

Councilman Panico Referee's 2nd Annual Brian's Army Turkey Bowl to Combat Drug Abuse

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Farmingville, NY - On November 27, Councilman Daniel J. Panico served as a guest referee for the 2nd Annual Brian's Army Turkey Bowl Fundraiser. The Turkey bowl is a flag football tournament held at the Moriches Athletic Complex, started by friends and family of the late Brian Balzer. Brian tragically passed away last year from a heroin overdose. Now through Brian's Army, the Balzer family honors his memory by raising awareness of the growing drug abuse problem in Brookhaven and on Long Island.

The 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl was a great success with 26 teams and 250 players participating, growing from the momentum started by last years Turkey Bowl. With a bake sale, an auction and the participating teams this year, Brian's Army was able to raise \$3000. The proceeds will be put towards a scholarship in Brian's name to be used at William Floyd High School, as well as to assist in organizing future events and promoting the Balzer family's ongoing educational program on drug abuse presented at schools across Suffolk County.

"Drug abuse by young people is a serious epidemic on Long Island and awareness is crucial," said Councilman Dan Panico. "On behalf of the residents of Brookhaven, I want to thank the Balzer Family for turning their tragedy into a labor of love, raising awareness of a very real problem and making our community a better place."

Councilman Panico was honored to be asked to participate in what was an opportunity for the community to come together for an important cause. To learn more about Brian's Army and the battle against drug abuse please visit www.BriansArmy.org .

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