

Coaches vs. Cancer® Raises Nearly \$1 Million for American Cancer Society

19th Annual Basketball Gala brings together Big 5 Philadelphia Division I basketball coaches in support of cancer awareness, education and research

Philadelphia, PA – More than 550 guests attended the American Cancer Society’s 19th annual Coaches vs. Cancer® Basketball Gala on Saturday, April 15. The Gala was co-hosted by the six head coaches of Philadelphia’s Division I Men’s Basketball teams and featured a special presentation honoring Jay and Patty Wright for their longtime dedication to the event and its purpose to support the American Cancer Society.

As the most successful Coaches vs. Cancer program in the United States, the Philadelphia chapter has raised more than \$19 million since its founding in 1996. The 2023 Gala added nearly \$1 million to support the fight against cancer, with honorary chairs Thomas and Tracey Gravina helping to raise funds and convene supporters from across the region.

“None of the work we do would be possible without the support of our board, donors, and event sponsors,” says Allison Gill, Senior Development Manager at the American Cancer Society. “We can’t thank them enough for their investment in the American Cancer Society’s lifesaving research and patient services, including the Philadelphia Hope Lodge, which provides free lodging for those traveling for treatment.”

As the nation’s leading cancer-fighting organization, the American Cancer Society works to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

“We are honored to support the lifesaving work of the American Cancer Society,” said Mr. Gravina, who serves as Executive Chairman of Evolve IP and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). “Tracey and I are passionate about healthcare causes, including education, research and community outreach. The American Cancer Society does vital work in these areas and its positive impact on behalf of people with cancer has been immeasurable.”

Independence Blue Cross was the presenting sponsor for the 2023 Basketball Gala, with generous support from philanthropic leaders from Greater Philadelphia and beyond: Linda & Al Adelson; the Augustinian Fund (Underwritten by Jay & Patty Wright); the Ball Family; Sid & Sandy Brown; the Cathy Miller Cancer Fund; Cozen O’Connor; East End Advisors; Firsttrust Bank; FS Investments; IBEW Local 98; Robert & Carol Garvey; the Gravina Family Foundation; the Green Family Foundation; Lincoln Financial Group; the Michael A. Peterson Foundation; the Mullen Family Foundation; Tom & Christine Nerney; Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM); the Quinn Family; Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Jefferson Health; USLI; Richard & Laura Vague; Villanova University; the WSFS CARES Foundation; and media sponsors NBC Sports Philadelphia, KYW, and WIP.

For more information on the 19th Annual Coaches vs. Cancer of Philadelphia Basketball, please visit: www.philadelphiabasketballgala.org.

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About Coaches vs. Cancer

Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The initiative leverages the personal experiences, community leadership, and professional excellence of basketball coaches nationwide to increase cancer awareness and promote healthy living through year-round awareness efforts, fundraising activities, and advocacy programs. Coaches vs. Cancer provides critical mission outreach, while raising funds in support of the Society's lifesaving cancer research, education, advocacy, and community service efforts.

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 100 years, we have been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support. We are committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org) or call our 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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