

For Immediate Release
Contact: Jennifer Taggart
(631) 370-7557 / JenniferAnne.Taggart@lls.org

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Long Island Chapter Announces Its 2015 Man & Woman of the Year Grand Finale Gala

April 2015— At midnight on March 19 of this year, eleven dedicated individuals kicked off an intense ten-week fundraising competition: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Man & Woman of the Year campaign. These candidates came from all across Long Island and from varying occupations and different walks of life; the only requirements are a passion for a cure and a commitment to a great cause!

What you probably don't realize is how much of a commitment this competition really is. Nationally, on average, candidates in 2014 raised more than \$32,000 *each*. It's already looking like records will be broken this year on Long Island as the 2015 candidates' collective fundraising goals exceed \$500,000. Throughout the competition, all fundraising amounts are kept completely confidential and totals are only shared at the Grand Finale Gala, which will be on May 28th at Carlyle on the Green in Farmingdale.

All candidates have their own personal reasons for taking on this impressive feat, but they are also running in honor of the 2015 Boy & Girl of the Year: Douglas Grimmett, age 8, and Mary DeLorenzo, age 10. Both children were diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) at an early age. Mary, thankfully, is now cancer free while Douglas is expecting to complete treatment in another 18 months. ALL is the most common form of pediatric cancer, and thanks in part to funds raised through LLS's campaigns such as Man & Woman of the Year, there is a 90% survival rate for ALL. Each year, our candidates help us to get closer to 100% with every type of blood cancer.

Now, it gives us great pleasure to introduce to you the 2015 Man & Woman of the Year candidates:

Eva L. Casale, *Suffolk Federal Credit Union*
Michael Cecere, *Cecere Family Funeral Home*
Maria Celan, *Simply Said Independent Designer*
Fran D'Alessandro, *Port Washington Parent Resource Center*
Tim Daly, *Law office of Tim Daly*
Paul Fick, *Professional Physical Therapy*
Jody Holmes, *Allstate Benefits*
Kyle Mostransky, *Mostransky Financial & Insurance Solutions*
Dominick Oliviero, *Coastal Public Adjusting*
James Skidmore, *BrickHouse Brewery*
Joel A. Wirchin, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

"LLS congratulates all of the candidates in the 2015 Man & Woman of the Year campaign. Each of them are using their passion and determination to raise funds that give thousands of people battling blood cancers the chance to live better, longer lives and they are all champions," said Sara Lipsky, Executive

Director of the Long Island Chapter. “This is a campaign that celebrates not only the individual accomplishments, but the collective success of all these amazing candidates.”

All involved in the campaign are looking forward to the Grand Finale Gala on May 28th at which time the Man & Woman of the Year for Long island will be announced. There will also be a silent auction, open bar, sit down dinner, dancing & celebrating! If you are interested in purchasing a ticket to Grand Finale Gala or to learn more about Man & Woman of the Year and LLS, please contact Jennifer Taggart, 631.370.7557 or JenniferAnne.Taggart@lls.org.

The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. Our key priorities will ensure that The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society helps blood cancer patients live better, longer lives.

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