

# Thank You to Our Loyal Supporters

On May 24th Halley Elwell streamed a concert to benefit NF Northeast in conjunction with the release of her four-song EP (extended play) "The Last of What I Know." Music was always a clear path for Halley and now she is using her voice to change the narrative about neurofibromatosis so she can help others who live with it. "It's cathartic, it inspires me," the singer/songwriter says. "I get to write messages that inspire me and hopefully can inspire other people." To learn more about Halley and to hear her beautiful music visit [halswellmusic.com](http://halswellmusic.com)



Halley Elwell



Steps2Cure NF was virtual this year, but that didn't make a difference to so many of our supporters. We are grateful to those who participated and shared their experiences with us.

We are sending A HUGE thank you to Amy and Tom Rodgers and their beautiful family for being our #1 fundraisers this year. With their help and the help of all participants we are able to continue the fight to #EndNF. Also, congratulations to Mya Rodgers, shown with her parents and brother, for being an NFNE scholarship recipient this year!



### Tommy Heinsohn - a dear friend to NFNE



Boston Celtics legend Tommy Heinsohn was the Honorary Chairperson of the annual NF Golf Tournament at the International for a span of 13 years. Tommy wasn't a celebrity chairperson in name only. Just like he did everything in life, he was 100% in our court. He was a spokesperson, fundraiser and a friend to all in our NF community.

Tommy passed away in November and on May 9th the Celtics honored the icon with the inaugural "Tommy Heinsohn Day" - a day of on-air tributes hosted by the team and NBC Sports.



Tommy had worked closely with Paul Epstein and Steve Picardi, two dedicated volunteers from our NF community, and together they raised millions of dollars for NF research and sponsorships for NF kids to attend Camp New Friends. It was a fitting and touching tribute that Paul and Steve were honored on "Tommy Heinsohn Day" with the prestigious **Heroes Among Us Award!** Pictured holding their awards are Paul and Steve with Trish Epstein and Susan Picardi.



### May - NF Awareness Month

Governors around the country have signed proclamations to help create awareness of NF. Shown on left is the Hunsberger family with the proclamation from the Governor of Pennsylvania, and in the photo below the Callahan family with the Massachusetts proclamation.



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# NF NEWS

## NEUROFIBROMATOSIS NORTHEAST

Promoting Research, Awareness and Advocacy since 1988

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## NF Northeast Announces new Executive Director

A message from Karen Peluso

Dear Friends in the NF Community,

Please join me in welcoming Sharon Klein, the new Executive Director of Neurofibromatosis Northeast. Following an extensive public search conducted in conjunction with TSNE Mission Works, the Board of Directors selected Sharon to fill the position that I have had the honor to hold for many years. I am retiring from the Executive Director position, and I will be assisting in the leadership transition.



Sharon Klein

With more than 15 years of non-profit fundraising experience, Sharon brings a focus and passion on finding cures for rare diseases. She has held numerous leadership roles in executive alignment and collaboration, fundraising, management, and patient advocacy and programs.

Sharon's career in the nonprofit world began right out of college, when she worked as a Program Coordinator at The Leukemia Society of America, now The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Working at what was then a grass roots organization and wearing many hats, Sharon quickly became well versed in relationship building, branding, and marketing. After serving in leadership roles in development at other organizations, including the Wang Theater, Sharon returned to LLS in 1999. Serving more than 12 years there, Sharon led philanthropy and patient initiatives for the Massachusetts and Rhode Island chapters, where she served first as the Director of Development and then later as Executive Director for both Chapters. Sharon is most proud of her accomplishments at LLS, where under her leadership, the Chapters raised more than \$6 million annually, to fund research and patient programs.

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## EVENTS ARE BACK !!

Events serve many purposes: they help fuel our mission, they increase awareness of NF, and they bring our community together in a caring and supportive environment. Due to Covid-19 all events in 2020 were cancelled, but now as restrictions are being lifted we can get together again! Contact Diana Flahive at [dflahive@nfnortheast.org](mailto:dflahive@nfnortheast.org) for more information.



August 15th



10th Annual Bike Ride

September 11th



September 27th



October 4th