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Press Release

Celebrate Jonathan! Victory Programs' throws Founder & President Emeritus a Regal Retirement Party

Boston (June 6, 2019): On Thursday, May 30, Victory Programs bid farewell to Founder & President Emeritus, Jonathan Scott, with a celebration to honor his 43 years of leadership, advocacy, and service to some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in the Greater Boston area. The event took place in the Seaport District at The Grand, a Big Night Entertainment Property recently named one of the top night clubs in the country. Guests enjoyed a lavish selection of small bites and were treated to a program packed with surprises, including a world premiere of **"Animal," a solo performance by Boston Ballet's principal dancer John Lam** choreographed specifically for the event, and speakers representing milestones in the agency's history, including **Victory House Founder Ted Cantone and co-director John de Miranda**, who met Jonathan when he was a student at Boston College and first arrived to volunteer at what was then a standalone residential program for men in recovery from alcoholism. Other notable guests included Massachusetts State **Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz**, former **Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy Douglas Brooks**, a performance by local celebrity **Verna Turbulence**, and **Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh** who presented Jonathan with a Revere Bowl and declared May 30, 2019 "Jonathan Scott Day" in the City of Boston in honor of Jonathan's lifetime of service to the community. Governor Baker, who was unable to attend, recorded a video thanking Jonathan for his work and issued a Proclamation honoring his decades of service.

"My gratitude is somewhere over the rainbow. The team at Victory Programs has rendered me speechless," Jonathan shared, after the event. "Not an easy thing to do for the kid who grew up backstage at NYC Lincoln Center... I need a few days to process this majestic wild and precious journey - surrounded by all that beauty on every level Thursday night. It all felt so genuine and was so gorgeously heartfelt."

The venue was packed with friends, supporters, current and former Victory Programs staff, and alumni of the agency's 19 innovative programs which provide vital services to help individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, people living with HIV/AIDS, and individuals and families facing homelessness and housing insecurity. Over the course of his singular career, **Jonathan has been responsible for more than 30 programs** tailored to meet unique, unmet needs and address emerging community health concerns like the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the opioid crises, and the ongoing challenges facing lower-income individuals and families in need of housing.

"Jonathan has dedicated his life to Victory Programs and the Boston community," says Vice President of Development and Communications, Marc Davino. "Honoring him with a beautiful sendoff was the least we could do. The Jonathan Scott Future Victories fund offered a chance for those who have known and been inspired by Jonathan an opportunity to honor his life's work, and many, from former Victory Programs' clients to Jonathan's collaborators and colleagues, wanted to do just that. Our staff worked so hard to contact people who knew Jonathan and explain the importance of this fund to preserving his legacy and ensuring future victories. We entered the event with nearly \$500,000 already committed and were blown away by the generosity of our guests on the night of the event."

At the event, Victory Programs announced the launch of the Jonathan Scott Future Victories Fund, with an ambitious goal of \$643,000, in honor of Jonathan's 43 years of service, to support replicating successful service models and developing new programs to address emerging community needs. To date, the fund has raised well over half a million dollars from generous supporters eager to help Victory Programs continue Jonathan's legacy by welcoming those in need of support through the iconic "red door" at

Victory House, an enduring symbol of the organization's longstanding commitment: "we take everybody" and Jonathan's enduring promise "and we help them find their way home."

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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 2,500 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 to reach individuals and families in the community and better serve their needs. Throughout its organizational growth, Victory Programs' commitment to those struggling with homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS always remained its top priority.

Supplemental Information:

Full list of performers and speakers:

East Coast Strings

Master of Ceremonies, Jim Pettinelli

Victory Programs' Board Chair Sara Andrews

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh

John Lam, Principal Dancer for the Boston Ballet Company

Douglas Brooks, Former Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy under Former President Obama

Marcia Chartier, Stephen Thomas, and Elizabeth Dugan

The current Victory Programs' clients, residents, and Boston Living Center members who participated in the [video tribute](#) to Jonathan

Victory House Founder Ted Cantone and co-director John de Miranda

Verna Turbulence

Cecile Durham, Kathy Hinchcliffe, and Cristina Necula-Kilmurray

Event and Venue Support:

Liz Page Associates

Jarrett Hanley and the entire staff of Big Night Entertainment

Photographer David Fox

Honorary Committee for Celebrate Jonathan!

U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey

Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz

Massachusetts State Representative Liz Malia

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins
Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh

With special thanks to Governor Charlie Baker for issuing a proclamation honoring Jonathan and sending a video message expressing his support.

Host Committee:

Sara Andrews & Neil Bradley
Dennis Balog & Bob Demers
Jim Bracciale & Richard Kestler
Lori Campana
Paul Carey & Barry Pike
Harry Collings & Dan Moon
Steve Corkin & Dan Maddalena
Manny Correia & Tom Harvey
Lisa J. Drapkin & Debbie Lewis
Andie Finard
Lori Frazer & Cricket Lyman
Kenn Freed
Ralph Fuccillo & Paul Newman
Bob & Linda Glassman
Jon Goode & Cary Raymond
Scott Gortikov & Ross Ozer
Rebecca Haag & Mary Breslauer
Esmond & Jerome Harmsworth
Larry Kessler
Steven & Donna Lipiner
Chris & Jessica Maguire
Elizabeth Marran, Leah Robins & Susan Williams – The Amagansett Girls
John & Candy O'Connell
Liz Page & Marianne Stravinskaskas
Anne Peretz
Jim Pettinelli & Thom Keegan
Bryan Rafanelli & Mark Walsh
Gary Sandison
Stephen Thomas
Donald Vaughan & Lee Ridgeway
Amy & Michael Whitmore

Organizational Investors in the Jonathan Scott Future Victories Fund:

Lead Investor

Robert Lloyd Corkin Charitable Foundation

Benefactor

The Janey Fund

Partner

Partners Healthcare

Contributor

Eastern Bank

Supporter

Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Friends

Boston Medical Center, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares, Maguire Mechanical Services, and United Way