



Supportive Living to host 25th anniversary gala

Saturday

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Supportive Living Inc. will celebrate its 25th anniversary with the “Dream the Impossible Dream” gala on Nov. 19 at historic Fenway Park. The event will pay special tribute to SLI co-founder Carrol Stephens and community philanthropists Joyce and Bill Cummings, who, through Cummings Foundation, are longtime supporters of the nonprofit organization’s mission.

“It is very special for us to be able to recognize Carrol for bringing her vision to life, along with Joyce and Bill, who have supported this vision since it all started,” SLI Executive Director Peter Noonan said. “We are looking forward to a wonderful night celebrating our major milestones of the past quarter-century. SLI has come a long way, and we have more to do as we continue our mission.”

The gala will raise funds to help SLI to continue to develop and provide housing and wellness programs that are in high demand to support individuals with brain injury. An estimated 5,000 individuals have a severe, life-altering, disabling brain injury each year in Massachusetts. Supportive Living’s physical, cognitive and social fitness programs are focused on improving these individuals’ physical and mental health through a variety of activities, such as physical

fitness, nutrition, horticulture therapy, expressive arts and social and support groups.

Stephens and her late husband, Doug, started SLI in 1991 after their 17-year-old son sustained a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident, leaving him in need of care and support for the rest of his life. At the time, there were few options for appropriate supportive housing for such survivors of brain injury — a situation that prompted the Stephenses to establish SLI's first residential program, Warren House, in Woburn.

Currently, SLI operates four residential facilities across Massachusetts, including McLaughlin House in North Reading, Douglas House in Lexington and Old Farm Rockport.

Cummings Foundation, established by Joyce and Bill Cummings in 1986, has awarded more than \$140 million to Greater Boston nonprofit organizations as it has grown to become one of the largest private foundations in New England. Last year, Cummings Foundation awarded a \$1 million grant to SLI to support its residential programs.

“Thanks to Carrol and Doug’s innovative thinking 25 years ago and Carrol’s continued hard work and unrelenting dedication, so many lives have been immeasurably enriched,” Bill Cummings said. “Joyce and I have been delighted to watch SLI grow over the years, and we are proud to support its invaluable work.”

SLI moving toward serving the communities in which its residential programs are located. Through the organization’s Total Health initiative, local residents with chronic brain injury in Lexington, Rockport, North Reading, Woburn and surrounding towns will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of health and wellness programs created for this population.

Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, dinner, a live auction and dancing will be included. For information: <http://bit.ly/2dpv5v6>.