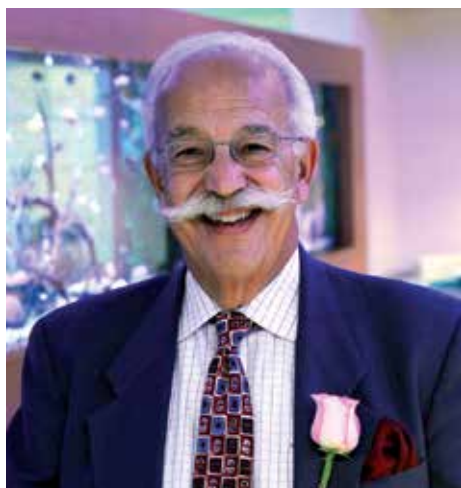


# The Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund

By Jenna Caputo

There is a new Capital District resource for families with a loved one battling cancer. The Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund was created in 2017, after Clifton Park resident Joyce Maddalone, RN was diagnosed with Sex Cord cancer, an extremely rare form of uterine cancer. A mother of 14 children and an integral part of the community within not only the business community, but also her church, and as founder of Mother Teresa Academy, Joyce quickly realized the stressors of living with an illness was



*"A Night of Hope" guest auctioneer,  
LeGrande Serras*

not a struggle she dealt with alone. She wanted to be able to help others in the same situation.

"My mother has devoted her life to others and now that she finds herself stricken with cancer, it is no different," says her eldest child and the Executive Director of The

Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund, Terra Maddalone-Ristau. "She does not want others in her community with any type of cancer to have to worry about unexpected costs due to their treatment and has asked that a fund be created to help alleviate those worries. The Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund was formed to fulfill my mother's wish."

A 501c3 organization that relies on the Time, Treasures and Talent of the community it serves, their volunteers and fundraisers are an integral part of their day-to-day operations. They try to keep it simple – if an applicant is in need of money to help with treatments, all they need to do is complete a short application, attach a doctor's note with the diagnosis, and a check will be mailed directly to the patient to use as needed.

They are in the process of lining up their year of events, which includes an annual gala in March at Longfellows Hotel & Conference Center in Saratoga. Support at these events is always greatly appreciated, but there are other ways to help as well. Anyone that has a desire and passion for helping others is welcome to volunteer and can

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-of-hope-under-the-stars-gala-tickets-54810568887>

contact the Fund for a list of opportunities, which includes administrative duties, procuring donations and more.

The Fund has now taken on an even more personal meaning for the family, recently learning that the family patriarch, Hank Maddalone, also was diagnosed with cancer. "This will be my parent's legacy," Terra shares. "They have instilled in our family a sense of community and helping others. Our mission is to help others within our community who have cancer with their unexpected expenses related to their treatment."

To apply for assistance or to learn more about The Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund and volunteer opportunities, visit [mtcaf.org](http://mtcaf.org) or contact Terra at [Terra@mtcaf.org](mailto:Terra@mtcaf.org). ■

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