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Rockland Community Foundation Honors NFL Superbowl Players and Local Community Champion

(NEW CITY, NY) July 8, 2022 -- The Rockland Community Foundation (RCF) hosted its inaugural summer event awards event honoring three inspirational leaders, on Thursday July 7, 2022. NFL Superbowl Champions Devin & Jason McCourty were honored as well as Pearl River resident Patrick Byrne. The event was hosted at the home of volunteer Board President Ariel Aufgang.

The McCourty twins, who hailed from the greater Nyack area, are no strangers to the world of philanthropy. Back in the spring of 2020 during the early phases of COVID, they established a charitable fund at The Rockland Community Foundation called Chromebooks for Kids. They established this fund in an effort to provide much needed technology (Chromebooks and MiFi set ups) to students in the East Ramapo and Nyack School Districts when the only clear way to learn was through technology and remote devices. Through personal contributions and fundraising efforts, they were able to garner enough funds to provide over 400 Chromebooks to students.

The fund continues to grow and will benefit students going forward. Both Devin and Jason were football standouts at Rutgers University and continued their football stardom with the New England Patriots for many years. In addition to the Chromebooks for Kids Fund, the McCourty's are active with fundraising for Sickle Cell Anemia, a cause close to their hearts. Beginning July 9th, they will be hosting The McCourty Twins Football Camp in Nyack, further proof of their engagement and community mindedness in Rockland County.

Patrick Byrne, a long time Pearl River resident was honored at the event too. He is a past board president at the RCF and current Advisory Board Chair. He has been a supporter and ambassador of the foundation for nearly 10 years. He and his wife Anne Byrne are also fund holders at the RCF and continue to support multiple initiatives in the county. In his years as Chief Operating Officer at Verizon Enterprises, Pat demonstrated dedication and rigor as a leader who devoted himself to his work as he now does to his community.

This event's proceeds will support the continued growth of the foundation. Back in March, the foundation's current assets under management exceeded \$7 million, nearly twice the figure reported in March 2021. The growth is a result of the addition of several new component funds recently established with RCF. In addition, the number of funds stewarded under the Foundation has exceeded 100 representing significant growth since March 2021 when the number of funds was 80.

"Around the country, Community Foundations are an integral part of a thriving philanthropic environment and healthy and caring communities" said Ariel Aufgang, AIA - Board President of the RCF. "RCF is a vital link that connects generous donors to the causes that matter to them in their own backyards," he continued.

"Our staff is more committed than ever to help grow charitable giving in Rockland. We continue to evolve the way we do business to make it easier than ever for our fundholders to donate to organizations that need it most" stated Julie Sadowski, Executive Director of the Rockland Community Foundation. Sadowski, who

has spearheaded the Foundation for over three years, has propelled the Foundation into this period of growth by engaging the community and sharing the many benefits that the RCF brings to Rockland. “There is no question that philanthropy would look a lot different in Rockland if there was not a Community Foundation. Our ability to streamline the process for those who want to create funds and our capacity to house over 100 charitable funds under one roof translates into one simple word – sustainability. It is truly the foundation of Rockland’s philanthropic fabric,” she continued.

About the Rockland Community Foundation

The Rockland Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all people in Rockland County by increasing and simplifying charitable giving. Its mission is to connect people and businesses with the causes that matter most to them through the creation and administration of funds, across a wide range of interests, that donors create and the Foundation stewards.

Community foundations put philanthropy within reach, offering the ability to establish funds that will continue to give for years to come, with tax benefits that donors can take advantage of now. Most importantly, the funds stay in the community, which means donors will see the impact of their contributions in the place they call home. If you are interested in creating a fund and would like more information or would like to donate to one of our many funds, visit www.rocklandgives.org

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