuries to realize their full potential. The organization has received more than \$325,000 from the Long Island Fight for Charity since the event began 14 years ago.

FREE was first selected as a benefitting charity for Long Island Fight for Charity from the outset when co-founder Jeff Cohen was Director of Gift Planning.

"FREE is here to support individuals with special needs by giving them the skills and opportunities with the ability to live fulfilling lives," Cohen said. "Funds raised through Long Island Fight for Charity support programs that provide these opportunities to these individuals and this organization."

Residents at FREE are given opportunities to join award-

Continued on page 13

Event proceeds will be donated to local charities













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Letter from the Founders

Dear Fight for Charity Supporters and Fans,

In 2001 we established the Long Island Community Chest to raise money to help individuals and families in need across Long Island. In 2003 we created the Long Island Fight for Charity, which quickly became one of Long Island's most exciting and anticipated annual events. Over \$1 million in funds have been given away locally to directly assist individuals in need and to support charities that serve individuals with special needs. More than 250 volunteer boxers have met each other in the ring as opponents. The boxers have devoted over 10,000 hours in training to prepare for their bouts. Since its inception, more than 13,000 fans have attended Fight for Charity events.

An event of this nature the resources of engages many people, and we wish to acknowledge their hard work and dedication. We raise our glasses and toast those who help make this event a success: from the Official Training Centers (Westbury Boxing Club, UFC Gym Farmingdale, Heavy Hitters Boxing of Ronkonkoma, the Glen Cove Boxing Club and AVM Boxing Gym of Bellport) to the restaurants that feed the fans, the chairs and members of the committees and the volunteers who make the night happen, each person plays a key role in bringing this "Main Event" to life.

Remember the Boxers, who take time out of their days to raise funds for good causes and spend hours in the gym at night and on weekends training for months. Their goal is to entertain more than a thousand screaming fans.

Over the years, our sponsors have been featured in the Fight Night journal. It is a powerful way to recognize the companies that sponsor our event and support Long Island charities. Approximately 200 restaurants have supported our events. We appreciate it when you and other fans remember the businesses that sponsor Fight for Charity events and purchase their products, contract for their services or dine with family and friends at their restaurants and eateries.

Although the boxing matches are fun and important, remember, they are only the vehicle we use to accomplish our mission to raise funds and awareness and to spread the word about our success in funding more than 30 Long Island charities and supporting over 70 families directly.

On behalf of everyone involved in the Long Island Fight for Charity, we thank you for your support of our efforts to make Long Island's Fight for Charity 14th Main Event the biggest and best yet.

With our appreciation, respect and gratitude,

Jamie, Matt and Jeff
Co-Founders





Women's Self-Defense

Jo@TigressPersonalFitness.com 516-524-3505

Fight for Charity November 20, 2017

Hilton Long Island

6:00 pm

Event Opens for All Ticket Holders

Video Program Starts

6:15 pm

Opening Ceremony
Sal Ferro - Alure Home Improvements
Sid Farooqi

National Anthem

Michelle Mallardi
Played Belle in "Beauty and the Beast"
on Broadway

Welcome and Introduction of Founders:

Matt Silver

Jeff Cohen

Jamie Austin

Recognition of Alumni Boxers

Program and Awards Presentation

Recognition of Charities

6:30 pm

Boxing Bouts

8:00 pm

Final Call for Raffles

8:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Event Concludes

VS. FIGHT CARD VS.

BOUT 1

Austin "The Cell King" Fierstadt vs.

Jair "Panamanian Devil" Romero

BOUT 2

Christen "The Princess of Pain" Pellegrini vs.

Stephany "Stone Cold" Giovinazzo

BOUT 3

Jeff "The Tasmanian Devil" Goldstein vs.

Ed "Formerly Fast Eddie" Parry

BOUT 4

David "Double-Click" Tan vs. Billy "The Brawler" Lewis

BOUT 5

Gregg "Long Range Strike" Aramanda vs.

Addison "The Assassin" Lemay

BOUT 6

Damion "Dynamite" Nelson vs.
Jollot Abdulaye

BOUT 7

Eliud "The Vortex" Custodio vs.
Jason "The Defender" Russo

BOUT 8

Lauren "The Belmont Brawler" Powers vs.
Brooke "The Heavy Hitter" DeLio

BOUT 9

Kyle "The Real Deal" Burkhardt vs.
Mike Signorelli

BOUT 10

Johnathan "Lethal Motion" Cartelli vs.

Brian "The Punisher" Weiner

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Sal "The Hammer" Ferro of Alure Home Improvements





Sid Farooqi of Species Nutrition and Professional Sportscaster



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Genesis School for Autism Thrives with Long Island Fight for Charity

The Genesis School was selected to be one of the Long Island Fight for Charity's three main benefitting charities beginning in 2006 with its Fourth Main Event. Recognizing a growing need for autism services on Long Island, Eden II programs opened the Genesis School in 1995 and the Genesis Outreach Autism Center in East Meadow. The Eden II/Genesis School Programs are dedicated to teaching individuals with autism with specialized community-based programs and through other opportunities. The Genesis School designs programs to enable those with autism to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

The Genesis School serves 30 individuals, ages five to 21 in elementary and secondary education programs. Each classroom has a certified teacher with a behavior specialist, a communication specialist along with one-to-one teacher aides as needed. The school philosophy utilizes the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to provide research-based teaching strategies proven effective in the education and intervention of individuals with autism. The Genesis School also provides additional in-home parent training service provision.

Today, combined, Eden II programs and The Genesis School serves over 500 participants in New York City and Long Island. The mission of Eden II programs is to support people with autism throughout their lives to achieve



Long Island Fight for Charity volunteer boxers Dr. Ron "The Mazzacutioner"
Mazza; Long Island Fight for Charity Co-Founder Jeff Cohen; Rick "Union Made"
Iaccarino; Cathleen "The Rock" Healey; Long Island Fight for Charity Co-Founder
Jamie Austin; Genesis School Board Member Steve Kirschbaum; Brendan "The
Showstopper" Sweeney; Long Island Fight for Charity Co-Founder Matt Silver;
Susan "Super Sue" Vaughan; Andrew "Timeless Classic" Nerone and Michael "The
Litigator" Romano present a donation check to The Genesis School during a Boxer
Appreciation and Charity Donation Presentation at SimPlay.

their full potential through service, science and passion. A nationally recognized leader in working with individuals across the autism spectrum, including those with the most significant challenges, Eden II programs provide a variety of services using the evidence-based principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to treat the delays and challenges associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

"One of our board members has a son who's attended The Genesis School since he was a little child and its facilities, people and community welcomed them into the family as one of its own," said Long Island Fight for Charity co-founder Matt Silver.

Due to the generosity of Long Island Community Chest,

another one of Long Island Fight for Charity's designated nonprofit beneficiaries, Eden II/The Genesis School has been able to purchase much needed items for their children and adult participants, with classrooms now equipped with the latest technology, including Smartboards and iPads. The Genesis School is also able to provide extensive outdoor programs, including swimming during the summer.

"None of these programs or amenities would be possible without the continued support from Long Island Community Chest and Long Island Fight for Charity's donations to our programs," said Dr. Mary McDonald, Interim Associate Executive Director, Eden II programs /The Genesis School.

Thank You To All Our Past Boxers

2003

Jamie Austin Jeff Cohen Denise Fortunato Chazz Menedez Lisa Moschitta Matt Silver

2004

Vito Antuoferno Jamie Austin Mark Badami Rob Basso Brandon Bloom Evan Bloom Fred Catapano Jeff Cohen Eric Davis Vanessa Dominguez Gary Frank Frank Grimaldi Tim Healy Steve Katz Tom Kokinias Vicki Lenzo Lisa Moschitta Christie Pennino Joe Romano Adam Schwam Matt Silver Marvin Soskil Gregory Tellone Chris Tombline Heidi Tompkins

Tracey Anastas Tom Attivissimo Jamie Austin Donna Bakalor Vince Brewer Ed Camp Robert Cassandro Ken Cerini Jeff Cohen John Dnyprowsky Maria Garcia Michael Gates Harold German Kevin Gersh Scott Guber Linda Law Heidi Lindsay Ruth O'Sullivan Richard Renner Joe Romano Kenny Santos Danielle Schaefer Matt Silver John Stein Bill Tempone Chris Tombline Heidi Tompkins

2006

Frank Biemann Scott Blum Norman Bluth Sean Boyle Ken Brower Ed Camp Tammy Card Anthony Cavallaro Jeff Cohen

John Dnyprowsky Lou Fuoco Greg Haralam Joshua Horton Jarrad Kulick Dennis Lynch Darren Martin Rob Miner Cliff Morgan Marie O'Mara Joe Romano Matt Silver Christopher Tombline Linda Venturino Jennifer Walsh Tara Weaver Monique Zorn

2007

Sean Boyle Ed Camp Charles Cotsalas John Dnyprowsky Frank Fitts Morgan Futch Angelo Galati Alex Gallego Harold German Spencer Horn Brian Kramer Linda Law Gerard Marrone Kim Masi Wallace Matthews Beth Meixner Paul Musso Michael Resnick Joe Romano Chris Tombline Adam Cantiello

2008-2009

Ed Camp Chuck Cotsalas John Dalli Michael Fliegelman Mary Forte Alan Ghidaleson Anthony Giallanzo Janine Ğiamboi Scott Guber Judie Karp Ken Kern Jason Lella Billy Loud Elizabeth Martone Kim Masi Alexander Ortiz Matt Silver Jessica Soskil Sean Stellin Chris Tombline Robert Vanacore Bob Venero Donald Sullivan

2009

Gregg Aramanda Andrea Attivisimo Dana Battaglia John Brady Ed Camp Mike Campiglia Chuck Cotsalas

Claudia Diaz Anthony Giallanzo Laurinda Handlik Paul Hyl Jason Lella Billy Loud Kim Masi Tina Masi Chuck Merritt Dana Nowick Keith Piro Mike Resnick Tito Santiago Joe Scarpa John Schiavo Rahsheen Slaughter Bethany Thomas Lauren Trezza Alexandra Velez

2010

Bryn Bershaw Edward Camp Felice Cantatore Anthony Giallanzo David Katzman Richard Kaufman Ari Lagow John Langone Dan Leverich Mark O'Loughlin Jarrett Plafker Anne Shybunko Michelle Smith Shawna Terrel - Vickers Ernest Fair Kimberly Warantz Robert Worlow

2012

Mario Asaro Al Stanco Dr. Jay Rothstein Jeff Tempone Ginny Armstrong Dave Borg John Brady Lisa Cassar Ken Braun Dr. Deepak Kapoor Nick Graziosi Will Robles Frank Sforza Maureen Reininger Jarrett Pflaker Bill Mabanta Carolina Sorto-Kai Kevin Kellv Eddie Mullally IV

2013

Terese Arenth Roseanne Beovich Steve Bernstein Stefan Borovina Keith Dawson Steve East Sal Ferro Eli Fazzolari Alex Gallego Michael Haltman Joanne Hutchins Christine Ippolito Kevin Kelly Bill Mabanta

Sonja Nuttall Joe Palumbo Robert Renda Wendy Sincuir Leaf Steuernagel Hugh Tanchuck Chris Whittelsey Scott Zuckerman

Stefan Borovina Caryn Calisi Lisa Consolo John Dalli Michael Dellaquila Peter Desiderio Joanne Duchnowski Jessica Gallone Erik Gilmore Anila Gjegji Melissa Itoh Rhonda Klch James Mantione Joe Palumbo Jamie Stuart Tai Vicari Chris Zito

Vincent Accardi

Paul Bartoszewski Luis Batres Dr. John Boccio Chuck Campagna Matthew Galiano Michael Graziose Cathleen Healey-Frosina Laurette Holst Rick Iaccarino Filippo Impennato Dr. Ron Mazza Sinai Megibow Lisa Mongelluzzo Ian Murphy Andrew Nerone Jamie O'Mara **Todd Ringler** Michael Romano Craig Simon Peter Stein Brendan Sweeney Susan Vaughan

2016

Mohammed Bin Ali Michael Bednar Frank Bravata Dave Compitello Landon Dais Jeff Goldstein Scott Guber Elena Lardizzone Dan Leverich Edison Lucero Ron Mazza Edgar Montenegro Gayatrri Musraca John Redican Ray Rivera Jason Russo Tom Schorr

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AVM Boxing Gym Mike Murphy

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lifightforcharity.org

Subject to change



2017 BENEFITING CHARITIES

FIGHTFOR CHARITY

Long Island Fight for Charity has donated over \$1.1 million to Long Island charities since its founding in 2003

Community Chest

Helping Long Islanders
One at a Time

Long Island Community Chest

Provides short-term financial assistance, giving individuals and families the ability to stop worrying about today and focus on building a better tomorrow for themselves, their families and their community.

The Genesis School

The mission of Eden II/Genesis Program is to provide people with autism specialized community-based programs and other opportunities, with the goal of enabling them to achieve the highest possible quality across their life spans.





National Foundation for Human Potential

The mission of the National Foundation for Human Potential is to promote, develop and encourage educational and support services for children and adults with different abilities through financial and other means of support. To meet that purpose, the Foundation raises funds and provides contributions and grants awards to organizations, which build communities.





2017 BOXER PROFILE:

Gregg "Long Range Strike" Aramanda



Gregg "Long Range Strike" Aramanda is a returning 2009 Alumni Boxer. Gregg is a Senior Sales and Proposal Director at GE Aviation LLC in Bohemia. The company manufactures electrical power devices and battery systems for military and commercial aircraft.

Gregg is a member of IEEE and Society of Manufacturing

Engineers. He is associated with Cold Spring Harbor Club, St. Patrick Baseball and St. Hughes Basketball. His charitable activities include St. Patrick's Church, Salvation Army and Island Harvest.

"I had a lot of fun the last time I boxed in the Main Event, and wanted to duplicate the experience now that I've lost a lot of weight and I am in better condition, along with the chance to do something positive for the community at large," explained Gregg.

"Being a volunteer boxer gives me a chance to get in better condition and develop friendships with the other boxers all the while helping to raise money for those in need," he added.

Gregg earned a B.A. in Political Science from Fairfield University.

He is married and has three children and lives in Huntington.

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Kyle is the Senior Director at Cushman & Wakefield, a real estate brokerage located in Melville.

"I spoke with Jeff Cohen, one of the founders of Fight for Charity, at a networking event and I decided to volunteer to help less fortunate families on Long Island," Kyle explained. "This

2017 BOXER PROFILE: Kyle "The Real Deal" Burkhardt

is an opportunity to give back to our community and get back into shape while doing so."

Kyle is a member of CIBS and HIA. His charitable work includes Voices Against Brain Cancer and The Chris Carrino Foundation for FSHD (Muscular Dystrophy).

He earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University.

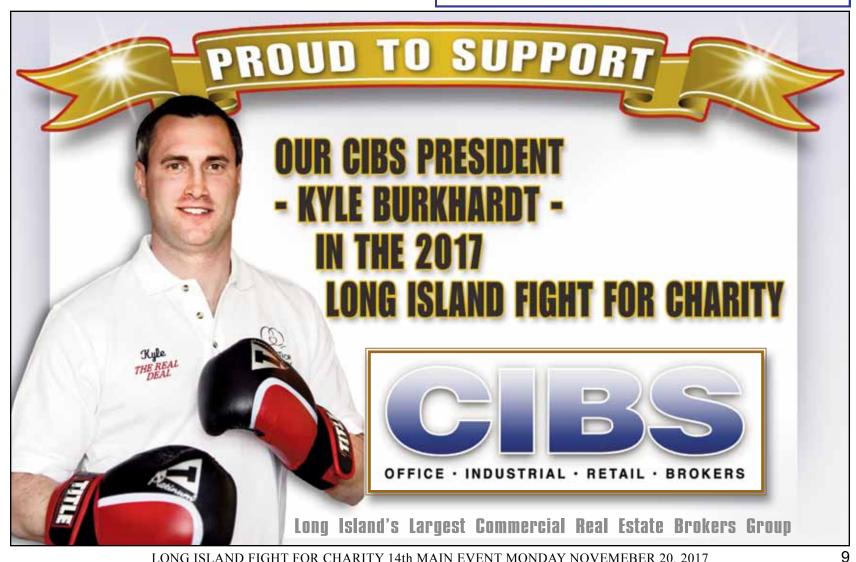
He is married and has two children and lives in Seaford.

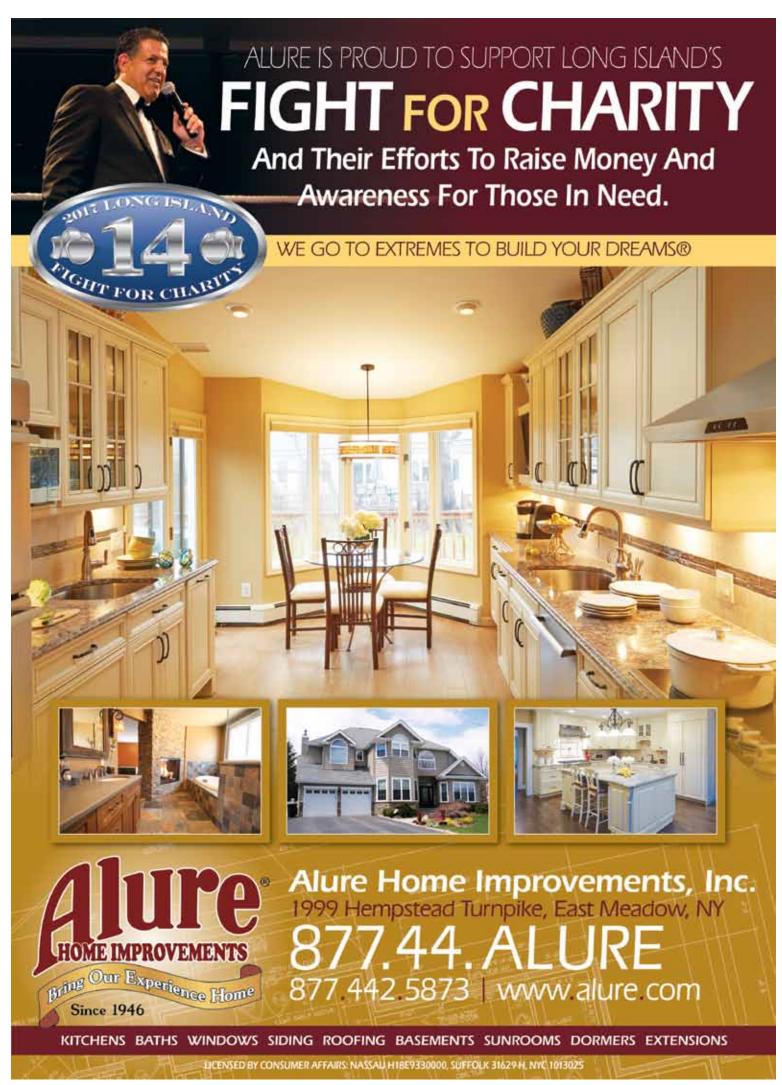


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2017 BOXER PROFILE: Johnathan "Lethal Motion" Cartelli



Johnathan Cartelli is an attorney and the president of the Law Office of Johnathan Cartelli, P.C., located in Middle Village. His full service law firm specializes in criminal defense, civil litigation, traffic violations and real estate.

Johnathan said, "I read about Fight for Charity in the Suffolk

County Bar Association's newsletter. This was an opportunity to raise money for not one, but three worthy local charities, while at the same time have a unique experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

"I am always looking to push myself and set goals that are outside of my comfort zone. By dedicating myself to this event, I can show others that with focus and determination you can accomplish anything you set your mind to."

Johnathan is a member of the Suffolk, Nassau and Queens County Bar Associations.

He earned a B.A. in Political Science from SUNY Stony Brook and a J.D. from St. John's Law School.

He is married and lives in East Meadow.

Thank you ET and Andy Zaino for many years of support for Long Island Fight for Charity



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2017 BOXER PROFILE: Eliud "The Vortex" Custodio



Eliud is the Director of Design & Technology at ICD Publications, Inc., in Islandia.

Eliud learned about Fight for Charity from a friend and trainer, Laurette Holst, an Alumni Boxer.

"As a volunteer boxer I appreciate this unique and

exciting way to serve my community.

Training in prep for the Main Event is a healthy undertaking. I am a cancer survivor and I take my health and fitness very seriously. This event represents another opportunity to challenge myself and, most importantly, inspire my family and friends," said Eluid.

Eliud is active in the Life Time Run Club and Jaguar Drivers Club of Long Island.

He attended C.W. Post College – Long Island University and is a graduate of Ward Melville High School in Setauket.

He lives in Huntington with his wife Meg.

He has put together a blog that he will use to chronicle his fitness and fundraising journey; www.vortexboxing.com

2017 BOXER PROFILE:

Brooke "The Heavy Hitter" DeLio



Brooke grew up in Patchogue/ Medford and is now a resident of Port Jefferson. She is the Head Clerk-Biller at Brown's Jeep Chrysler Dodge Ram, a 100 yearold car dealership on Long Island.

She heard about Fight for Charity from her friend and trainer Bill Mabanta.

"I volunteer at CBIC and I love boxing. I couldn't pass up this opportunity to be a Charity Boxer. I've been boxing for four years and have been training at Heavy Hitter Boxing in Ronkonkoma to get ready for the Main Event," Brooke said.



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Partnership with FREE Helping People with Special Needs Reach their Full Potential

continued from cover

winning artistic and musical groups, including the FREE Ensemble singers and musicians as well as the highly-acclaimed FREE Players Drum & Bugle Corps., which have been featured in national and local media, including News 12 Long Island. The purpose of the Corps. is to focus on the members' talents and abilities, not their disabilities.

Founded in 1977, FREE fosters a community-based learning model through collaborations with community partners, hospitals, museums, chambers of commerce, local



Boxers visit FREE and meet the FREE Drum Corps.



Boxers visit FREE and meet program particpants.

businesses and valued network providers. FREE and its affiliates have relationships with over 40 employers.

"The message we give to the incredible individuals who are part of our programs is that they are not their disability and we do not want them to have labels follow them around," says Veronica Garcia, Director of Day Services at FREE. "We are here to give them every opportunity to succeed in every aspect of their lives and to forge a path that will fulfill them to the fullest extent as a person and contribute their individual voice and talents to the world."





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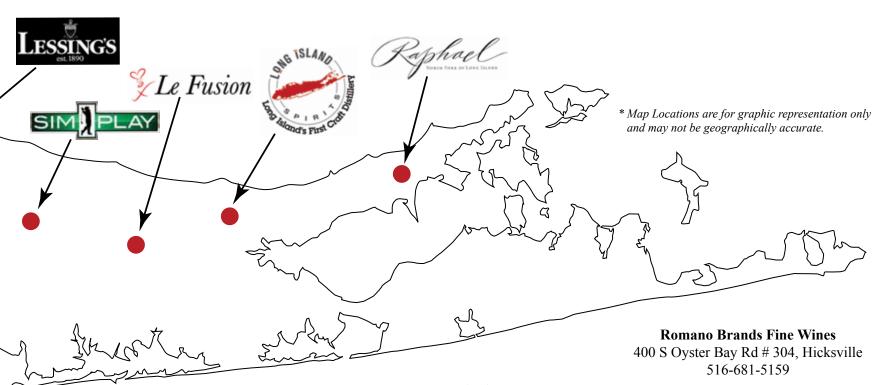
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USA Boxing Metro is the sanctioning body of amateur boxing in the New York Metropolitan area. Our Board of Directors, clubs, officials, and coaches are unified in the vision to expand the options available to our athletes in the areas of education and career pathways. Metro is a family-oriented entity with a mission of fostering and developing Olympic-style boxing, giving athletes the opportunity to develop their skills and build self-esteem and self-discipline. It is these qualities in our youth that make our communities a better place to live, and what we do worthwhile.

Metro has exciting plans these next few years to support our athletes, coaches, and officials. We have had a very successful 2017 with athletes attaining national prominence and Olympic accolades. Metro is proud of our athletes, coaches, and officials who put in the hard work to get to the top. Metro is also excited about the continued support given to our Education Initiative.

Congratulations and Best of Luck to the Brave 2017 Long Island Fight for Charity Boxers

Long Island Fight for Charity Boxer & Committee Member

John "The Fighting Fiduciary" Redican

Managing Director

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2017 BOXER PROFILE:

Austin "The Cell King" Fierstadt



Austin Fierstadt is the owner of Fuel Your Body Café in Hicksville, a healthy eatery that

serves breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as juices, smoothies, protein shakes and acai bowls.

"Sandy Kane, a Fight for Charity board member, told me about the opportunity to become a charity boxer. I hope to raise funds to support local charities here on Long island. Training and fighting in the Main Event will be a winning experience for me," said Austin.

Austin is a member of the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce.

He is married and has two daughters and lives in Woodbury. He attended Ohio State.

2017 BOXER PROFILE: Stephany "Stone Cold" Giovinazzo



"Boxing and charity work are two of my favorite things." said Stephany Giovinazzo, a Senior Analyst at Adelphi University in Garden City.

"As founder of a nonprofit that aims to help the homeless, I am always open to help out and do anything for charity.

"I just love to box. I am excited to have such a wonderful and unique opportunity to be a volunteer boxer in the Fight for Charity Main Event. It requires a lot of hard work and dedication, but it's for a great cause and I look forward to being a part of this fundraising event to help those in need."

Stephany has a M.S. in Applied Statistics. She lives in Forest Hills, Queens.



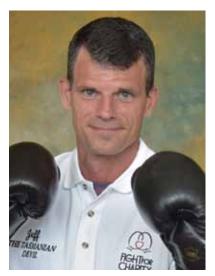
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2017 BOXER PROFILE:



Jeff Goldstein handles all Personal Injury and Property Casualty related issues within Hereford Insurance.

When Jeff, "The Tasmanian Devil," was asked why he wanted to volunteer to be a charity boxer, he said, "Fight for Charity is a worthy cause and a unique way for me to 'give back' to my community. I plan to focus on training and my objective and when I complete this mission in November I will be even more physically fit."

Jeff is associated with the LGBT Group. He resides in Middle Island and has a daughter named Melissa.

2017 BOXER PROFILE: Jeff "The Tasmanian Devil" Goldstein Edward "Formerly Fast Eddie" Parry



Edward Parry is the Director of LuHi Summer Programs in Brookville, a day camp serving over 3,500 children during eight weeks of summer.

Edward became aware of Fight for Charity from the internet. He remarked, "I love the idea of being able to help others in need – current situations at my workplace have made the need to help others very clear.

"Training and boxing in the Main Event will mean that I have made a commitment over and above just talking about helping others. I'll have a little angel looking over me every step of this wonderful journey."

Edward is member of Retired N.Y.S. Teachers Association. He is active with CYO of Nassau and Suffolk Counties and supports Cure Starts Now and ACDS nonprofit organizations.

He earned an M.B.A. from James J. Madison University, B.B.A. in Marketing/ Management from JMU and Education Certificate from Brooklyn College.

He is lives in Lynbrook with his wife and three children.

2017 BOXER PROFILE: Addison "The Assassin" LeMay



Addison LeMay is an actor who has used his language abilities to land Russian, German and Spanish speaking roles. He can be seen on TV often playing a cop, criminal or tough guy. Right now he's working out as a HeavyHitter and is eager to perform in the boxing arena on Main Event night for a good

LeMay is a former US Army Airborne Ranger who spent nearly five years on active duty working in counter-intelligence then another ten years in the NY Guard as a Military Police Sergeant.

He's a member of Screen Actors' Guild (SAG) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA).

LeMay earned a BA in Spanish from Empire State College, MBA in Accounting and Finance from Long Island University/ C.W. Post and MS in Economics from New School University.

He is active in the Ronkonkoma Rotary Club. LeMay is married and resides in Smithtown.

2017 BOXER PROFILE: Christen "Princess of Pain" Mencaccini-Pellegrini



Christen Mencaccini-Pellegrini is the Development & Public Relations Associate at Eden II & Genesis Programs.

Eden II strives to provide the maximum help possible the autism community through education, adult day

care programs, residential care, family support, respite and other services. It is one of the three charities LIFFC helps to fund

Christen volunteered at the 2016 Main Event. This year she will train to be a charity boxer.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to get involved with Fight for Charity and help raise money and awareness for Eden II & Genesis Programs, the amazing school that I work at. Fight for Charity is an exciting, unique event. It will mean hard work and dedication but I am happy to be part of it," Christen remarked.

She graduated from Queens College and Locust Valley Middle School/High School.

Christen and her daughter live in Bayville.

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2017 BOXER PROFILE:

Lauren "The Belmont Brawler" Powers



Lauren Powers is an Events Manager for New York Racing Association (NYRA). NYRA plays host to the most elite thoroughbred horse racing in the country running three tracks: Aqueduct, Saratoga Race Course and Belmont Park. Belmont Park hosts the 3rd leg of the Triple Crown – The Belmont Stakes.

Lauren attended past Main Events and watched her friends boxing from ringside. "I battled cancer for eight years and last October I found out the cancer went dormant which was great news. I have had so many people helping me fight the fight. I feel Fight for Charity will be a good opportunity to do something to give back in honor of all the people that have helped me along the way," said Lauren.

The following are three quotes that Lauren feels best express her decision to become a part of Fight for Charity this year:

A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality

– John Lennon

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding

- Albert Einstein

Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again

– Nelson Mandela

"It's an awesome honor to be able to fight in this event. It means I am healthy and kicking cancer's behind!" Lauren added.

Lauren owns a horse at Brown Dog Farm and is in networking groups with horse owners and trainers and their clients.

Lauren is married and has one child. Originally from Virginia, she is currently a resident of Lindenhurst.



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2017 BOXER PROFILE: Jason "The Defender" Russo



Attorney Jason Russo is the owner of the Law Office of Jason Russo in Bay Shore. When he isn't training in the gym to get ready to fight his opponent this fall, he can be found fighting in the court of law as a criminal trial lawyer.

Jason was ringside at the 12th Main Event, and decided he was ready to step in the ring this November. "I attended as a spectator last year and was motivated by the incredible show of support, I strongly believe in contributing to local 'at home charities'," Jason "The Defender" said.

"The ability to garner support with my areas of influence for a local charity is important. In addition, I am interested in participating in a unique sporting event that will give me the opportunity to increase my fitness."

Professionally, Jason is a member of the New York State, Nassau County and Suffolk County Bar Associations.

He belongs to the YMCA-Great South Bay and supports Team Boomer –CF Fundraising.

He earned an A.S. from SUNY Farmingdale, B.S. from C.W. Post College and J.D. from New York Law School.

Jason resides in Bay Shore with his wife Kerri and four children: Alexandria, Nicholas, Samantha and Benjamin.

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2017 BOXER PROFILE: David "Double-Click" Tan



David Tan of Glenwood Landing is Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder of CHIPS Technology Group Inc. in Syosset. CHIPS Technology Group Inc. partners with companies that want to grow and be industry leaders by embracing technology. David has always been a hands-on technologist whose proficiencies in multiple disciplines range from network infrastructure design and security to application development. He has a passion for security and compliance, and guiding the company's employees and clients through the changing world of technology.

"Being able to train and fight in this year's Main Event establishes a foundation for being able to open the door for helping others. Aside from physically and mentally dedicating myself to this commitment, my efforts will absolutely stand as a reflection of the importance of a community coming together to support important causes. Through training and raising funds, I am enthusiastic to see the community come together for such a great cause." David said.

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Taking a Punch and Giving Back

Continued from cover



undercard, everyone laughed and that's how we started Long Island Fight for Charity," Silver recalls.

Shortly after Austin, Silver and Cohen decided they were serious about putting on their own boxing event. They hashed out the details while sitting around a conference room table at Austin's office, which included the establishment of the tagline for the first year's event: "What are a few punches worth?"

The next challenge was actually pulling off the event, including finding a venue, equipment (including a regulation sized boxing ring), food and attendees along with the donations.

In stepped Cohen's wife Nancy, who was also a fundraiser at Family Residences and Essential Enterprise (FREE), one of the main Long Island Fight for Charity designated nonprofit beneficiaries, to run the logistics.

"We quickly realized that we were going to need help if we were going to pull this off," said Silver.

"We were young and didn't know what we were doing so we just did things and tried stuff out," said Austin. "We were fortunate to have great support from family, friends and business associates that allowed us to overcome any and all obstacles."

Three boxers were eventually recruited, two for a women's bout and one for Cohen to fight as the main event, while Austin and Silver took the undercard. Denise Fortunato and Lisa Moschita took the women's bout, while Chazz Menedez was matched as Cohen's opponent.

"After that first Main Event, businesspeople came up to us and asked if they could box the next year. It was at that point we knew we now had an annual event on our hands," said Cohen.

Thus far, the event has generated close to 400 boxers, of which more than one-quarter have been women. It has also raised and distributed more than \$1.1 million to more than 30 charities.

"Each year, new people sign up and box," said Austin. "2017 marks our 14th Main Event. We simply wouldn't have been able to reach this if it weren't for the hard work of all the committee members and our numerous volunteers as well as the tremendous amount of financial support we've received from our boxers and sponsors."













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2017 BOXER PROFILE: Brian "The Punisher" Weiner



Brian Weiner is program Manager for Telephonics Corporation in Farmingdale, an advanced technology company generating surveillance, communications, analysis and integration solutions. He is also a personal trainer at UFC in Farmingdale.

"I attended the 2010 Fight for Charity Main Event. Friends who participated told me about their experiences," said Brian. "I decided to volunteer to be a charity boxer because I feel there is no better way to help someone in need than to sacrifice my time training and then step in the ring and put my body on the line for donations. Not only do I get to test and push myself to my limits but I will also be able to raise money for a worthy cause and help families in the local community.

"To me putting in the time and effort training and then fighting in this year's Main Event is the ending of a journey I began in 2010. I was in need of losing a good amount of weight and entered a boxing gym looking to achieve that goal. Not only did I

lose weight, I discovered a hobby and a sport that became one of my favorite things to do. When the prospect of participating in the 2017 Fight for Charity came up, I jumped at the chance."

Brian is supportive of Ring 10 of NY, a non-profit foundation assisting past and present boxers who have fallen on hard times.

He earned a B.S. in Science from SUNY Oneonta and a M.A. in Criminal Justice from Long Island University – C.W. Post.

Brian is married and has two daughters. He lives in Smithtown.



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