



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jesse Giordano of Opal Wealth Advisors Recognized as The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Runner Up and Long Island Chapter's 2020 Man of the Year

Giordano with Team Unity raises \$437,510.80 and with fellow local candidates collectively raised a recording-breaking \$890,000-plus, reaching new heights and surpassing fundraising goals for cancer cures

JERICHO, NY—August 17, 2020—[Opal Wealth Advisors](#), a registered investment advisory firm, today announced that Jesse Giordano, CFP®, co-founder and principal, has been recognized by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) as the organization's [National Runner Up and the Long Island Chapter's 2020 Man & Woman of the Year](#). Giordano received this honor for raising a record \$437,510.80 in just ten weeks.

Despite the challenges of fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event was a banner year, with the local chapter setting a new record and the national campaign raising \$30M across the country. Additionally, efforts of the national campaign reached across the country with 1,000 candidates covering 87 markets, all working together to raise money and awareness. Funds raised will go to advancements in treatments and finding a cure for blood cancers.

"What Jesse and all our candidates and campaign team members who participated in this year's Man & Woman of the Year campaign accomplished is nothing short of extraordinary," said Sara Lipsky, LLS's Metro New York Executive Director. "Cancer will not wait for COVID-19 to go away and blood cancer patients can't wait either. These exceptional volunteers are relentless and determined individuals and leaders in their communities. Together, we are getting closer to a world without blood cancer."

A childhood cancer survivor, Giordano was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and underwent chemotherapy when he was eight years old. Thirty-five years later, beating cancer continues to fuel his commitment to support the lifesaving work of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Today, as a champion of LLS, not only is Giordano Chair of the Board of Trustees for LLS Long Island chapter, but also, his company Opal Wealth Advisors is Platinum Sponsor for 2020 Man & Woman of the Year. Additionally, when Giordano learned that donations to LLS dropped by 75% as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, he knew that he had to step up and raise the bar in this year's fundraising campaign.

"With the pandemic, 2020 has presented a new set of fundraising challenges for many organizations, so I knew that I had to do whatever I could to raise money and awareness for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society," said Jesse Giordano, co-founder and principal, Opal Wealth Advisors. "I was told more than once that trying to fundraise during a pandemic was crazy, but when I asked for volunteers to help, friends, family and colleagues quickly came together to show their support. In the end, a record-breaking 95 people joined me to create Team Unity, and against all odds, we raised a lot of money—over \$237,510.80 more than our original goal!"



Central to the success of Team Unity's fundraising efforts is the partnership between Giordano and seven-year old Ryan Starace, LLS 2020 Boy of the Year, who recently completed his three-year cancer treatment journey for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The two have developed a tight bond over their shared experience as cancer survivors, and together, they are committed to paying it forward to find a cure. As noted by Nicole Starace, Ryan's mother, "Jesse Giordano is the definition of hope and inspiration. Ryan and his brother Luke look up to him as one of their greatest role models. We are blessed to call him our friend."

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man & Woman of the Year is an annual philanthropic competition to support blood cancer research. Candidates form fundraising teams in communities across the country and compete to raise funds in honor of two local children who are blood cancer survivors. A ten-week campaign, the man and woman who raise the most funds win the title in their community. This year marks the first time that a candidate representing the Long Island Chapter has been recognized as a national winner. For more information on The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, visit [here](#).

In keeping with social distancing guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LLS Long Island chapter's Grand Finale Celebration was held virtually on July 30 and honored all 2020 Man & Woman of the Year candidates who collectively raised \$891,886.65 in support of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. For more information on this year's event, visit [here](#). To learn about the national campaign, visit [here](#).

To learn more about Jesse Giordano and Opal Wealth Advisors, visit [here](#).

About Opal Wealth Advisors

Opal Wealth Advisors is an independent registered investment advisor (RIA) providing financial and professional development services for both individuals and businesses. Founded by longtime partners Lee A. Korn, Jesse Giordano, and Joseph N. Filosa, Opal Wealth Advisors offers independent advice coupled with fully integrated services, support and technology. With a comprehensive focus on both financial planning and leadership development, Opal Wealth Advisors goes beyond traditional advice, inspiring clients to take control of their finances to achieve financial freedom. For more information, visit Opal Wealth Advisors at www.opalwealthadvisors.com.

###

Contact:

Meagan Doyle
Meagan.Doyle@lls.org
516-987-1461