



## **HeartBrothers Celebrate Successful Golf Tournament** ***Money Raised in 2023 puts 7-Year Total over the \$500,000 Mark***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marlborough, MASS. – Sept. 12, 2023 – The HeartBrothers Foundation is pleased to announce that its largest fundraiser of the year, the Mike Gustin Memorial Golf Classic, raised \$80,000 that will benefit heart failure patients and their families.

Held in August at the Marshfield Country Club, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Gustin tournament featured 160 golfers and friends who were hoping the event would boost the event's total earnings over the half-million-dollar mark. When the final numbers were figured, the tally was \$518,000.

"We want to thank our friends, sponsors and families for helping us get past our goal of \$500,000 raised. The mission of the HeartBrothers Foundation is to provide support for heart failure patients and their families and this money enables us to do just that," said HBF Co-Founder Patrick Sullivan.

Jay Toland, a recent heart transplant recipient, served as the keynote speaker. Toland, who lives in Sturbridge, credits the HeartBrothers Foundation with providing financial help that ensured he made it to all his medical appointments in Boston.

[The HeartBrothers Foundation](#) (HBF) serves thousands of heart failure patients with emotional and financial support, a patient support group, educational webinars and other resources. The foundation also runs the HeartBrothers House in Boston, where heart failure patients and their families can stay during treatment.

The annual golf tournament is held in memory of Mike Gustin, who passed away in 2015 at the age of 64. Gustin battled heart disease since 1996 and, as his health deteriorated, his family traveled back-and-forth to the hospital, incurring personal and financial hardship. During one hospital visit, Gustin's daughter Katie Gerstel met Sullivan, who promised the foundation's assistance. Sullivan and fellow transplant recipient Robert Romer started the foundation in 2014. The two met when they each spent a year at Tufts Medical Center waiting for new hearts, and promised each other that, if they survived, they would dedicate their lives to helping other heart failure patients.

The Gustin family is one of many the organization has supported over the years.

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### ***About The HeartBrothers Foundation***

*The HeartBrothers Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation dedicated to helping patients and families*

*faced with heart failure, Ventricular Assist Devices, and Heart Transplantation. Its sole mission is to bring resources together to help patients and loved ones survive life with heart failure and all its challenges. They offer financial assistance programs, HeartBrothers House accommodations and informative stress-coping resources, and connections to the global heart failure community. Co-Founders Robert Romer and Patrick Sullivan are heart transplant survivors who together have more than four decades of experience dealing with the often-fatal condition of heart failure. Learn more at [heartbrothers.org](http://heartbrothers.org).*