

**SERIES:** Caucus: New Jersey with Steve Adubato  
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Announcer: Funding for this edition of CAUCUS: NEW JERSEY has been provided by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, North Jersey affiliate; Johnson & Johnson, the worldwide health care products company; New Jersey Natural Gas, proud to support education in our communities; QualCare Inc., a local managed care company covering 600,000 New Jersey residents; and by Verizon Communications.

STEVE ADUBATO, host:

Welcome to a very special edition of CAUCUS Up Close. I'm Steve Adubato. Thrilled to be joined in our studio here at NJN in Newark by Deb Belfatto, who is the executive director and co-founder for Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the North Jersey affiliate.

Good to see you, Deb.

Ms. DEBORAH Q. BELFATTO (Executive Director and Co-Founder, North Jersey Affiliate Susan G. Komen for the Cure): Thrilled to be here, Steve. Thank you so much.

ADUBATO: You got big news. Hey, right away let's--if you don't like plugging terrific nonprofit charity events, this isn't the show for you. But I know it is.

What's going on on April 26th at Branch Brook Park in beautiful Newark, New Jersey, Essex County? What's going on?

Ms. BELFATTO: Oh. Well, we are back. We're back with the second annual Race for the Cure. Last year's race was an unprecedented success. They told us they--we'd never bring 10,000 people to Newark, and...

ADUBATO: We're looking at video of the governor. The governor was there last year?

Ms. BELFATTO: Yeah.

ADUBATO: The governor was there.

Ms. BELFATTO: Ran...

ADUBATO: Joe DiVincenzo, our county executive, who was one of the co-chairs will be out a little bit later with Jeff Vanderbeek.

Ms. BELFATTO: Yes.

ADUBATO: Who was the owner of the Devils. So how many people did we bring into Newark?

Ms. BELFATTO: Ten thousand people.

ADUBATO: Raised money?

Ms. BELFATTO: Raised over \$2 million, had a great day. People loved their experience. People who said, 'You want me to come to Newark?' I said, 'That's right, come to Newark.' Loved it. They can't wait to come back. They can't

wait to build their teams, to build more people...

ADUBATO: Hm.

Ms. BELFATTO: ...to raise more awareness, to raise more funds. It was--it was sensational.

ADUBATO: Let's talk about your story, because 21 year survivor.

Ms. BELFATTO: Yeah, in April. How about that? How lucky am I?

ADUBATO: Congratulations.

Ms. BELFATTO: Thank you very much.

ADUBATO: Tell people your story, real quick.

Ms. BELFATTO: You know, diagnosed at the age of 33, two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, scared to death, really had no idea whether I'd be dead or alive. But here I am 21 years later having been given the privilege of being part of this organization since 1997, helping to save the lives of women who otherwise would never have access to quality breast health care. So it's pretty great. It's pretty great.

ADUBATO: Let--you know, Deb, because we've talked so many times offline--you're our partner, we do public service announcements...

Ms. BELFATTO: Yeah.

ADUBATO: ...and do all kinds of things to try to bring attention to the issue, to the cure, to early detection. Tell folks exactly what the money goes for. Because people are watching, saying, 'All right, I want to go to Branch Brook Park that day. I want to go to Essex County.' You know, it's a beautiful place. OK, but what happens? 'I get a team together, we enter.'

Ms. BELFATTO: Mm-hmm.

ADUBATO: Walk or run, by the way?

Ms. BELFATTO: How--whatever you want to do. You want to stroll, you want to walk, you want to run, it all works. It's all--the idea is to get to the finish line. The finish line is defined by a world without breast cancer. So whatever you need to do to get to that finish line.

ADUBATO: Where does that money go?

Ms. BELFATTO: That's the beauty of who we are. Thank you for asking me that. That's the beauty of what the Komen organization, why it's--why it is distinctive to other organizations. Because save it--75 percent of every dollar that is raised that day stays in our local communities, our nine-county service area, and is dispersed through our grants program to community-based organizations. We have, in the past 11 years, put over \$10 million back into the community.

ADUBATO: Mm.

Ms. BELFATTO: The balance of that, the other 25 percent, goes back to our national organization and funds pure research. We've put more--our affiliate has put more than \$4 1/2 million back into research. So it doesn't get better

than that. We cover it all.

ADUBATO: The day is April 26th. The place is beautiful Branch book--Branch Brook Park. It's a park that I grew up in, learned how to play baseball, not too well. But there's something called the Four Diamonds there. As you'll see, it's a beautiful place. The county executive, as I said, from Essex County, Joe D., will be here, because they've done a great job making the park look even better. But you've got cherry blossoms...

Ms. BELFATTO: Cherry blossoms. I have one for you.

ADUBATO: You got a cherry blossom?

Ms. BELFATTO: I have a cherry blossom for you, just...

ADUBATO: This is the significance--by the way, everyone...

Ms. BELFATTO: This is very symbolic.

ADUBATO: What is this symbolic of?

Ms. BELFATTO: Well, I mean, it's symbolic of the gorgeous park. But aside from that, each survivor, as they cross the finish line, will be pinned with that cherry blossom.

ADUBATO: And Essex County has the most beautiful cherry blossoms in the country, I don't care what they say in Washington.

Ms. BELFATTO: No.

ADUBATO: The most beautiful. So they come 8:00--you say come earlier, before the race. What happens?

Ms. BELFATTO: Oh, you have to get there early. There's all kinds of festivities. There's the expo, there's the merchandise tent, there is--it's just great family fun. It's just a wonderful day to experience, you know, being together, basically. Just unity, being together. And I have to thank Joe DiVincenzo and Jeff Vanderbeek, who I consider two of the greatest guys to have stepped up into the roles of honorary chairs. It doesn't--it--for us it doesn't get better for--than that. It's just wonderful.

ADUBATO: By the way, why should guys be involved?

Ms. BELFATTO: They have to. I mean, they have to...

ADUBATO: Your husband Joe B.'s involved, right?

Ms. BELFATTO: Oh, my husband's been involved since the minute, the day I was diagnosed, and he's never stopped. But, yeah, men have to be involved because they care about the women in their lives, because their mothers matter, their wives matter, their daughters matter.

ADUBATO: Their sisters matter, etc.

Ms. BELFATTO: And their sisters matter. And it goes on and on. And also, let's not forget that men can and do get breast cancer. So just a subtle reminder.

ADUBATO: Before I let you out of here, Deb, I cut you off before. I want to

be real clear. Beyond the research, let's--give me--give me two examples of where the dollars go to actually help community-based organizations. Listen, all candor, and we disclose everything here, we're a partner--we get a grant. What do we do with it? Education.

Ms. BELFATTO: Educate.

ADUBATO: Outreach. But there are other organizations who are even more hands-on. Give us an example.

Ms. BELFATTO: Well, I mean, here we are sitting in Newark and, you know, I can proudly tell you that UMDNJ has been a long-standing partner. And I hope it's been recognized on the streets, but a beautiful mobile mammography van, through our funding, is now hitting the streets of Newark, and you'll see it throughout Essex County as well. That's one of the programs.

ADUBATO: A mobile van out there doing great things.

Ms. BELFATTO: Going to the people that can't get to the hospitals. We just--we won't accept no for an answer. We won't let any woman say to us, 'I haven't had my mammogram and I can't have my mammogram.'

(Graphic on screen)

[www.KomenNorthJersey.org](http://www.KomenNorthJersey.org)  
for more information

ADUBATO: No excuse, folks. The race is on the 26th. It'll be a beautiful day. The county executive is promising that. The cherry blossoms will be out. Come, let's raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization and the North Jersey affiliate.

Deb's been at it with her colleagues. Great volunteers, right? Say something really quick about your team.

Ms. BELFATTO: There's no better team than the North Jersey volunteers, the staff. They're just committed, talented, extraordinary human beings. And...

ADUBATO: And people go online, by the way, real quick, they can go online. I know about--the Web site has been up throughout the entire program, will continue to be up.

Ms. BELFATTO: Yes.

ADUBATO: People can go online, can register online.

Ms. BELFATTO: Register online.

ADUBATO: Put a team online. Contribute online.

Ms. BELFATTO: Build their teams, pledge online, it's all there. It's...

ADUBATO: Listen, folks, some people say, 'What are you doing on public television talking about this stuff?' There is no more important cause. That's why we've been partners with the organization for a long time, with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, North Jersey affiliate.

Deb, it's an honor. We'll continue to do our job.

Ms. BELFATTO: The honor is ours, Steve. Thank you for all that you do for us. And it's just a beautiful partnership, so thank you for that.

ADUBATO: We have a great team, too.

Hey, speaking of great teams, first time being part of this discussion she was at the race last year, now she is a state senator, one of the most prominent members of the legislature. She is state Senator Teresa Ruiz, and she'll be playing an important role in this race as well. Stay with us, we'll be right back.

Announcer: If you would like more information on this program, or if you'd like to express an opinion, e-mail us at [info@caucusnj.org](mailto:info@caucusnj.org) and visit us online at [caucusnj.org](http://caucusnj.org).

ADUBATO: We are thrilled to be joined by state Senator Teresa Ruiz, who represents the 29th legislative district.

Good to see you, Senator.

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ (Democrat, New Jersey, 29th Legislative District): Thank you for having me.

ADUBATO: You heard Deb Belfatto on the front end. You'll be joined by your colleague Joe DiVincenzo, who is the chief executive, the county executive of Essex County, and Jeff Vanderbeek from the Devils. Your involvement, you walked in the race last year?

Sen. RUIZ: I walked in the race last year and I'm hoping to train and perhaps run in the race this year.

ADUBATO: What was it like last year?

Sen. RUIZ: It was phenomenal. Clearly, for a person who considers Branch Brook Park my backyard, to walk from the house and to see the warmth and the volume of people, there were tens of thousands individuals all there bound to one cause, and just, you know, coming together to really bring a voice to a phenomenal cause that affects a large amount of women.

ADUBATO: The race is on the 26th of April, be a beautiful day. The cherry blossoms are great. I know I'm making a big deal about it, but I grew up in the same neighborhood you did. Not exactly the same time. I knew you were about to say that, so I got that out first. But I'll tell you what, it is a beautiful park, it is a great race. And I want you to have a special message. You actually cut a PSA, did a PSA for us in both Spanish and English.

Sen. RUIZ: That's right.

ADUBATO: Talk to particularly young women out there who might say, 'I'm not going to Newark. I'm not going to Essex County. I don't want to go to Branch Brook Park.' Tell them why they should.

Sen. RUIZ: On two folds. Essex County's the best county there is in the state of New Jersey, and without a doubt the city of Newark is the heart and soul of the state, I will venture to say that. And under the leadership of our county executive, Branch Brook Park is a gem. And so you should come out to see what we have to offer, but more importantly you should come out and join us for this dynamic cause. As a Latina, there--the numbers that affect Latina women are staggering.

ADUBATO: Talk about that.

Sen. RUIZ: Breast cancer is the high--the highest type of cancer found in Hispanic women.

ADUBATO: The highest?

Sen. RUIZ: And that--the highest type. And that could be, you know, many folded. It's perhaps because of lack of insurance, and that's of critical importance of what Susan G. Komen race does. It raises money for--to offer prevention to individuals who perhaps don't have, you know, insurance availability.

ADUBATO: Good access to health care.

Sen. RUIZ: And as someone who will be approaching the age of mammographies within, you know, the next couple and couple and couple of years, it's critically important to be aware, and that prevention is your best form of detection. And so I'm proud to join Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. I hope to be racing this year, not walking. And just to, you know, join thousands of New Jerseyans who will be together to bring voice to this wonderful cause.

ADUBATO: Talk about your family connection.

Sen. RUIZ: I have a family--not blood relatives, but relatives who are married into the family, and I am proud to say and very thankful that they have all been survivors. But you see the kind of toll that it takes...

ADUBATO: Hm.

Sen. RUIZ: ...on the individual, on the family. But fortunately, caught in time. And two individuals that had access to insurance, that had access to availability of services. And so that's not the case all the time. And that's why it's important to link with nonprofits who make this kind of dedication to understand that, yes, this is affecting a large volume of women. But more importantly, there's the sectors that doesn't have easy access, and that they're going to provide that for them.

ADUBATO: And, you know, in the public service announcement that you did that will be airing on a whole range of channels, I remember I was watching you read it, and one of the lines is, "Early detection is the best protection."

Sen. RUIZ: That's correct.

ADUBATO: Talk about that.

Sen. RUIZ: If you--if you go in and you have access to available testing and you're aware, there's a great chance that you can come out and be a survivor and cross that line on April 26th in Branch Brook Park and say that you are a survivor.

ADUBATO: Message to guys out there?

Sen. RUIZ: Support. This is a human cause. This is not about gender, this is about people coming together to ensure that we have more survivors at the end of the day than memories of people who are undergoing through this trial.

ADUBATO: I want to put you on the spot here. I know you did the PSA in Spanish, which was actually scripted, and you had a strong hand in that. Can I ask you--well, I can, because it's my show--I'm going to ask you to do a very short ad-lib, impromptu message to those who are listening who would respond in either language, but ask you to do it in Spanish. Talk to folks.

Sen. RUIZ: (Spanish spoken)

ADUBATO: I have to say, you did that very well. And you also transition--because Terry, our floor manager, told you to move to this camera.

Sen. RUIZ: That's right. I was--I was zoning in on your pink tie. Wearing pink as well today.

ADUBATO: I--let me ask you something. When you leave government at some point, when you achieve high things, great things in government, do you plan on just coming and taking over everything in television?

Sen. RUIZ: Absolutely. That's correct. I'll be gunning for your job.

ADUBATO: I better get out of here quick. Listen, Senator...

Sen. RUIZ: I'll always need a sidekick, Steve.

ADUBATO: Oh, wait, time out! Did you hear what she just said?

Sen. RUIZ: That's...

ADUBATO: I'm going to be your sidekick at...

Sen. RUIZ: That's correct.

ADUBATO: That's what I come down to, I'd be your Ed McMahon.

Sen. RUIZ: I think that works out well.

ADUBATO: That's before your time. You don't even know who that is.

Sen. RUIZ: I know who it is.

ADUBATO: Listen, I can't thank you enough. And on behalf of the North Jersey affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, listen, I know. Walking, being--walking last year was one thing, running it this year, the fact that you're...

Sen. RUIZ: Trying to run.

ADUBATO: No, you're running. You made the commitment. The fact that you're there I know is going to send a powerful message to not just women, but everyone. So I want to thank you on behalf of everyone at our team, on behalf of Komen as well.

Sen. RUIZ: Thank you.

ADUBATO: Thank you, Senator.

Sen. RUIZ: Thank you.

ADUBATO: Hey, speaking of interesting people, I don't know if these guys are

running, because definitely they'll both pull a hamstring. The Essex County executive Joe DiVincenzo, who is one of the co-chairs, along with Jeff Vanderbeek, that's the guy who is the co-owner of the Devils, New Jersey Devils. They play here in Newark. And they are both co-chairs of this great race on April 26th. Be there, Branch Brook Park. We'll be right back.

Announcer: Don't miss Steve Adubato and co-host Rafael Pi Roman each week on "Inside Trenton," Saturdays at 8:30 AM on Thirteen and Sundays at 7:30 AM on NJN Public Television.

ADUBATO: We are thrilled to be joined by Joseph DiVincenzo, who is the Essex County executive, and his colleague Jeff Vanderbeek, chairman and managing partner of the New Jersey Devils. Both are co-chairs of this terrific race on the 26th--we've been talking about it, folks--it's the 26th of April in Branch Brook Park, one of the many parks in the Essex County parks system.

Mr. JOSEPH N. DiVINCENZO Jr. (Essex County Executive, New Jersey): The best park system in the country.

ADUBATO: Come on. Really, Joe? Come on. Tell people who don't know why it's so great.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: It's--listen, because first of all, we're the first county park system in the country, which means we're the oldest. But it--Branch Brook Park is where you and I both grew up.

ADUBATO: That's right.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: You know, that is our home, you know. And when you talk about Branch Brook Park, what do you talk about? The cherry blossoms, the world famous cherry blossoms...

ADUBATO: Are we coming at the right time on the 26th of April?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: This is--this is the best time. We're planting an additional 1,000 saplings of cherry blossoms. We're going to have over 4,000 cherry blossom trees in Branch Brook Park, which will be the most in the entire country.

ADUBATO: When you--again, you guys are the co-chairs. Last year I remember, Joe, you did not run. I just want to say that. Governor Corzine was running. He had the broken leg, he's back. You did not.

You were in there, too.

Mr. JEFF VANDERBEEK (Chairman and Managing Partner, New Jersey Devils): I was.

ADUBATO: Were you running?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I did run.

ADUBATO: You ran.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I...

ADUBATO: You didn't, though.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: ...will say this, though. I came to walk, I had my

13-year-old daughter, and she convinced me to run with her, and it was a fabulous time.

ADUBATO: You ran.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I did. But I did hear you talking a lot.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Junior...

ADUBATO: I had the microphone. I was working my--I was running my mouth, I know that.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Yeah, you were.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: You--I did walk last year. This year I will be running with the governor. And instead of you riding on the golf course, you know--you know, yelling and screaming at everybody...

ADUBATO: I was--I was--there, look at the county executive right there. I see Joe--you can...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I...

ADUBATO: Why are there 6,000 women around you, Joe? I can see that right there. Now, you're committing, you're going to run.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: You're talking about me, 6,000 women?

ADUBATO: I happen to have a group of...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Look at yourself.

ADUBATO: I have talented women who--Joe, we'll talk about that later. But the women who work for me are very talented professionals. And let--speaking of terrific ladies--watch this segue--let's talk about Deb Belfatto. How did she get you guys to do this, Jeff?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: You know, I've known Deb for probably five years or so. I know her husband, Joe, and we live close to each other. We have...

ADUBATO: Pretty persuasive.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Pretty. No, she's great. It's just such a pleasure dealing with her.

ADUBATO: When she said she wanted you to be the co-chair with Joe D., what'd you think?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I couldn't be happier. I--it's a great challenge. I want to blow this out. I want to make--I want this to dwarf last year.

ADUBATO: Why?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Because it is the best park, it's the best county, it's the best state, it's the best city, it's a great cause. I mean, I had just a great time seeing survivors, seeing friends of survivors, families of survivors, mothers, fathers, and there was just unbelievable love. Everybody had a smile on their face. It's awesome.

ADUBATO: It inspired you.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: It absolutely did. It's a great day.

ADUBATO: It's a great day.

And, Joe, that money that's raised that Deb was talking about, that goes to Essex County organizations and the other--is it nine counties that the North Jersey affiliate are connected to? What does that mean as a county executive who's--oh, you're always dealing with budgets. We'll talk about that on another show. But to see a nonprofit come in and step in and provide these kind of health care services, particularly to women in connection with breast cancer?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Well, let me just say this. First of all, in reference to Deb Belfatto and Jeff and I being--we are soldiers in the Deb Belfatto's army, all right. And it's exciting not only for her, you know, and her committee to choose Branch Brook Park, which of course I couldn't be more proud to have that many people actually walk in that particular race, or run, all right, and to come together and to raise that amount of money. And you could see, listen, it's all about the survivors, it's all about prevention. And it's just amazing what's been done and the amount of people that actually participated last year. I never thought it could be done. I've never seen an event...

ADUBATO: What did it feel like?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I never seen an event like that. And, you know, I was born and raised in Newark.

ADUBATO: You were a football star that practiced every day at Barringer High School there.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I'm--I'd never seen that--I'd never seen that many people come out to an event, that large of an event ever at Branch Brook Park...

ADUBATO: Is that right?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: ...in my lifetime.

ADUBATO: Any kind of event, that was the biggest?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Any kind of--that was the largest, yeah.

ADUBATO: And that was the first.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: And that was the first. In that particular time, between 8:00 in the morning and 12:00 in the afternoon I was just amazed, and I couldn't believe the amount of people that came out not only from Essex County, but all throughout the state.

ADUBATO: Mm-hmm.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Also throughout all the other counties. It's amazing to come to Branch Brook Park--I was very excited.

ADUBATO: Folks that you're listening to, the two co-chairs of the April 26th event. It's a terrific Race for the Cure. It's put on by the North Jersey affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure. You see the Web site right up on

your screen. Our crew is so great, they put it up as I said it. Log on to the site, register your team, raise money.

By the way, Jeff, you got a terrific hat over there.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I do.

ADUBATO: It looks pink, for the right reasons. Pink's the color.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: The New Jersey Devils Susan B. Komen hat.

ADUBATO: Susan G. Komen. Let me get this straight, Susan G. Komen special--this is specially designed?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: No, but it's designed--it actually is designed for breast cancer.

ADUBATO: Right.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: It's been out for about a year. Actually we started it last year right around the time of the race, and it's been selling like hotcakes.

ADUBATO: OK, at the--by the way, how hot is what's going on...

Mr. VANDERBEEK: At the arena.

ADUBATO: ...down in--I got to give you a chance to plug.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: (Unintelligible)

ADUBATO: How terrific is it down at the Rock?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: It's terrific. You know, we had, played the Rangers last night; 17,800 of our closest friends and had a--just a great old time.

ADUBATO: And again, you've introduced many people who go to Devils games to this cause, to this race, to this organization. And the connection between hockey fans and the Race for the Cure?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Hockey--in fact, the National Hockey League has an unbelievable awareness of breast cancer. They...

ADUBATO: By the way, look--sorry for interrupting, we're actually looking at a shot of the Devil, at your guy--at your mascot right there.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Yeah.

ADUBATO: So everyone was involved.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Everybody's involved. In fact, we have a game April 3rd against the Tampa Bay Lightning which is dedicated to this race, to this cause. People are going to be on the concourses, people can sign up, join teams, learn all about it. There'll be those hats for sale to--for the cause. But April 3rd it'll be dedicated for all Susan B. Komen to--and on the big screen outside on Mulberry Street you'll be able to see it...

ADUBATO: Terrific.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: ...all through the night.

ADUBATO: Joe, let me ask you...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: You know, that's very nice, that hat, and I want to congratulate, but we also already have our T-shirt that's already made now.

ADUBATO: Who's we?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Well, the Essex County. We're going to have a--we're 1,000 people, employees that actually march on that particular day.

ADUBATO: Joe, you're not going to have 1,000 people.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: We're going to have 1,000, last year we had over 200, and this year is our--we want to get over 1,000, whether it's employees or family members, to come here, to participate and to contribute. It's our park and we should lead.

ADUBATO: I want to be clear, because I saw you guys last year. You were--I saw what you were dressed in.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: And we didn't win the award with our T-shirt, and I have to talk to...

ADUBATO: It was brown, wasn't it?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: It was brown. But this year we...

ADUBATO: I don't want to say anything...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I don't want to tell him, but that hat cannot win the award.

ADUBATO: Why--Joe!

Mr. DiVINCENZO: That hat cannot win the award.

ADUBATO: Why not?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Because it's a hat. The T-shirt...

ADUBATO: Let me ask--so how you going to top it?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: ...has a cherry blossom--oh, you'll see it.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: We talked, he said he'll give up a little more, you know.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: It's a beautiful, beautiful T-shirt.

ADUBATO: Let me get this straight.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Even though Jeff has a lot more money, should contribute a lot more money.

ADUBATO: Now, you're challenging your co-chair--let me get this straight.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: No, I'm challenging Deb to making sure this year we win the T-shirt award, Essex County.

ADUBATO: Let me get this straight, Joe. Listen, you always call--you say

government under glass. The two county executives before you might have had some problems, OK. Not going to go into it.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: There's not going to be no three-peat in Essex County now, Steve.

ADUBATO: I understand what you're saying. And they're away, that's all I'm going to say. But here's what I'm going to say about you. Are you in any way--and I'm being very serious--are you saying because you're going to bring 1,000 people from the county, those employees, that you're insisting that Deb and her organization give you the award?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: No, because we're going to have a great T-shirt and we're going to have a large participant and we're going to raise a lot of money, and it's our park.

ADUBATO: It's our park! See, the Essex County way of doing things. See, you never leave the...

Mr. VANDERBEEK: It's the only way. It's the only way.

ADUBATO: It's the only way. And the expression that you created years ago, Essex, putting...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Putting Essex County first all the time.

ADUBATO: Yeah, whether they win or not.

OK, so what do we got, guys, couple minutes left? Two minutes.

Here we go, Jeff. Someone says, 'All right, but it's largely for women, right?' You got two guys as the co-chair. Deb and the organization picked you guys. What's the message to all the guys out there who are going to be hanging out, saying, 'What am I going to go to Branch Brook Park for?' What's the message?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Well, first of all, it's an unbelievable cause. There's mothers, there's daughters, you know, there's friends, there's sisters. You know, they're all around, OK?

ADUBATO: We're all affected.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: And I would also go as far as to say I had one of the best days of my life at Branch Brook Park last year. I took the subway up from Penn Station, I took my daughter. We were going to walk, we decided to run. And to see the people up there--men, woman, children--I'm telling you, go to it. You'll leave and you'll never miss the race again the rest of your life.

ADUBATO: Hey, Joe, it's--we have the advantage of having grown up in Newark. Tell those who haven't had that advantage--'enh, Newark, I don't know'--talk to them.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Well, just look what we've done since I've been the county since 2003, the improvements that we've made in Branch Brook Park. It's a very safe, it's very secure environment, and it's just a great place to be. And for the people that used to live in the city of Newark and to come back, wherever they live now--if they don't even live inside the county, they come back and to enjoy what's happened in Branch Brook Park. And we make sure there's enough security and stuff, and there's absolutely will be no problem

whatsoever. And the people will enjoy coming to Branch Brook to see the major improvements that we made in there.

ADUBATO: And couple minutes left, I just want to clarify. Again, everyone has been touched by this. I mean, Senator Ruiz was talking about the fact that there's some people, not by blood, but married into the family. You know, Deb, I mean, how many years again, Deb? Deb, is that...

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Twenty-one.

ADUBATO: Twenty-one. My God, 21 years. She was diagnosed at 33 years of age. Her husband, Joe B., Joe Belfatto's just the best guy.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: He is.

ADUBATO: Any one of us--I mean, guys are like thinking, nah, it's not for us. First of all, guys can get breast cancer.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Correct.

ADUBATO: Second of all, the women in our lives--our mothers, our sisters, our wives, you know, etc, etc.--this is not a man's issue. Excuse me, this is not a woman's issue. Right, Joe?

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Absolutely right. It could affect anyone. And that day when you come out you'll see everyone participating together and supporting that. And this--what this--what it stands for, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. And it's just not for women, it's for everyone.

ADUBATO: The race is on the 26th, folks. Register online, you see the Web site as I'm saying this. Is on the 26th. The 5K--you know, I didn't give this information, I should. The 5K walk starts at 8:45, and the run starts at 8:45. The 1K fun run and walk begins at 9:15. The county executive, who I happen to know because we're longtime personal friends, he is, as you can tell, considerably older than I am. He is on his treadmill on a regular basis, OK.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I'm already starting to work outside. You know, when you say 5K, it's actually a 3.1, three miles and 1/10.

ADUBATO: Three point one miles.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: Yes.

ADUBATO: And are you saying right now--because you are a man of your word, as a public official.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: I will be running.

ADUBATO: You will be running.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: And I hope you'll be running next to me. And Teresa Ruiz, too, our senator.

ADUBATO: Unh-unh. Excuse me, Mr. County Executive, I have to work the microphone. I have to introduce everyone, I have to be the person who creates the--I'm the emcee.

Mr. DiVINCENZO: The excitement, the excitement. I understand.

ADUBATO: That's me, I'm Mr. Excitement, Jeff Vanderbeek.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: That's what I hear.

ADUBATO: And you are committing once again that you will be running?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: Absolutely.

ADUBATO: Absolutely. And anyone else going to be on your team, real quick?

Mr. VANDERBEEK: I hope 500 or so of my best friends.

ADUBATO: And you're putting the arm on them, aren't you? You're going to squeeze them.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: They're going to want to do it.

ADUBATO: They're going to--and that's a good cause.

Mr. VANDERBEEK: A great cause.

ADUBATO: And Joe D.'s going to have 1,000 people. He's going to run. You have to be there. In fact, you know what, I am going to do--make a promise--guys, 10 seconds left--to Deb Belfatto and everyone at the affiliate. I am going to take that microphone, I'm going to run the race with that microphone. We're going to make a lot of money for a good cause.

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