



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Andrea Skawinski, [AndreaS@kraftse.com](mailto:AndreaS@kraftse.com), 774-266-5099

**PATRIOTS PRESENT PATRIOTS DIFFERENCE MAKER OF THE WEEK AWARD TO  
RICHARD LAPPIN FROM DEDHAM, MASS.**

***PATRIOTS FOUNDATION DONATING \$5,000 TO PROVIDENCE PROMISE***

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** – Throughout the 2023 season, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette recognized 17 local volunteers with the "Patriots Difference Maker of the Week Award." The honorees were celebrated for going above and beyond to support nonprofit organizations in our New England communities.

As part of this recognition, the foundation will present a \$5,000 donation to the nonprofit organization represented by each honoree. The Patriots Difference Makers received a pair of tickets to attend the Patriots final regular season home game on Jan. 7 against the New York Jets and participated in a pregame ceremony.

"The volunteers we are honoring today represent the very best of New England and we appreciate the positive impact they have made in each of their communities throughout the region," **said Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots, Robert Kraft.** "Celebrating volunteerism and giving back to the community have always been, and will always be, of the utmost importance to our family. We are proud that these volunteers and the good work they do will serve as excellent examples and inspiration for others to serve their own communities and to give back to our region."

Richard Lappin, from Dedham, Mass. was selected as a 2023 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for his commitment to Providence Promise. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$5,000 donation to support the nonprofit.

PVD Promise promotes educational aspirations and equitable opportunities for Providence Public School students by advocating for college savings accounts (CSAs) and family engagement, increasing financial literacy, and reducing the financial burden of higher education. Richard Lappin has a long history of volunteering, but his service to PVD Promise over the last nine years is an exceptional example of his commitment to improving our community.

Richard founded PVD Promise because he saw a need for college access and preparation services and financial literacy, especially for marginalized students and their families. He also envisioned the long-term, systemic impact this program will have by facilitating a college going culture and ultimately contributing to a more educated workforce and economic development.

"Recognition is always wonderful, especially from an organization like the Patriots Foundation, which does so much for its communities," said Richard. "However, the real recognition belongs to our mostly lower income Providence families who have opened College Savings Accounts for their children and contribute monthly to their children's accounts. To the children who are striving to achieve their dreams, to our donors and other supporters, and to Providence Promise's committed staff for making this all possible, thank you."

Rather than developing a program based on his own thoughts, Richard spent nearly two years conducting focus groups with local families, school staff and administrators, community organizations, and elected officials to ensure the program was responsive to the community it intended to serve. This feedback, paired with extensive research into other programs across the country, eventually developed into the robust program that exists today. Currently, 974 students from 500 families have over \$1,000,000 in cumulative college savings and PVD Promise has been effective in promoting a college-going culture within enrollees, their families, and the broader Providence community. Richard’s energy and enthusiasm are contagious and his passion for the work PVD Promise does is palpable.

The Patriots Difference Maker of the Week Award is part of the foundation’s Celebrate Volunteerism initiative, designed to educate fans about the need for volunteering, highlight deserving volunteers from across the region and inspire Patriots fans to become lifelong volunteers.

“We are thrilled to stand alongside the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation to honor this year’s exceptional Patriots Difference Makers,” said **Kara Buckley**, Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs at P&G Gillette. “This community has been home to Gillette for well over a century and it is undoubtedly stronger and brighter because these 17 individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others. We thank them for their work and for serving as a true inspiration to those around them.”

This marks the 13<sup>th</sup> season of that the Patriots Difference Maker of the Week Award has been presented to volunteers from across New England. Since its inception, more than 200 individuals have received this award and over \$990,000 has been donated to local nonprofit organizations.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.patriots.com/community](http://www.patriots.com/community).



**Photo caption:**

Richard Lappin, from Dedham, Mass. was selected as a 2023 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for his commitment to Providence Promise. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$5,000 donation to support the nonprofit.

**2023 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Nonprofit</b>	<b>Location</b>
Macey Russell	Boston, Mass.	Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South	Brockton, Mass.
Judith Locke	Framingham, Mass.	Dignity Matters	Wayland, Mass.
Kashawn Sanders	Springfield, Mass.	Follow My Steps Foundation	Springfield, Mass.
Carole Kenney	East Falmouth, Mass.	Joe Q Veteran Coffee Break, Inc.	Falmouth, Mass.
Tina Guenette	Burrillville, R.I.	RAMP (Real Access Motivates Progress)	Burrillville, R.I.
Roger Franklin	Putnam, Conn.	Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation	Putnam, Conn.
Josh King	East Greenwich, R.I.	Friends Way	Warwick, R.I.

Saige Merwin  
Shannon Blake  
Joe Montminy  
Charlie Austin  
Matthew Reid  
John Hand  
Dawn Tatro  
Richard Lappin  
Kirk Hamel  
Linda Hall

Haddam, Conn.  
Shelburne, VT  
Plymouth, Mass.  
Brunswick, Maine  
Cheshire, Conn.  
Cambridge, Mass.  
Johnson, VT  
Dedham, Mass.  
Hope Valley, R.I.  
Salem, Mass.

Elbowbumpkid Inc.  
WARRIORS SOAR  
Alzheimer's Association MA/NH  
Special Olympics Maine  
Camp No Limits  
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing  
Jenna's Promise  
Providence Promise  
Girls on the Run Rhode Island  
Parkinson's Fitness

Haddam, Conn.  
Shelburne, VT  
Waltham, Mass.  
South Portland, Maine  
Wales, Maine  
Cambridge, Mass.  
Johnson, VT  
Providence, R.I.  
Central Falls, R.I.  
Salem, Mass.

**--PATRIOTS--**