

Rita Guariglia, co-founder of Literacy Volunteers on the Green and a volunteer tutor with the organization for the past ten years, was the recipient of a Myra Kraft Community MVP Award during ceremonies at Gillette Stadium on June 2. The Kraft family and New England Patriots Charitable Foundation's Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards place a spotlight on those who give their time to help others and exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving their communities through volunteerism.

Upon being told that she would receive this award, Rita commented, "It is with great pleasure on behalf of all involved with Literacy Volunteers on the Green to say a heartfelt thank you to God and the New England Patriot Family for this recognition. I would like to commemorate this moment in particular to my son Daniel, a Boston College graduate and one of the youngest, if not the youngest, assistant district attorneys for the state of Connecticut. It is because of his love of life that, upon his death from leukemia, I became an English as a Second Language teacher. This eventually led to establishing Literacy Volunteers on the Green.

Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a student's career change from dishwasher to restaurant owner, to see how thrilled a mother is to be able to speak to her child's teacher or doctor, to welcome people into our culture and American way of life and see them become citizens. This is what Literacy Volunteers on the Green does. It has improved more than eight hundred students' lives, as well as touched the lives of hundreds of tutors. In addition to offering English as a second language, we have basic literacy for native English speakers, a FamilyRead program which helps young families, citizenship classes, and high school mentoring programs.

I am so very grateful to be a part of this program, and it is in humble gratitude that I accept this tribute for all of us at Literacy Volunteers on the Green."

Jacqui Farrell, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers on the Green, said, "Rita and Anne Maitland saw a need for English classes for adults who need to learn English as a second language in order to become active contributors to their communities so they founded Literacy Volunteers on the Green. Ten years later, Rita continues to tutor, helps train volunteers, and provides inspiration to our tutors, students, board of directors, and staff. Having our organization selected by the New England Patriots for this prestigious award shines a light on all of our volunteers and validates our mission of improving lives through literacy. We depend upon grants from corporate and family foundations and private donations in order to purchase books and materials, train tutors, and reach out to students. This generous award will help us continue to provide free instruction in English, reading, and writing to those who struggle with low literacy in our communities.

Each year, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation host the awards program as part of the ongoing Celebrate Volunteerism initiative in honor of Myra Kraft's example of being a lifelong volunteer. This event will always be one of my favorite community programs that we do," said Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft. "The story of each recipient and the cause they are supporting is so unique and inspiring. I know that, just like Myra, none of these winners were looking for any recognition but we are happy to shine some light on the great work they are doing in their communities. We are thrilled to offer our support to each of these 26 nonprofits in honor of their outstanding volunteers."

On hand to congratulate the award winners were Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft, New England Patriots Charitable Foundation President Joshua Kraft, Patriots and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett, and players Rob Gronkowski and Tom Brady. In honor of Rita and her volunteerism, the Kraft Family and New England Patriots Charitable Foundation presented Literacy Volunteers on the Green with a donation of \$10,000.