Aspire Spring Gala raised over $2.6m for autism programs

SUBMITTED BY MGHHC

On April 5, 2018, Massachusetts General Hospital for Children (MGHHC) kicked off Autism Awareness Month with its 35th annual Aspire Spring Gala at Four Seasons Hotel Boston, raising over $2.6 million to support Aspire, a highly successful, therapeutically-based program of the Larner Center for Autism. Nearly 850 supporters attended the lively cocktail reception that featured a luxury box game with one-of-a-kind prize packages, such as tickets to a live taping of Dancing with the Stars in Hollywood and a meet-and-greet with her fingers, welcomed about 75 family, friends and members of the art community. Using her fingers and hands to paint backer jacks back to her first love, sculpture, allowing her to "hold the paint to the canvas," as she states on her web site. Ronná's paintings range from vividly colored and pulsing with movement, such as "The Purple Pool Table" and "The

South Ender recognized by Jimmy Fund

SUBMITTED BY Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

South Ender Maggie Dombriski was one of the three organizers of the Expect Miracles Foundation golf tournament and was recognized for raising over $800,000. The evening allowed attendees to meet and mingle other Jimmy Fund supporters. The Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night is an annual celebration. Roughly 200 attendees are invited each year, honoring those who have raised $5,000 or more for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Those who are invited are recognized for reaching fundraising milestones, starting new tournaments and contributing large fundraising increases in revenue.

Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction

Victory Programs hosts its 28th annual Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction at City Winery, 80 Beverly Street in Boston on Sunday, April 22, 5-8 PM. The event is a signature fundraiser for Victory Programs’ P2 Health, housing and prevention programs in Boston, Cambridge and Topsfield. Victory Programs serves more than 2,400 individuals each year, including families facing homelessness, people living with chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS and those in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction.

For more information visit www.vpi.org

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Grab a coffee, take a survey, change the world.
Making a Difference is Easy.
Take the 12th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey
LGBTQsurvey.com

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 7:45 AM - 9:15 AM
Boston College Club
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA

Presenting the Justice in Action Awards to:
Ayanna Pressley, Boston City Council-at-Large

Throughout her life and since joining the Boston City Council in 2010, after becoming the first person of color and the first woman in 30 years to top the ballot, Councilor Pressley has been a stalwart and visionary leader working to advance opportunities for women and girls, build healthy communities, and break cycles of poverty, violence, and trauma.

Domestic & Sexual Violence Council
Over the years, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Council has been a strong and consistent voice for policies and practices that ensure the rights of victims and survivors and further accountability for those who offend. Whether through direct representation, amicus briefs, legislative advocacy, or trainings, members of the DSVC have demonstrated a tireless commitment to supporting survivors and being an ally to end gender-based violence.

Diamond Sponsor: Bank of America
Platinum Sponsors: Partners HealthCare Systems, Verizon, Mintz Levin
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Bronze Sponsors: Foley Hoag LLP, Faros Properties

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities please visit www.primate.org

Technique
Continued from page 1

Kornela’s friends, fellow South Enders Dan Mochot and fellow artist Zanja Lucas, helped install and stage the exhibit, taking a personal and honest touch that reflects the atmosphere of the works. For example, the clay sculpture sits atop a mirror, the painting “A Boy and A Girl” hangs above a piano-shaped with colorful fabric, and two smaller canvases, “The Bar” and “The Beach,” lean against a table with wine glasses perched above.

Soon Kornela began sculpting in clay soon after, and one of her childhood creations, a graceful evocation of her grandmother in red clay, sits atop a mirror in the exhibit. Kornela, who was home alone for a time before settling into her current Massachusetts Avenue residence, merges her creative and helping-driven through charitable events such as her 2012 drawing of Boston’s Fort Point and the role of her: “Shades of Amber” at the MFA’s “SoPo from the benefit, which raised funds for the Pancreatic Foundation and the Jewish Diabetes Center respectively.

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Mochot and Kornela met by chance last year at the Parish Golf and “immediately clicked,” Mochot said. Upon seeing her painting, “The Neighbor,” Mochot exclaimed, “That’s my neighborhood!” and felt a connection to her work. His own artistic impulses rekindled, and he left the corporate world to work again in film, having started out as an animator. The son of a filmmaker, Mochot is working on a documentary about his ancestor, French explorer Henri Mochot, who discovered the ruins at Angkor Wat, Cambodia.

Artists in attendance included illustrator/humorist Thom Denson, the Piano Te- nory’s resident historians, fellow Piano Factory denizens Janice de Crecy and Deborah Lee, an artist, art educator and blogger from Cambridge.

Gallery hours are Fridays from 5:00-8:00 PM, Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon - 5:00 PM. For further information, please visit www.pianoforlagallery.com
Aspire

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with DeLallo and this year’s venue at Fenway Park.

This year’s theme, “Light Up,” produced by longtime partner Rafterelli Events, shed light on living with autism through an interactive lighting installation with “light moments.”

In honor of Aspire and autism awareness month, Boston’s beautiful Zakim Bridge was lit up in blue.

To further light up public awareness of autism, MOCHO debuted a “Five Questions About Autism” video (available now for viewing at www.aspiregala.org), which shares a deeply personal look at what it is like to live with autism. After the video, the Executive Director of Aspire, Scott McLeod, PhD, thanked event attendees and stressed the importance of their support. “We are just facilitators in helping these young people unlock their full potential. All of the characteristics that our participants displayed in that video—confidence, poise, honesty, eloquence—are already inside these incredible young people. Aspire simply provides the pathway that allows them to share each with the world.”

Aspire helps children, teens and adults with high cognitive autism spectrum disorder or a related social profile develop the skills necessary to live full, independent lives. Programs include a summer camp for children, an Excursions and Exploitations group for teens and a young adult internship program. The program also consults to schools and conduct professional development workshops that train professionals and parents on meeting the complex needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.

The 2016 Aspire Spring Gala Committee included Stephanie and David Long, Timothy Sweeney, Terry and Tom Hamilton, Ann Marie and David Gross and Kim and Eric Kaszubski.

(Top) Martha and Dr. Ronald Kleinman (Bottom) Sarah Christensen
Crime Report

Submitted by Boston Police Department

Robbery in the area of East Concord Street

At about 11:00 PM on Saturday, April 7, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for a robbery in progress in the area of East Concord Street. Officers were advised via 911 dispatcher that a male suspect had approached the victim with a needle before stealing the victim's cell phone. The dispatcher best described the suspect description and that the fled on foot toward Harrison Avenue and Albany Street. While en route, responding officers observed Boston Medical Center Security officers stopped on Massachusetts Avenue near Albany Street with a male fitting the suspect's description.

The BMC Security officers advised that they had heard the broadcast and saw the suspect, identified as 41-year-old Amael Ferrone Jones of Boston, running across the BMC campus with a cell phone in his hand. Officers were able to positively identify Jones and recover the victim's property. Jones was arrested and charged with Armed Robbery. Jones will be arraigned at Boston Municipal Court.

Officers Recover Firearm from Intoxicated Suspect in the South End

At about 9:05 PM on Sunday, March 25, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a radio call for a person with a gun at CNS pharmacy in the area of 285 Columbus Avenue. Responding officers were informed that a customer who appeared to be highly intoxicated was at the front counter of the store when a firearm fell from his pants pocket onto the floor.

Upon arrival, officers observed the described suspect standing just inside the main door. Officers were able to secure the suspect without incident, however, as they did so, he threatened the officers and should have shot the officers if wanted. Officers conducted a patdown and recovered a loaded black Desert Eagle firearm from his waistband. The officers observed that the suspect appeared to be unsteady on his feet and slurring his words, leading officers to believe he was intoxicated. The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Christopher Baker of Dorchester, did not have a license to carry. Officers arrested Baker and charged him with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Unlawfully Carrying a Loaded Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, and Threats to do Rocky Harm. During the booking process, Baker reiterated his threats to "take down" the officer. Baker will be arraigned at Boston Municipal Court.

Boston, other marathons say trans women can compete as women

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

BOSTON (AP)—In 1967, a Boston Marathon official nearly dragged a woman off the course after she managed to enter the men's-only race. Five decades later, race officials are still grappling with gender boundaries.

It's now publicly acknowledged that transgender runners can compete using the gender they identify with. But what if you're a woman who just wants to run with other women? Register people at their own pace to start themselves to be, "said Tom Gile, chief of the Boston Athletic Association, the group behind the race. "Members of the LGBT community have had a lot of trouble with us. We'd rather it wasn't added to that burden."

At least five openly transgender women are planning to run the storied 26.2-mile race through Boston and its suburbs on April 15. While they're not the first, their presence will bring clarity to the race's stance on transgender runners.

In the past, it was uncertain how they would be treated. Some simply signed up and ran, while some were too afraid to try, said Amelia Cope, a transgender woman from Jersey City, New Jersey, who is registered for the year's race.

"It's kind of a rule how people handle it," said Cope, who also leads a social media group for transgender women. "We are such a small percentage of the population that we are generally just left under the radar."

The issue of inclusion was most recently in the news in March after a blogger wrote about three openly transgender women signed up for Boston. Gile said there wasn't much debate — runners should Qualify and compete using the same gender, he said, but otherwise they wouldn't be challenged.

That flexibility contrasts with the 1967 case of Katherine Switzer, who escaped the grasp of a marathons official who found out she entered the race using her initials, K.V. Switzer. While the same officials were later made rule-breakers, it is well-known as a landmark moment in the fight to include women in sports.

Questions about how to define and verify gender have sparked a debate at the highest level of sport for decades. But at the amateur level, the topic has surfaced more recently as a growing number of transgender athletes look to compete without making their identities.

Several other major marathons said they have no official policies but are taking a similar approach to Boston. Organizers of the Chicago, New York City, London and Los Angeles marathons all said they honor the gender that runners submit their signing.

"We want to be inclusive and sensitive to all of our participants," said Mary Fine, executive director of the Chicago Marathon. "At this point, we don't feel that we need to require local or medical records or anything along those lines."

But there's still a wrinkle: Many races, including Boston, New York and Chicago, require runners to submit ID with their names and gender at application time. Female runners are regularly screened and race officials said they have received complaints about another policy to make sure they're inclusive.

In elite competition, debate has mostly focused on transgender women who typically require surgery or medication to lower their testosterone levels. Olympic officials issued new rules in 2016 saying transgender women can compete if their testosterone levels are below a certain limit, and many professional races now follow similar rules.

Although the rules are lower for a woman's minimum, it can still be a thorny issue.

Continued on page 5
President Trump reminded us that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Sue O’Connell

The trauma of sexual assault is serious and long-lasting. But it’s hard to laugh at the absurdity of President Trump, who is publicly accused of sexual assault by at least 16 women and who gleefully confirmed to us, recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Newsweek’s Onion-esque headline perfectly lampoons the weaselly "Fixing sexual misconduct allegations, Trump declares sexual assault awareness month." Maybe well be better off if Trump just ignored Sexual Assault Awareness Month—or if he ignored LGTBQ Pride Month last June, but I digress. The Donalds sicken for the LGBTQ community is a subject for another editorial.

Though the #MeToo movement has dislodged many a predator (Hello Harvey Krein, Steve, Chad, Marc, etc.), it has yet to catch up with the Pussy-Grabbing-in-Chief. We can force him from the White House but just yet, we can only keep taking action to change the culture in which sexual harassment and sexual assault thrive.

First, some background. With a few exceptions, the #MeToo story has been framed almost exclusively as one in which women are the victims. But this problem is ubiquitous. The LGBTQ community experiences sexual harassment and assault at alarming rates. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Study revealed that 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

The US Centers for Disease Control’s 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey revealed that 63 percent of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical assault, or stalking by a current or former partner, compared with 46 percent of lesbian and 35 percent of heterosexual women. Thirteen percent of bisexual men, and 20 percent of gay men, experience rape, sexual assault, or stalking by a current or former partner, compared with 20 percent of straight men.

Additionally, there are factors that make it harder for LGBTQ people to report these crimes to police, or to receive the support and treatment that survivors need to heal from sexual assault. Race and gender are the latter are facing continued challenges.

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Editorial

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that comes with sharing one’s story publicly. In fact, the Washington Post reported this week that
men account for nearly one in five complaints of workplace sexual harassment filed with the federal

The article also notes, not surprisingly, that men are more hesitant than women to report the
harassment, in part because of stereotypes that men shouldn’t be bothered by such behavior or that
they should be able to protect themselves from it.

After reporting sexual violence, male survivors often don’t know where to turn for support or
treatment. The reality is that in many regions, their options are limited.

There are three things you can do to change the culture to make it truly unacceptable to sexually
harass or assault someone.

First, don’t do it. If you ever find yourself wondering if you have behaved inappropriately or
threatened a line, stop it.

Second, speak up when you see it happening. Be an active bystander. Last year, the MBTA and
the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) ran a public service campaign about how to be an ac-
tive bystander and safely intervene when seeing someone being harassed.

Third, support BARCC. The Cambridge-based center is ground zero of culture change in Massa-
chusetts regarding sexual assault. It has a 24-hour crisis hotline and offers free services to sexual
assault survivors and their families including mental health counseling and help navigating the legal
options available in the aftermath of an attack or a period of abuse. It’s led calls to keep Steve Wyman’s
name off of the casinos now being built in Boston.

And its executive director, Gina Bond, frequently offers commentary for news coverage of
sexual assault and writes regularly for The Hill and WBUR on the issue. Perhaps most important,
BARCC is explicitly welcoming to LGBTQ survivors of sexual assault.

Since #MeToo swept the nation, though, BARCC has been under siege. As reported by
Boston.com in February, calls to BARCC increased 110 percent this past December and Janu-
ary after the stories about Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey broke. Calls to the hotline are up
more than 50 percent and requests for counseling services are up more than 40 percent.

You can support BARCC by participating in its annual Walk in the Pot on April 22. Registration is $30. If you don’t want to do that, just donate.

You’ve got choices on how to make a difference. It doesn’t matter what you do. Just do something.
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