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**PATRIOTS PRESENT PATRIOTS DIFFERENCE MAKER OF THE WEEK AWARD TO
LENNY YOUNG FROM MALDEN, MASS.**

PATRIOTS FOUNDATION DONATING \$10,000 TO READ TO A CHILD

FOXBOROUGH, Mass.— The Celebrate Volunteerism initiative aims to share examples of dedicated volunteers, build awareness of the need for volunteering, identify and educate others about volunteer opportunities and inspire New Englanders to follow the Kraft family's example of becoming lifelong volunteers.



Though the spirit of volunteerism is felt throughout New England year-round, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and cornerstone partner Gillette celebrated the season long initiative in a special pregame ceremony during the Patriots regular season finale versus the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, Jan. 5 at Gillette Stadium.

Throughout the season, the foundation presented a weekly "Patriots Difference Maker of the Week" award, which aims to recognize deserving volunteers who go above and beyond to help build stronger New England communities. Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots **Robert Kraft** was on the field prior to the game to congratulate all of this year's winners.

"Celebrating the dedication of volunteers across New England reminds us of the unique spirit and resilience that define this region," **said Robert Kraft, Chairman and CEO of the New England Patriots.** "Giving back to our communities is a core value for our family, and it's inspiring to see so many individuals here stepping up to make a difference. It's through these acts of service that we continue to strengthen the fabric of New England, and I'm proud to see so many leading by example, inspiring others to contribute to the greater good of our communities."

At Sunday's game, the Kraft family announced that each of the Patriots Difference Makers would be receiving a \$10,000 grant to support the nonprofit organizations for which they volunteer. They also presented a \$25,000 grant to Perkins School for the Blind on behalf of the 2024 Patriots Difference Maker of the Year, Jane Long.

Lenny Young, from Malden, Mass. was selected as a 2024 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for his commitment to Read to a Child. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$10,000 donation to support the nonprofit.

The mission of Read to a Child is to foster a love of reading, improve literacy skills and support socio-emotional well-being in students from under-resourced communities. Lenny has been volunteering with Read to a Child for over 20 years. As a reading mentor, Lenny uses interactive read aloud strategies and discusses story content, asks open-ended questions about story events, explains vocabulary and points out features of print.

Every Thursday, Lenny travels to a school in Chelsea and reads aloud to his mentee, who he will be partnered with for four years. He is a passionate volunteer, really taking the time to connect with his students. Lenny makes an impact on the students he reads to and the community as a whole by reading aloud and mentoring one-on-one to a student every week.

"I am truly humbled to receive this honor as a Patriots Difference Maker," said Lenny. "To be recognized for doing something I love, reading to kids, is incredible! It has been my privilege to volunteer with Read to A Child for over 20 years. Thank you to the Patriots organization for helping to continue the great work being done by the many volunteers at Read to a Child. One student, one book, one mentor at a time. What a difference we all can make!"

By using books as a tool to discuss social and emotional learning components, students are able to make connections to the books they are reading, learn from the characters and apply it to their own lives and situations. Lenny actively recruits new volunteers, frequently hosting information sessions at his workplace. He has made introductions to partner companies and visited them to help recruit their employees to volunteer. Lenny is passionate about the work he does and proud of the impact he has made.

The 2024 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week range in age from 17 to 88 and support communities across New England. Charitable causes include disability support, healthcare, education, youth mentoring and more. These volunteers have collectively dedicated more than 250 years to giving back to their communities.

"We are incredibly proud to join the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation in celebrating this year's outstanding Patriots Difference Makers," said **Kara Buckley, Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs at P&G Gillette**. "For over a century, Gillette has called this community home, and it is truly inspiring to see the profound impact these 17 individuals have made through their dedication and service. Their unwavering commitment to helping others not only strengthens our community but also serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all."

For more information about the Celebrate Volunteerism initiative and the 2024 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week, visit www.patriots.com/community/pdm.

2024 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week:

Organization

Dream Big!
Empower, Inc.
Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts
Less Leg More Heart
Good Shepherd Community Care
Lawtown Boxing Gym Inc.
SeniorCare Inc.
Science Club for Girls
My Brother's Keeper
The Confetti Foundation
Read to a Child
Agassiz Village
Perkins School for the Blind
Safe Sports Network
Urbanity Dance
Camp Ker-Anna
The Sun Will Rise Foundation, Inc.

Patriots Difference Maker

Ana Medina Pilar
Jeff McGowan
Marilyn Price Spivack
Christina Hurley
Ya-Ching Huang
Edwin Candelario Sr.
Vito LaMura
Jiani Johnson
Gail Dailey
Ellie Grimm
Lenny Young
Theresa M. O'Bryant
Jane Long
Scott Evans
Anna Krotinger
Brian Taylor
Darlene Mersereau

Hometown

Malden, Mass.
Seymour, Conn.
Milford, Mass.
Merrimack, N.H.
Brighton, Mass.
Lawrence, Mass.
Gloucester, Mass.
Cambridge, Mass.
East Bridgewater, Mass.
Middletown, R.I.
Malden, Mass.
Stoughton, Mass.
Waltham, Mass.
Hooksett, N.H.
Cambridge, Mass.
Pawtucket, R.I.
Weymouth, Mass.



Photo caption: Lenny Young, from Malden, Mass. was selected as a 2024 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for his commitment to Read to a Child. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$10,000 donation to support the nonprofit.



Photo caption: Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots Robert Kraft takes a group photo with the 2024 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week. (Photo courtesy of David Silverman/New England Patriots).

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