



# RELEASE

FOUNDATION



## WHAT WE DO

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The Release Recovery Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to ensuring all who are ready and willing to seek professional treatment, are able to. Substance abuse and mental illness destroy the lives of too many people from underserved communities who may not have the resources for proven treatments. The Release Recovery Foundation offers scholarships to bridge the gap between what people can afford and what they need to transform their lives, regardless of race, gender, and/or sexual orientation.

# 2022 IN NUMBERS

In 2022, The Release Foundation accomplished life saving work with the help of our generous donors, we could not do it without you.

# 13

## TREATMENT PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS

We work tirelessly to screen providers and build/maintain relationships within this extremely special community. We have developed a list of trusted partners to ensure that our funding only goes to the most ethical professionals.

# 54\*

## SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED

Our scholarships provide financial assistance for underserved communities to all kinds of treatment services with one of our trusted partners.

# Over \$900 thousand

## RAISED IN 2022

With your support, we are working towards making addiction and mental health treatment more accessible and building a community where everyone seeking more purpose and connection is welcome.

\* as of December 15th 2022

# SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Our scholarships provide financial assistance for underserved communities to all kinds of treatment services with one of our trusted partners. Our scholarships are based on willingness and financial need, we never disqualify anyone from a scholarship based on any race, gender, sexuality, etc. We are also proud to have two primary scholarship funds that help to directly reach historically underserved communities. Please see below for more details on these special partnerships and funds that change lives every day.



## DEI FUND WITH ASHLEY ADDICTION TREATMENT

In partnership with Ashley Addiction Treatment, The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Scholarship Fund aims to improve racial diversity within treatment settings and remove financial barriers to treatment.

Studies show that despite similar rates of substance use disorder, people of color—including Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Native American and Asian Americans—are generally more likely to encounter barriers that limit their ability to access or successfully complete treatment, such as cost and other socioeconomic factors when compared to white Americans. Identifying how these disparities show up in addiction treatment settings, and how to address them, is a critical goal for helping all people with substance abuse struggles achieve recovery.

Since its inception, The Release Foundation has allocated over \$120,000 per year to this scholarship fund so that more people have the chance to recover.





\*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2022, June 3). Substance use and suds in LGBTQ populations. National Institutes of Health. Retrieved December 19, 2022, from <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/substance-use-suds-in-lgbtq-populations>

## **NIC PAGANO LGBTQIA FUND WITH CARON TREATMENT CENTERS**



Nic was a passionate member of the LGBTQIA+ community, a voice for justice in the Transgender community and talented stage and film actor. He died tragically of an overdose in June 2021.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that the LGBTQIA+ community is at least 2-3 times more likely to develop substance use disorder.\* Caron believes there is more that should be done to address the needs of this population and it starts with expanded programming, training around cultural competency and ultimately increasing access to treatment for those with financial need. That is why we partnered with them to create the Nic Pagano Fund to provide treatment to individuals who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Since partnering with Caron Treatment Centers, a center of excellence in addiction treatment, we've been able to raise more than \$150,000 per year in scholarship funding for this community.



# OUR COMMUNITY

Our personal and professional experience tells us that community is a non-negotiable.

We pride ourselves on fostering a community where ALL are welcome—in recovery, supporters of those in recovery and anyone searching for connection.

We actively strengthen the roots we have in New York City, and also grow our community throughout the country. Why? Because healing is more successful and sustainable when people are immersed in a loving, inclusive environment.

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What our community has been up to:

- Partnerships with likeminded brands like Happy Jack, Rhone, and FP Movement
- Over 20 group runs in Central Park and the greater NYC area (and beyond!)
- Group fitness classes
- Teams at several World Major Marathons (London, NYC, and more to come...)
- So much more! We are always building our community

# NYC MARATHON



For the second consecutive year, the Release Foundation ran the New York City Marathon in November as a Silver Level Charity Partner. This race is the true embodiment of what we do at Release; a community coming together for one shared goal. On a local level the NYC community comes together to support the 50,000 runners that set out to cross the finish line after 26.2 grueling miles. On the greater scale of Release, this is exemplified by our runners and their own communities raising over \$750,000 to fight against the toll Substance Abuse Disorder is taking on our communities and families.

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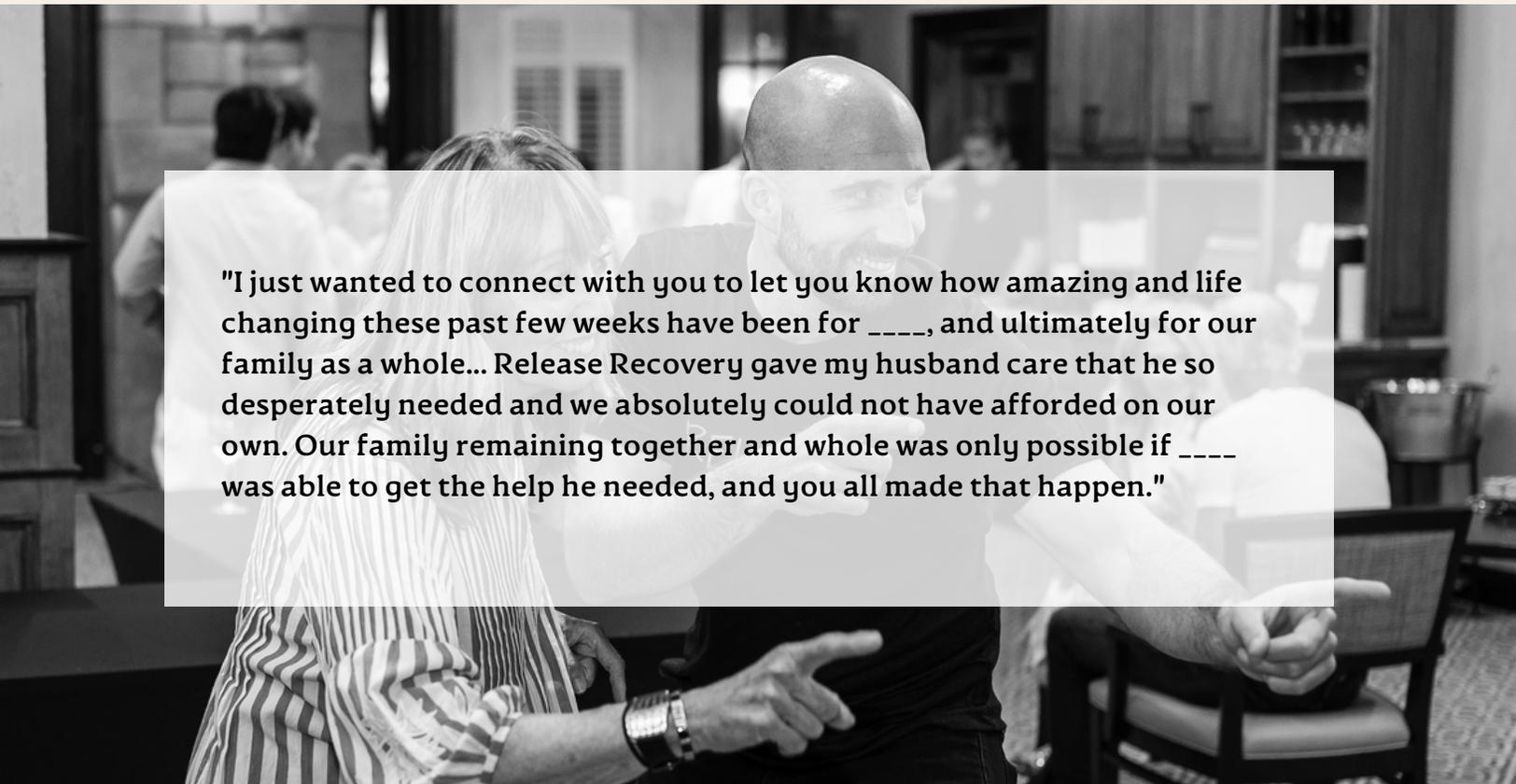
## WANT TO JOIN US?

The New York City Marathon will always be our premier race partnership. It is our home and our roots. Visit our website to find out more about how to join or support the team.

# Scholarship Recipient

# GRATITUDE

"Regardless of what happens, because of the Release Recovery Foundation I am a free man. I was a very broken crystal meth addict trading my body for hotel rooms, and really damaging people. You have given me the opportunity at life again... The LGBTQ community needs more people live you advocating for us. I firmly believe that its because of you that I am alive today."



"I just wanted to connect with you to let you know how amazing and life changing these past few weeks have been for \_\_\_\_\_, and ultimately for our family as a whole... Release Recovery gave my husband care that he so desperately needed and we absolutely could not have afforded on our own. Our family remaining together and whole was only possible if \_\_\_\_\_ was able to get the help he needed, and you all made that happen."

"I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you have done... I'm focusing on healing and I wouldn't be here without you! It feels amazing to be able to move through the world soberly!"



# A NOTE FROM DOUG LEVY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Gratitude overflows as we wrap up 2022 and look to the future of the Release Foundation. We have seen tremendous growth over the last year and since our inception. We have been able help individuals and families find hope and recovery, continue to serve the underserved communities we are dedicated to, and build a community of our own.*

*Hope is a powerful thing. It inspires us to do the impossible and helps us carry on during difficult times. Finding hope and keeping it alive is at the core of everything that we do at The Release Foundation. Our dedication is to redefine the way the world treats, supports, and views recovery by making addiction and mental health treatment more accessible for all, while building a community where everyone seeking more purpose and connection is welcome.*

*Our commitment to our mission has been strengthened by the number of overdose deaths that steadily continue to increase year after year, 2022 being no exception. The lasting effects from the pandemic — isolation, disconnection, and loss — are still being seen, and the communities we are dedicated to serve are more challenged than ever.*

*However, we keep fighting. We have helped over 50 individuals receive world class treatment this year. This number includes affirming care for historically underserved communities, such as the LGBTQIA community at Caron Treatment Centers through the The Nic Pagano Fund and members of the black and brown communities with our DEI Fund at Ashley Addiction Treatment. These are just two examples of the work we have been grateful to do with our partners, community, and generous donors, and we aren't going anywhere. We are looking forward to helping record amounts of individuals receive the gift of hope and recovery in the coming year.*

Doug Levy



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# RRFF

## GET IN TOUCH

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### INSTAGRAM

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Thank You 

