

# Fall 2002 Impact

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Thanking those who make a difference.



## Kraft family endows professorship and reaffirms commitment to research for blood cancers

**B**uilding winning teams is a tradition in Robert and Myra Kraft's household. Whether raising a family that leads successful ventures and causes across New England, creating a blood donor center

up to spearhead another successful effort when they announced the endowment of the Kraft Family Professorship in Medicine in the Field of Hematologic Oncology at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Kraft family has embraced Dana-Farber's mission since 1978, when Robert became an Institute trustee. Since then, the Institute has enjoyed continued partnership with the Krafts. In making this most recent gift, the family recognized the importance of endowed support for physician-scientists who are building their own winning research and care teams in the fight against cancer. Endowed support establishes a permanent legacy that enables the Institute to attract and retain

the very best clinicians and researchers, so that their energy can remain focused on finding effective therapies and ultimate cures.

The family's history of leadership gifts and involvement with the

Institute demonstrates their winning track record. Thanks to the Kraft family's generosity, the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center dedicated in 1984 has become a national leader in the collection of blood platelets and research in blood cancers. Blood platelets are an essential component of treatment for multiple myeloma and other blood cancers. The center features the most advanced collection equipment and technologies, and an array of amenities to make the center's highly dedicated corps of donors more comfortable.

Beyond being the center's benefactors, the Krafts are also among its strongest advocates. Son Dan Kraft has donated platelets more than 40 times, and Robert himself is a frequent visitor, stopping by to talk with and thank donors.

The creation of a professorship dedicated to the care and research of hematologic oncology grew out of the Krafts' long association with the blood donor center and their 20-year friendship with Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center at Dana-Farber. Kraft has frequently stated that this

most recent gift was inspired by Anderson, the high esteem and affection in which the family holds him, and their profound respect for his research in search of a cure for multiple myeloma.

"Dana-Farber is clearly a world-class research Institute and my family and I are proud to be furthering its work," says Kraft. "We are also deeply respectful of the pioneering research done by Kenneth Anderson, MD, and support him in the fight against cancer."

The blood donor center and the newly endowed professorship are just two Dana-Farber examples of how the Krafts' commitment to family and teamwork underlie success. It was this dedication to playing as a team that enabled the Patriots to win the Super Bowl XXXVI championship. It is this same commitment to working together, says Anderson, which will lead to a cure for multiple myeloma and other cancers of the blood.

"For over 20 years, I have known what a super family the Krafts are," says Anderson. "As our beloved Patriots showed us this year, the concept of team will win over all else." 🏈



Myra and Robert Kraft

that saves countless lives every day, or owning the New England Patriots football franchise that brought home the Super Bowl XXXVI championship, the Krafts have a vision for winning. The family recently stepped



Summer 2003

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## Kraft Family Professor is named

*In Fall 2002, Institute Trustee and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft (second from left), his wife, Myra (beside him), and their family endowed the Kraft Family Professorship in Medicine in the Field of Hematologic Oncology at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In a March ceremony at the medical school, Kenneth Anderson, MD, (right), was appointed the first incumbent. Anderson is chief of the Hematologic Neoplasia Division within Medical Oncology and director of the Institute's Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center. Joseph Martin, MD, dean of Harvard Medical School, (left), poses with the Krafts and Anderson.*

*"It's not often you get a chance to support someone philanthropically who you feel so connected to," said Kraft, a longtime friend and supporter of Anderson. "Ken is not just a doctor, he is a humanitarian and a great friend."*