Message from the President

After a hugely successful and popular “Casino Night” fundraiser in 2007, the Foundation pursued a more low-keyed event in 2008. Considering the dwindling economy, the Board of Directors decided that a 50/50 cash raffle might encourage participation, while generating revenue for the Foundation. A goal was set to sell a limited number of raffle tickets (400) at $100 per ticket, allowing for $20,000 in prize monies to be distributed to winners. Unfortunately the economic downturn, especially around the holiday season, left us well short of our goal. But, thanks to the generosity of many, the Foundation sold over 200 tickets, and awarded $10,200 in total prize money to a grand prize winner and 5 consolation winners. Congratulations to our consolation winners: Lisa & James Wilkes, Bill Johnson, Margaret Ruccio, Barbara Bynderian, and Glenfield Middle School teachers! A big congratulations to our grand prize winner, Joe & Jodi Toolen! All in all, it was a successful event for the Foundation. Hopefully, we will experience some economic relief in 2010 and be able to sponsor another creative and lucrative event.

Thank you for all your support!

2009 FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENTS

As part of our “raising lung cancer awareness” mission, the MAF has made a contribution to Interlock Media, Inc. for a Lung Cancer Documentary project. Interlock Media is a non-profit documentary film company responsible for a number of successful public health marketing campaigns. The documentary will be based on real people with real stories, along with practitioners, survivors, and advocates for early detection of lung cancer.

The MAF awarded 3 scholarships to selected student-athletes who have met criteria established by the Scholarship Committee.

Donations to the Lakeland Animal Shelter (no kill shelter) and Eleventh Hour Animal Shelter were made in Mike’s honor.

Donation was made to PROJECT USE to be used for the Mike Arace Bag-O’-Tricks. This bag contains a number of portable initiative games and activities that a teacher can use in his/her Adventure Education program. Each year a new teacher will receive a bag.

The MAF will aim to increase its involvement in supporting innovative lung cancer research in 2010!
In June of 2008, the first Mike Arace Foundation scholarships were awarded to 4 students from Montclair High School. Recipients of the scholarships were recognized for academic achievement and excellence in a varsity sport. Athletes must be nominated and recommended by the high school's varsity coaches and athletic director. Mike coached Montclair HS football and wrestling for over 25 years, helping to develop personal and professional growth for hundreds of his athletes. His second passion was the Adventure Education program which he initiated and nurtured until his retirement in 2003. It was only fitting that the first scholarship awards were presented to outstanding members of the Montclair HS football team and one of the initial participants in the district's Adventure Ed program. The Mike Arace Foundation has appointed a special Scholarship Committee to oversee the collection of applications and selection of winners. The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Celeste Fasone, and includes Charlie Pane, Joe Miscia, Ken Davis and Kimberley Paparello. The committee was impressed by the academic and scholastic merits of all the 2008 applicants – and choosing the winners was a very “difficult task”. The 2008 winners were: Marlon Calbi (football); Terrence Munford (football), Marcus Place (football), and Jesse McElwain (Adventure Education). All applicants had to meet eligibility requirements set by the Committee, and all recipients had received college acceptance. Among the colleges/universities our recipients were choosing: Cornell, Villanova, University of New Haven, Univeristy of Maryland, Univeristy of Georgia, and Rutgers. At an awards assembly, each student/athlete was presented with an engraved plaque and a scholarship check from the Foundation. Mike’s wife, Isabelle, and his daughters, Kristin and Jennifer, made the presentations. The Mike Arace Foundation is proud to assist with the academic future of these graduating student/athletes!

In 2009, the Foundation continued the program by awarding 3 more scholarships to outstanding applicants. The Foundation extended the invitation to other local high schools to submit qualified student/athletes for consideration. Once again, a plaque and a scholarship check were presented to this years recipients at an awards assembly. The recipients of the 2009 scholarships were: Luke Iovine (football-MHS), Elijah Hodges (football-MHS), and Owen Vrabel (ice hockey- Morris Knolls HS). This years recipients are currently attending Dickinson College, University of Delaware, and the University of Connecticut. It was another difficult selection process for our committee as each applicant exceeded eligibility requirements!

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners.. We wish them much success in their future endeavors!

The Foundation is looking forward to receiving applications for the 2010 scholarship awards!

For information on the latest news on the advances in lung cancer research, please read the following articles:


On behalf of the Arace family, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all who have helped make The Mike Arace Foundation a reality. With your continued generosity, we will keep alive the legacy of an extraordinary man.

**PARTNERING IN FINDING A CURE**

Sharing the common goals to raise awareness and finding a cure for lung cancer, the [Mike Arace Foundation](https://www.UnitingAgainstLungCancer.org) will be partnering with the prestigious non-profit organization, [Uniting Against Lung Cancer](https://www.UnitingAgainstLungCancer.org). UALC awards individual grants to researchers at leading cancer centers and collaborates with other like-minded groups to seek a cure for lung cancer in all its forms. The strength of the UALC programs lies with its Medical Committee, comprised of top physicians and researchers from the nation’s leading cancer hospitals. The Medical Committee reviews grant applications and makes recommendations for the funding of the most promising projects. Since 2003 over $5 million has been awarded through 50 research grants! The [Mike Arace Foundation](https://www.UnitingAgainstLungCancer.org) will partner with Uniting Against Lung Cancer in fund raising events. To learn more about UALC and their partner organizations, visit their website: [www.UnitingAgainstLungCancer.org](https://www.UnitingAgainstLungCancer.org).

**THE BUTTERFLY AND THE SUNFLOWER**

Mike was a magnificent amateur photographer. His specialties were nature photos and Italy and sunflowers, many prominently gracing the Arace household and which have been displayed on specialized mugs and calendars. In the last issue of the Mike Arace Foundation newsletter, an article was dedicated to the “dilettante Mike”...his love and passion for various activities – from sport to cooking to bee keeping to butterflies. On his property in Rockaway, Mike planted several butterfly bushes to attract the beautiful monarchs. Aptly, the logo for the Foundation is the South American Indian symbol for the butterfly, which the ancient Indians believed carried man’s soul to the heavens. In October, Mike’s daughter and family went pumpkin picking at a local farm, where Mike took annually took his grandchildren. It was a dreary, day, with just a small patch of sun overseeing an almost depleted sunflower garden. Jennifer and Holly walked to the garden and out of nowhere a beautiful monarch landed on the sunflower. The butterfly remained on the sunflower until Jennifer was able to get this beautiful photo. I learned later that it is rare for a butterfly to mix with a sunflower, and for butterflies to be around so late in the fall. But we know that it was no ordinary butterfly resting on the sunflower in that small patch of sun…. it had to be Mike picking pumpkins with Holly.