

# newsletter

VOLUME I, ISSUE II

NOVEMBER 2019

Our mission is to leverage our expertise, creativity, resources and passions to create infinite possibilities for those in need while striving to make a difference in the lives of others, in our community, and our world.

#### INTERSTATE CARES INITIATIVE

Each and every year, The Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation, in conjunction with Interstate Outdoor Advertising, donates billboard space to many worthy charities and causes through the "Interstate Cares" initiative. Digital billboard advertising is a beneficial and immediate way to promote causes to broad audiences, and the foundation is committed to supporting this effort.

In 2018, some of the organizations supported included The Prostate Cancer Foundation, March For Our Lives and Autism Speaks, among many others. This past year alone, more than 28 million digital spots were donated to charities. The Interstate Cares initiative has expanded its charitable digital ventures throughout the region, helping to bring exposure to some inspiring movements, including AIDS WALK PHILLY, which provides funding for AIDS FUND. Another fantastic charity we are pleased to support is the Naloxone Saves Lives Campaign.

In addition to these new ventures, Interstate Cares has expanded its charitable partnerships on a national level through their work and support of Volunteers of America, The Ronald McDonald House, The Photoark Project, The Salvation Army, as well as numerous other nationally recognized non-profit organizations. By providing donated digital space to these charities, we have found an additional way to be a supportive community partner in the communities we serve and abroad.







## THE 2018 GARRY MADDOX – DREW KATZ CELEBRITY BOWLING CLASSIC

The Celebrity Bowling Classic was created in the 1970s by Philadelphia Phillies player Garry Maddox to support the education and development of urban youth. Drew Katz attended the first Celebrity Bowling Classic as a young fan, and in 2001 he joined Garry as co-host, helping to grow the event. This year represented Drew's 17th year co-hosting the fundraiser. Through the generous support of family, friends, and colleagues, the event raised \$366,000 in 2018 and a total of \$5.5 million in the last 17 years.

Funds generated by the 2018 Garry Maddox-Drew Katz Celebrity Bowling Classic event went to help support the Wilson Disease Association (WDA). The WDA is an organization that is personally near and dear to Rachel and Drew's hearts. Drew was born with this rare genetic liver disease, which is fatal without proper treatment. The medication that he and others need to live once cost \$2,000 per year. The same drug was subsequently sold to a new manufacturer who currently charges \$500,000 a year for the very same medication.

### newsletter



Also, Rachel and Drew matched every dollar that the foundation received from the event to make grants in support of other relevant education, health, public safety, and mentoring programs. Thank you to all of our sponsors, family and friends for their support.



Drew and Maya Katz with the Temple Football Team

A few of the many organizations that have benefitted from the foundation include the following:

## World Wide Basketball Camp at Stockton University Camp

Each June, the Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation sponsors youth from the Camden's Promise Academy Charter School to participate in the Worldwide Basketball Academy (WWBA) Overnight Camp held at Stockton University. Since 2009 the WWBA has worked with youth to ensure growth and development in their fundamental basketball skills.

WWBA focuses on grassroots events and relationships, linking kids with local and regional coaches and programs. The camp staff consists of Stockton University coaching staff, as well as the best high school coaches in the area. Additionally, NBA athletes support the camp by giving motivational talks and providing skill development.

The camp takes extra steps to make sure each player learns the necessary skills to play basketball while paying particular attention to the fundamentals of the game. They work daily on skills of the game and set up fun, but competitive games. The opportunity for one-on-one teaching by their professional staff is available every day.



Carmelo Anthony, NBA Player

#### Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation

The CCBF has contributed to the research, care, and cure of children experiencing chronic, life-threatening blood disorders since its inception in 1952. Its mission supports a comprehensive approach to clinical care, research, and fellowship training. This has ensured innovative patient care, award-winning research, and unparalleled training in the treatment of children suffering from cancers and childhood blood disorders. No child is ever turned away, regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation is passionate about the importance of research and is proud to support the CCBF.

#### **Challenged Athlete Foundation**

CAF provides opportunities and support to individuals of all ages with physical challenges so that they can lead active lifestyles through physical fitness and competitive sports. CAF is celebrating 25 years of empowering thousands of physically challenged athletes around the globe. By supporting CAF, The Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation helped fund equipment for young athletes, including those afflicted with cancer, visual impairment, spinal cord injuries, and limb loss.



#### **Prostate Cancer Foundation**

The PCF reports that in the United States, one out of every nine men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime. The Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation proudly supports PCF, the world's leading philanthropic organization funding prostate cancer research. PCF's cutting edge exploration has led in the prevention, detection, and treatment of prostate cancer. The foundation is pleased to be able to team up with the PCF in the fight against prostate cancer.

#### The Salvation Army

Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center - Opened in 2014, The Salvation Army Kroc Center in Camden houses an array of education, sports, faith, arts and supportive services assembled under one roof, open to all. The programs, as well as the 120,000 square-foot building, have been designed to stimulate the mind, body, and spirit, to provide hope and to transform local lives. In the past year, the Kroc Center has hosted hundreds of events, thousands of members, 15,000 volunteer service hours and nearly 100,000 visits to fitness and aquatics offerings. The Salvation Army was recently recognized by South Jersey Biz as one of 17 nonprofit organizations that go above and beyond in our community.

#### Wilson Disease Association

The Wilson Disease Association (WDA) was formed in 1983 to help patients with a rare genetic disease that not many people have ever heard. WD patients have a mutation that prevents the proper removal of excess copper, causing copper to build up in the liver, brain, eyes, and other organs. If not treated properly, it can cause life-threatening liver damage.

When caught in time, patients who are treated by WD practitioners may live healthy lives with a set protocol, diet, and medications. The Wilson Disease Association exists to help patients find resources and education. It directs patients to specialists who may help them navigate the proper systems in order to obtain optimal care.

The WDA launched the first patient registry of its kind in the world. It is the most significant effort ever undertaken by this organization and managed through Yale Medical School and Dr. Michael Schilsky. This registry work is critical because even though the world was made aware of the disease approximately 60 years ago, there is surprisingly little known about it today.

#### INTERSTATE CREWZERS

In 2016, Zulma Gonzalez-Lombardo, Executive Director of the Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation, created the Interstate Crewzers, a bicycle club to get employees moving while continuing the spirit of giving back to the communities we serve. The Crewzers consists of staff, family, and friends who together formed the Bike MS City to Shore Ride Team in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis. Not only have the Crewzers ridden thousands of miles, but they have also helped raise thousands of dollars in support of the National MS Society. "We have always had a philanthropic spirit, but this was a way that we could get ourselves moving and try to keep fit as well," explained Drew Katz. "The response from our employees and other businesses with whom we have a relationship has been incredible."

Since 2016, the Interstate Crewzers, with support from the Rachel & Drew Katz Foundation, has raised over \$50,000 and have been recognized by the National MS Society as Top Fundraising Team, Diamond and Platinum Club Award recipients.

#### National Multiple Sclerosis Society

The mission of the National MS Society is to help people affected by multiple sclerosis live their best lives as they stop MS in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever. Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.



**Interstate Crewzers Team Members** 



#### CAMDEN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION - CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

In September 2018, Drew Katz unveiled a new Scoreboard at Camden High School at the newly named Lewis Katz Memorial Field. The Scoreboard is part of a five year, \$300,000 commitment from the Katz family to help upgrade the debilitated athletic field in anticipation of the construction of a new Camden High School expected to be completed in the Fall 2021. The Katz family has long supported the City of Camden, especially the school-aged youth, through its many endeavors.

The late Lewis Katz, a 1959 graduate of Camden High School, grew up in the Parkside neighborhood where the athletic field resides. Drew shared with the kids in attendance that he "hopes in the days and years to come, young men and women will look up at the school board and see his name, nudge their neighbor and say, you'll want to look up that guy because he was pretty special." The next phase of the project will be to work with the Camden City School District to upgrade the bleachers.



Drew Katz and the Camden High School Cheerleaders and Football Team

905 N. Kings Highway

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Phone: 856-667-9887

E-mail: zlombardo@rdkf.org

www.rdkf.org

**Create Infinite Possibilities**