



For Immediate Release
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Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation Selects 2017 Scholarship Winners

Eleven cancer survivors in New York, New Jersey, and Florida awarded scholarships

New York (June 13, 2017) -The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation is pleased to announce the 2017 recipients of its annual college scholarships for cancer patients and survivors. These scholarships were established to offer hope beyond cancer, providing financial support so cancer patients and survivors can attend college and live out their dreams. This year 11 young men and women were selected and each will receive \$2,000, renewable for up to an accumulative \$8,000 over four years. To qualify, applicants must be residents of North Florida, South Georgia, the five boroughs of New York City, or Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic and Union counties in New Jersey and have been diagnosed with cancer before the age of 21. Winners are chosen based on leadership ability, academic record, moral character, and financial need.

“These scholarships are truly an extension of our mission to BE THERE for patients and families,” said Tom Coughlin, Executive Vice President of Operations for the Jacksonville Jaguars and founder of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation. “I’m inspired by the stories of these exceptional young men and women. I hope the winners of this year’s scholarships chase their dreams and educational goals with the same courage and determination they faced cancer.”

Since 2002 the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation has awarded 55 scholarships totaling over \$300,000 to cancer survivors in New York, New Jersey, and North Florida.

This year’s winners are:

Anheuser Busch InBev Scholarship Recipient

Allyn Lilien

Diagnosed: Acute myeloid leukemia AML in 2007 with relapse in February 2009

Academics: Westwood Regional High School 2017, 4.22 GPA

Extracurricular: Captain Varsity Lacrosse, Math Tutor, Summer Camp Counselor

Awards: National Honor Society, All League Lacrosse Player

College & Major: Montclair State University, Education & Special Ed

The National Football League Scholarship Recipient

Thomas Cronin

Diagnosed: Acute lymphocytic leukemia ALL in 2012

Academics: St. Joseph by the Sea High School, 3.0 GPA
Extracurricular: Holy Name Society, Team leukemia, WSJS News Program
Awards: Catholic Charities Shining Star Award
College & Major: St John's University, Accounting

The Tisch Family Scholarship Recipient

Tara Ryan

Diagnosed: Acute lymphocytic leukemia ALL in 2004
Academics: Waldwick High School, 3.4 GPA
Extracurricular: Varsity Volleyball, Lacrosse & Track, Relay for Life, Photography Club
Awards: 2nd Team All-League Volleyball
College & Major: Penn State University, Psychology

First Data Scholarship Recipient

Jeyson Navarro

Diagnosed: Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, July 2001
Academics: Harrison High School, 3.31 GPA
Extracurricular: Soccer, ESL Club, Peer Leader
College & Major: Essex Community College, Business

The NY Football Giants Scholarship Recipient

William "Billy" Frasco

Diagnosed: Acute lymphocytic leukemia ALL in 2014
Academics: Paramus High School, 4.4 GPA
Extracurricular: Relay for Life, Class President, Marching Band, Jazz Band
Awards: US Presidential Scholars Program, NJ Boys State Candidate, Notre Dame University Summer Scholar
College & Major: Boston College, Undecided

Sonja and Paul Tudor Jones Scholarship Recipient

Claudia Sroka

Diagnosed: Acute lymphocytic leukemia ALL in 2009
Academics: West Milford High School, 3.85 GPA
Extracurricular: JV Soccer, Basketball & Softball, Class Vice-President
Awards: National Honor Society, NJIT Team Awards, Johns Hopkins Talented Youth Award
College & Major: New York University, Biomedical Engineering

Visa Scholarship Recipient

Devanshi Gami

Diagnosed: Acute lymphocytic leukemia ALL in 2009
Academics: McNair Academic High School, 3.7 GPA
Extracurricular: Environmental Club, Science Fair, Spanish Club, JV Tennis, Internship at Jersey City Medical Center
Awards: Honors Student
College & Major: Rutgers University, Nursing

The Villa Family Scholarship Recipient

Brianna Commerford

Diagnosed: Hodgkin's Lymphoma Stage IV, 2007

Academics: Westwood Jr. Sr. High School, 3.8 GPA

Extracurricular: Relay for Life, Varsity Track & Cheerleading

Awards: LLS Girl of the Year

College & Major: University of Miami, Fall 2016, Broadcast Journalism/Political Science

Commander Rick Murray Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Mateo Seslija

Diagnosed: Testicular Mixed Germ Cell Tumor, July 2016

Academics: Mandarin High School 2017, 3.67 GPA, ranked 68 out of 380 students, dually enrolled at FSCJ

Extracurricular: Soccer Team, Medical Academic Student, Habitat for Humanity

Awards: Taekwondo Second Degree Black Belt

College & Major: Florida State College of Jacksonville, Fall 2017, University of South Florida, Spring 2018, Chemistry

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Scholarship Recipient

Jessica Mauch

Diagnosed: Ewings Sarcoma, March 2015

Academics: Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology 2016, 3.78 GPA, ranked 21 out of 229 students

Florida State College of Jacksonville, currently

Extracurricular: Cure Search Walk Team, Competitive Cheer Team

Awards: National Honor Society, Early Childhood Education Certification

College & Major: Florida State College of Jacksonville, Child Development/Elementary Education

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Scholarship Recipient

Bradley Ratzlaff

Diagnosed: B-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma May 2014

Academics: Orange Park High School 2014, 3.04 GPA

Florida State College of Jacksonville, currently

Extracurricular: Baseball, Basketball, & Football, Freshman Connection, Boy Scouts Star Scout, Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Junior Ambassador

Awards: Lettered in Baseball, Basketball, & Football, OPHS Ring of Honor, Raider Award

College & Major: Florida State College of Jacksonville, Child Psychology

If you are interested in sponsoring a survivor scholarship or donating to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation, please visit www.tcjayfund.org to learn more.

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About the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation was created in 1996 in honor of Jay McGillis. Jay developed leukemia while playing for Coach Coughlin at Boston College. In the eight months between Jay's diagnosis and the day he lost his battle with cancer, the Coughlin family saw first-hand the physical, emotional and financial strains

the illness caused the McGillis Family. Coach Coughlin vowed, if he ever had the chance, he would create a way to help families with children tackling cancer.

OUR MISSION is to help families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional and practical support. From diagnosis to recovery and beyond, we are part of the team, allowing parents to solely focus on their child's well-being. Our goal is to BE THERE for parents facing the unthinkable so they can be there for their families. www.tcjayfund.org; @tcjayfund