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PATRIOTS PRESENT PATRIOTS DIFFERENCE MAKER OF THE WEEK AWARD TO MARY ELLEN COOPER FROM TEWKSBURY, MASS.

PATRIOTS FOUNDATION DONATING \$10,000 TO INTO ACTION RECOVERIES, INC.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass.— The Celebrate Volunteerism initiative aims to share examples of dedicated volunteers, build awareness of the need for volunteering, identify and educate others about volunteer opportunities and inspire New Englanders to follow the Kraft family's example of becoming lifelong volunteers.



Though the spirit of volunteerism is felt throughout New England year-round, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and cornerstone partner Gillette celebrated the season long initiative in a special pregame ceremony during the Patriots regular season finale versus the Miami Dolphins on Sunday, Jan. 4 at Gillette Stadium.

Throughout the season, the foundation presented a weekly "Patriots Difference Maker of the Week" award, which aims to recognize deserving volunteers who go above and beyond to help build stronger New England communities. Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots **Robert Kraft** was on the field prior to the game to congratulate all of this year's winners.

"We are proud to honor volunteers across New England whose service reflects the values that strengthen our region," **said Robert Kraft, Chairman and CEO of the New England Patriots.** "Their dedication supports our communities and upholds the principles that have long defined New England. The individuals we recognize today show how acts of service and kindness can spark meaningful change and encourage others to get involved."

At Sunday's game, the Kraft family announced that each of the Patriots Difference Makers would be receiving a \$10,000 grant to support the nonprofit organizations for which they volunteer. They also presented a \$25,000 grant to Community Nurse, Inc. on behalf of the 2025 Patriots Difference Maker of the Year, Madeline Cooke.

Mary-Ellen Cooper from Tewksbury, Mass was selected as a 2025 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for her commitment to Into Action Recovery, Inc. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$10,000 donation to support the nonprofit.

Into Action Recovery is a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 by a group of dedicated family members who recognized the necessity for structured and affordable sober living within the community. Mary-Ellen's firsthand family experience with substance use disorder served as the primary motivation for founding the Into Action Recovery non-profit organization. Together with her sister, Patty Jo Hanley, she initiated this effort in honor of Patty Jo's sons, one of whom successfully completed his recovery journey, while the other sadly lost his life to an overdose. These experiences underscored the need for improved resources for individuals and families seeking support in substance use disorder and recovery.

"I'm deeply humbled and grateful to accept this award on behalf of Into Action Recovery and our 12-Step Sober Living Homes. This work is profoundly personal to me and to every member of our board as we have all lost someone we love to addiction," said Mary-Ellen. "Their memories fuel our commitment to create places of healing, stability, and hope for others. This support is more than financial—it is a meaningful recognition of the lives we strive to honor and the futures we are working to help restore. With this award, we can continue providing a safe, supportive home for those fighting addiction. Thank you for believing in the power of recovery and in the people we serve. Together, we are helping to save lives."

In addition to her nurse practitioner role, Mary-Ellen teaches nursing students as an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. Each year, she provides Narcan kits and training to students as a volunteer outreach activity. Mary-Ellen also volunteers extensively with Into Action Recovery to ensure that the sober living homes continue to be structured and a beacon of hope for residents.

The 2025 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week range in age from 22 to 76 and support communities across New England. Charitable causes include disability support, healthcare, homelessness, youth mentoring and more. These volunteers have collectively dedicated more than 122 years to giving back to their communities.

"We are honored to partner with the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation to celebrate this year's exceptional Patriots Difference Makers," **said Kara Buckley, Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs at P&G Gillette.** "For over a century, Gillette has been part of the New England community and focused on bringing out the best in others. These remarkable volunteers embody that same commitment – representing the best of the best in community service. Their selflessness, dedication, and compassion have changed countless lives for the better and they inspire us all to create a brighter future."

For more information about the Celebrate Volunteerism initiative and the 2025 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week, visit www.patriots.com/community/pdm.

2025 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week:

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Patriots Difference Maker</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
Amy's Angels	Bob Fiondella	Farmington, Conn.
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Inc.	Benjamin Karol	Milton, Mass.
Community Nurse, Inc.	Madeline Cooke	Marion, Mass.
Future In Sight	Kathleen Nichols	Hudson, N.H.
Golf For All	Jerry Donovan	Norwood, Mass.
HeartBrothers Foundation	Jay Toland	Sturbridge, Mass.
Horizons for Homeless Children	Steve Wong	Chelmsford, Mass.
Into Action Recovery, Inc.	Mary-Ellen Cooper	Tewksbury, Mass.
Justice for Housing, Inc.	Leslie Credle	Jamaica Plain, Mass.
New Britain Legacies Corp	Deivone Tanksley Sr.	New Britain, Conn.
New Englanders Helping Our Veterans	Jimmy Collins	Harrisville, R.I.
North Suffolk Community Services	Patti Hurley-Felt	Winthrop, Mass.
Pawsitively 4 Pink	Kathy Chapman	Worcester, Mass.
The Community Day Center of Waltham	Patricia Murphy	Waltham, Mass.
The WAVE @ Sound Life Connections Inc.	Keri Climie	Guilford, Conn.
Vineyard Havens, Inc.	Jeanne DeSanto	Lexington, Mass.



Photo caption: *Mary-Ellen Cooper of Tewksbury, Mass. was selected as a 2025 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for her commitment to Into Action Recovery, Inc. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$10,000 donation to support the nonprofit.*



Photo caption: *Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots Robert Kraft takes a group photo with the 2025 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week. (Photo courtesy of David Silverman/New England Patriots).*

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