

BAYFC Trophies for Charity Program:

“Football and cheer not only teach our youth the sport(s), but also teamwork, commitment, leadership, hard work, accountability, discipline, selflessness and how to overcome diversity.”

–Coach Abs, 2016

A perfect example of this is the BAYFC Trophies for Charity Program. This program was started in 2016 when long-time BAYFC Board member and coach, Brian Abernethy, suggested to his sixth-grade football players that they put the monies that would have spent on participation trophies toward a good cause. The team agreed, and donated nearly \$400, including a matching donation from Coach Abernethy, to a local charity. As a token of appreciation for their generosity, the young athletes were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from BAYFC. Another Board member suggested The Joe Andruzzi Foundation, which gives financial support to families and individuals that are battling cancer and holds "Upbeat Cancer" outings to support families by "spreading smiles." This organization was dear to this Board member, and BAYFC, because her family participated in one of the "Upbeat Cancer" during her husband's battle with cancer. Because of the success of the first year of the Trophies for Charity program, Coach Abernethy proposed that, beginning with the 2017 season, the entire BAYFC program, football and cheer, donate money that would have been spent on trophies to The Joe Andruzzi Foundation. The exceptions are teams with first-time athletes (flag & 8u cheer) and teams that go to national competition. Children receive a certificate of participation and the donations help other families. **We are so proud of our BAYFC athletes!**

