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PRESS RELEASE

SUMMER SPORTS TEA DANCE – BOSTON LGBTQ SPORTS “SUPER HEROES” SAVE THE DAY FOR VICTORY

Victory Programs once again teamed up with dbar and FLAG Flag Football to host the hottest fundraising event of the summer raising nearly \$17,000 for hope, health and housing!

Boston (August 29, 2017) – With perfect weather on Sunday, August 27, more than 500 members of the Greater Boston LGBTQ sports community gathered at dbar to celebrate the final days of summer and support Victory Programs’ mission to open doors to recovery, hope and community for individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction and other chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS. The Summer Sports Tea Dance, now on its seventh year, is co-organized by dbar, FLAG Flag Football and Victory Programs and received strong sponsorships by many other LGBTQ sports and human services organizations in and around Boston.

“It was so nice to see all sports come together as a community,” shares Keith London of America’s Finest Kickball League, one of the many LGBTQ sports groups to sponsor the Tea Dance this year. “We have the people to do good in the world, so let’s make a difference.”

The event draws a lively crowd with a live DJ, dancing, outdoor games like corn hole and giant Jenga, gourmet food truck offerings and a chance to cut loose and enjoy the summer. Funding for the event primarily comes from sponsorships, donations at the door, an on-site raffle and this year, for the first time ever, a bachelor auction featuring five eligible gents paired with pre-packaged date-night delights such as an afternoon sail, dinner and a show, or tickets to see Lady Gaga’s “Joanne” world tour on September 2. Guests were also invited to participate in a super hero themed costume contest organized by dbar.

“The Summer Sports Tea Dance was a great opportunity for us at Yankee Cruising Club to give back to our community,” says Raul Gonzales, one of the five bachelors to auction off a date at the event to help raise funds. “Victory Programs has done so much for those who are homeless and suffering from substance addiction, mental illness, or from chronic health issues like HIV/AIDS. We wanted to lend a helping hand and what better way to do that than by raising funds through the bachelor auction! We had so much fun!”

This year’s event raised nearly \$17,000 for Victory Programs, a human services organization which operates 19 programs in Boston, Cambridge and Topsfield for individuals in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction, individuals living with and managing an HIV/AIDS diagnosis and/or individuals and families facing homelessness. Victory Programs has served some of the most vulnerable members of the Greater Boston community for more than 40 years and has a long history of ties to the LGBTQ community in Boston.

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[Photos from this year’s event are available here.](#)

Photo Credit: Patrick Lentz

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About Victory Programs

Victory Programs has more than 40 years of experience opening doors to hope, health and housing for individuals and families in need. Since its inception in 1975, the agency has expanded to 19 health, housing and prevention programs providing shelter and recovery services to more than 2,300 people annually. Victory Programs has a storied history of responding to emerging needs in the community – from being one of the first agencies in Massachusetts to allow HIV positive clients into its addiction recovery programs in 1981 to launching a mobile prevention unit in 2015 capable of quick local responses to shifting and developing needs throughout. Since its founding, Victory Programs’ commitment to those facing homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and or chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS remains its top priority.