MARCH 2026

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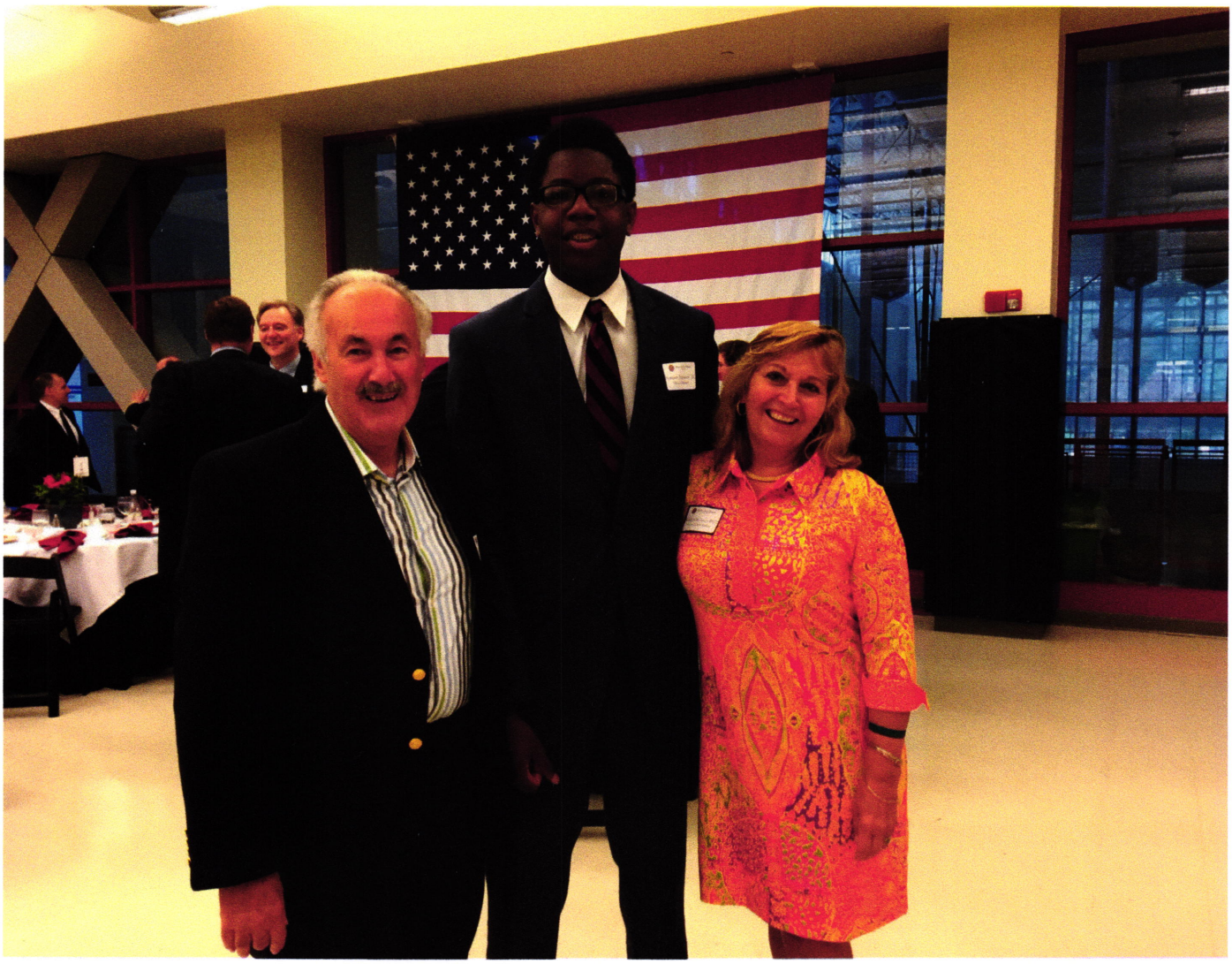
Devonwood

The H.O.P.E Foundation:
When Character Becomes a Legacy

DELIVERING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS



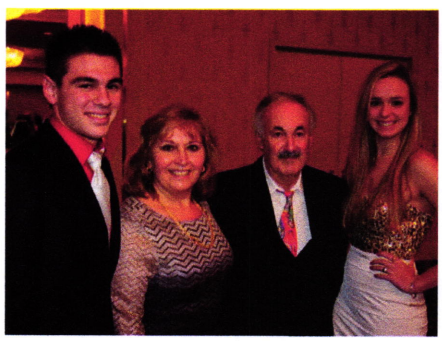
Kathy DiCocco Honors Her Son's Legacy

After losing her son Frank, Kathy DiCocco chose to carry his mission forward, one student at a time.

Kathy DiCocco has spent more than a decade carrying forward a mission that began in the heart of her late son, Frank. As co-founder of The HOPE Foundation for a better tomorrow, Inc., Kathy has dedicated herself to ensuring that Frank's vision of building better men and women through character education continues to reach young people across the country.

The foundation's roots trace back to 2011, when Frank, a football coach who worked with young men at risk on both the high school and college level, recognized that many of his players needed positive role models. He created the REAL Man character development program and established The HOPE Foundation to provide scholarships and distribute his curriculum. After Frank passed away in 2013 following a four-year illness, Kathy and her husband Lou stepped up to honor his wish. "When he passed in 2013, we jumped into action to have numerous fundraisers to start giving the scholarships that he had asked us for," Kathy recalls.

From her home in Devonwood, where she has lived with Lou and their daughter Nicole for more than 27 years, Kathy works tirelessly to promote Frank's character program. Her passion shows in every aspect of the foundation's work, from coordinating coaches who represent the foundation at football clinics nationwide to



sending out weekly character thoughts to thousands of subscribers.

Before the pandemic halted in-person gatherings, Kathy organized annual fundraisers in Avon, Connecticut, New York City, New Orleans, and Palm Beach, Florida. These events brought communities together in support of a common goal: helping young people learn respect, integrity, and how to live lives that matter.

Today, young boys and girls all over the country are being taught how to be respectful and how to do the right thing through the REAL Man program. The foundation awards several scholarships each year to students who embody the character traits Frank believed in, and maintains endowments at Avon Old Farms School in Avon, Connecticut, and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where Frank coached football.

Kathy finds strength in her Devonwood neighborhood, describing it as beautiful, quiet, and filled with wonderful people. The community's convenient location and peaceful atmosphere provide a supportive backdrop for her important work.

We're grateful to Kathy for sharing her family's story and for the remarkable way she has transformed personal loss into lasting impact. Through her dedication, Frank's legacy continues to shape the character of young people throughout the nation. Learn more or make a donation at www.hopefoundation.us.

The H.O.P.E. Foundation
For a Better Tomorrow
www.HOPEFoundation.us