



# The Joe Garassino Foundation

February 2026

Dear Joe Garassino Foundation Donor,

We hope that you and your family are doing well. We are happy to announce we will be holding our *14th Annual Joe Garassino Golf Tournament and Foundation Dinner* this year on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Our mission of helping families battling cancer in our community has not been forgotten and is even more important during these challenging times.

We are committed to continuing to give to cancer recipients for the 2026 year and hope you will consider making a donation. We have been able to provide to those who are battling cancer in our community all because of your generosity in the past. We would not be here without you.

With your support, we can keep Joe's memory alive and continue to make a meaningful difference. Having a cancer diagnosis is terrifying and lonely and now more than ever, our greater Waterbury community needs our love and support.

Thank you for all you have done over the years to sustain the mission of the Joe Garassino Foundation. Together, we are creating something truly special in our community by supporting each other and helping families affected by cancer.

Wishing you and your family health and happiness always.

Sincerely,

Mike Garassino, *President*

**Joe Garassino Foundation Inc.**  
**PO Box 81, Watertown, CT 06795**  
*You can also make your gift online at: [www.joegarassino.org/donate](http://www.joegarassino.org/donate)*  
*For more information, please call or email:*  
**Mike Garassino at (203) 592-0001 or [mike@mgarassino.com](mailto:mike@mgarassino.com)**

*With your support we can continue to do more.*

*Please enclose check payable to:*  
**Joe Garassino Foundation Inc.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please accept my gift of:*



# Message from the Joe Garassino Foundation President

Cancer touches the lives of many in our community and it seems we all know someone who is battling this illness or a family who has been affected. Cancer is the epidemic of our time.

In 2013, I lost my only son, Joe, to an aggressive and rare cancer. The Joe Garassino Foundation was established in my son's memory to help others fighting cancer in the greater Waterbury, Connecticut area. Due to the donations and generosity of our greater community, we have made a real impact in our community. We have donated over \$409,000 in the last 13 years to help over 140 local resident's afflicted with cancer including:

- Sean Agunda - 30 Years Old
- Fred Ariola - Brain Cancer, Dear Friend
- Peyton Bartone - Leukemia Cancer, Beautiful 4-Year-Old Pre-K Student
- Aiden Bigos - Brain Cancer, 9 Years Old
- Lou Benemerito - Pancreatic Cancer, Loving Dad
- David Blair - Stage 2 Colorectal Cancer, Husband and Father of 2 Teenage Boys
- Jacqueline Boulter Tiul - Brain Cancer, Wife and Mother, Active with Her Church and Children's School
- Jayden Bracey - Synovial Sarcoma, 15 Years Old, Sophomore at Waterbury Academy
- Nicholas Burgio - Stage 4 Neuroblastoma, 3 Years Old
- Daniel Burr - Leukemia, 18-Years-Old
- Liam Cahill - Neuroblastoma, 7 Years Old
- Jose Campanario - Pancreatic Cancer, 16 Years Old, Tennis Player
- Josie Cavallo-Cole - Pancreatic Cancer, Mother, Wife, LPN at VNA
- Lily Cheng - Stage 4 Lung Cancer, Owner of Liquor Store, Wife and Mother
- Annie Chicoine - Breast Cancer, Mid-40's
- Anna Clement - Stage 4 Cancer, Mother of 4 Children
- Tim Cocchiola - Stage 4 Colon Cancer, 45-Year-Old Father and Husband
- Theresa Combs - Leukemia, 19 Years Old
- Katherine E. Consalvo - Uterine Leiomyosarcoma, Watertown PTO, Sports Mom
- Sheila Cooper - Loving wife
- Diane Courier - 55 Years Old
- Wendy Cusano - Breast Cancer, Mother
- Paul DeCarolis - Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, Watertown Fireman & EMT
- Angela DeFeo - Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, 12-Year-Old, Watertown Swift Middle School
- Rich DelGobbo - Stage 4 Colon Cancer
- Maia Demirs - Papillary Thyroid Cancer, Master's in Occupational Therapy
- Jennifer Demuro - Thyroid Cancer, College Student
- Michele DiBona - Leukemia Cancer, Wife & Mother
- Karen DiPietro - Breast Cancer, Cousin
- Megan DiPietro - Breast Cancer, 36 Years Old, Mom of 3 Young Children
- John Donato - Prostate cancer, self made man started Showcase Realty, Husband and Father
- Mary Jane Dougherty - Lung Cancer Stage 4, Devoted Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother
- Theresa Eastwood - Brain Cancer, Nurse for 40 Years
- Steve Eazarsky - Non-Skin Melanoma, 41 Years Old, Watertown Golf Course
- Jayden Edwards - Stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma Cancer, 17-Years-Old, Kaynor Tech student
- Paige Embelton - Hodgkin's Lymphoma, 16-Year-Old High School Student
- Jay Fairhurst - Lymphoblastic Leukemia, 37 Years Old, Dear Friend
- Téa Fernandez - Stage 4 Neuroblastoma, 3 Years Old
- Pat Fields - Brain Cancer, Husband and Father
- Aloni Figueroa - Stage 4 Lung Cancer, 18-Year-Old Watertown High Senior
- Ava Fischthal - Myelodysplastic Syndrome, 16-Year-Old High School Student and Athlete
- Peter Flammia - Gastric Lymphoma Cancer, Husband, Father, Football Coach, and VP at Waterbury Career Academy
- Robin Fleischer - Breast Cancer, Dear Friend
- Kathy Fontoine - Stage 4 Lung Cancer, Banker, Wife & Mother
- Tina Fox - Breast Cancer, 41, Loves Hiking with Her Pup, Charlie
- Maximillian Frazier - Leukemia, Kind and Loving Young Boy
- Matty Garcia - Brain Cancer, 8-Year-Old Boy
- Tim Gavallas - Multiple Myeloma, Watertown Police Officer, Husband, and Father of Twin Boys
- Shane Gertsch - Brain Cancer, Husband, Quadiant Employee
- Javier Gonzalez - 16 Years Old
- Roosevelt Green - 21 Years Old
- Jill Grella - Breast Cancer, Wife of a Police Officer, and Mother
- Chad Gusti - Stage 3B, Rectal Cancer, 36 Years Old, Dad to Two Girls & Husband
- Jennifer Halpin - Mother of 13-Year-Old Son
- Colin Hartnett - Stage 4 Colorectal Cancer, Husband, Dad to 3 Young Boys
- David Holley - Melanoma Cancer, Husband and Father to 3 Daughters
- Ed Iadarola - Intestinal Cancer
- Julie Jandreau Umbro - Stage 3 Carcinoma, Wife and Mother of 5 Beautiful Girls
- Mitchell Kamph - 20 Years Old
- Liam Kelly - Leukemia, Dear Friend, 12-Year-Old Basketball Player
- Julia Kelly - Colon & Breast Cancer, Teacher, Theater Professional in NY, and Seven Angels Theater
- Patti Kenney - Breast Cancer, Volunteer with Hospice Patients
- Kateri Kenney - Breast Cancer, Science Teacher for 22 Years, Wife & Mother
- Becki Kirsten - Stage 2 Colon Cancer, Mother of 2, and Nurse at Waterbury Hospital
- Arcenia Klein - T-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia, 5-Year-Old Cheerleader with the Wildcats
- Krista Knell - Breast Cancer, Loving Mother
- Avery Laffetty - Brain Cancer, 12 Years Old
- Nathan Lemothe - Kidney & Wilms Cancer, 12 Years Old, Brother, and Honor Student
- Kendall Lord - Stage 4 Wilms Cancer, 4-Year-Old Girl Loves to Dance
- Brittany Mann - HPV Cancer, 29-Year-Old Young Lady
- Brayden Marrero - 3 Years Old
- Khloe Martinez - Kidney Cancer, 6 Years Old
- Rose Marie Mastroianni - Breast Cancer, Mother
- Silas Matthew - Stage 4 Wilms Cancer, 4-Year-Old Boy Superhero
- Joanne Ferrari Mautino - Stage 4 Lung Cancer, Nurse, Mother
- Ethan McGettigan - Brain Cancer, 3-Year-Old Boy
- Paula Pelchat McLaughlin - Breast Cancer, Dear Friend
- Karie Menendez - Brain Cancer, Wife and Mother
- Linval Mills - 14 Years Old
- Griffin Moore - 22 Years Old
- Journai Morris - Liver Cancer, Hepatoblastoma, 2 Years Old, Loves Her Siblings and Family Time
- Colin Nelson - Osteosarcoma, Bone Cancer, 9-Year-Old Who Radiates Pure Joy and Gives the Best Hugs
- Greg O'Brien - Lung Cancer, Communications Supervisor for Watertown Police & Fire Departments
- John O' Rourke - Pancreatic Cancer, Husband and Father to 3 Boys
- Michael Palomba - Pancreatic Cancer, US Army Veteran
- Darik Pearson - Stage 4 Prostate Cancer, Lead Singer of Darik and the Funbags
- Marty Pelosi - Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Husband, Father
- Lisa Pocesta - Colon Cancer, 52 Years Old, Mom, Wife
- Jacob Roger Poulin - Brain Cancer, 5-Year-Old Boy, Hockey player
- Duncan Ralicki - Leukemia, 15-Year-Old Watertown Sophomore
- Carter Razz - Brain Cancer, 16-Month-Old Happy-Natured Little Boy
- Taylor Richards - Tongue Cancer, 29-Year-Old Health Instructor
- Leilani Rodriguez - Kidney Cancer, Stage 3, 4-Year-Old with Immense Strength
- Amar'e Roman - Leukemia, 5th Grader
- Jake Ryan Rossi - Testicular Cancer, High School Senior, Loves music and Unconditionally Loves
- Kathleen Santiso - Breast Cancer, Dear friend
- Sean Santone - Hodgkin Lymphoma, Father of 3 Girls & Husband
- Melissa Schmitt - Breast Cancer, Mother of 2 Young girls, and Married to Her High School Sweetheart
- Chip Schofield - Neuroendocrine Cancer, 53 Years Old, Dad to 3 Girls, Husband, and Former Naugatuck Police Officer
- Ryder Scelza - Brain Cancer, 17-Year-Old
- Kathy Scully - Stage 4 Glioblastoma Cancer, Teacher and Principal, Watertown School System
- Jon Seniors - 17 Years Old
- Bob Simko - Stage 4 Multiple Myeloma, U.S. Navy Veteran
- Kayla Snabaitis - Brain Cancer, 25 Years Old, Fordham University, Magna Cum Laude
- William Stevens - Brain Cancer, Watertown Attorney
- Andrea Strachan - Single Mom
- Kim Tobin-Mix - Stage 4 Colon Cancer, Mother of 2 Girls, Dear Friend
- Scarlet Tzunan - Leukemia, 6 Years Old
- Sophie Tzunan - Leukemia, 5 Years Old
- Judy Umstead - Stage 3 Lymphoma, Watertown Animal Control Officer
- Alivia Valeri - Brain Cancer, 7 Years Old, Little Sister to Gianna
- Dennis Wanzie - Leukemia, 68 Years Old, Former Head Football Coach
- Lynn White - Esophageal Cancer, 54-Year-Old Single Mom of 4 Children
- Xander White - Neuroblastoma Cancer Stage 4, 5-Year-Old
- Dorota Wilk - Acute Myloid Leukemia, Taft Graduate, CFO Rumsey Hall, Hill School, and Hopkins School

The Joe Garassino Foundation has also supported local organizations including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Harold Leever Cancer Center of Waterbury, CT, the Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care of St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT, and the Target Cancer Foundation.

The hole in my own heart will never heal, but together we can make a difference in the lives of families in our local community. Thank you for your help, without your generosity, compassion and contribution, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mike Garassino, *President*

## In Loving Memory:

Fred Ariola • Lou Benemerito • Jacqueline Boulter Tiul • Nicholas Burgio • Josie Cavallo-Cole • Tim Cocchiola  
Katherine E. Consalvo • Sheila Cooper • Paul DeCarolis • Rich DelCobbo • Michele DiBona • John Donato  
Mary Jane Dougherty • John Duffany • Theresa Eastwood • Steven Eazarsky • Jaden Edwards • Kimberly Geremia  
Shane Gertsch • David Holley • Edward Iadarola • Avery Lafferty • Kendall Lord • Christopher Norcera  
Greg O'Brien • Michael Palomba • Marty Pelosi • Jacob Roger Poulin • Loius Razza • Kathleen Santiso  
Ryder Scelza • Chip Schofield • Kathy Scully