THANK YOU SPEECH

FOR

JOHN MACCARONE

Hello everyone!!! I want to welcome all of you here tonight and I want to extend a special thanks to those of you who took time away from your busy and demanding schedules… like waiting on line for your iPhone 6, to be here in support of this worthy cause (**Wait for the laugh**). In all seriousness though, we thank you for all of the support you’ve demonstrated for the Cystinosis Research Network. We are humbled and so appreciative for all of the selfless contributions of time and enthusiasm made by the volunteers, the committee members, our special guest speakers, friends, and family, and most importantly, to all of you for your incredible generosity of spirit and resources. **(If you want to make a little joke you can say**) For those that truly know me, you’re aware that although I have a magnetic personality and great organizational skills… and while we’re at it, although some may think I’m a “born leader,” I’m not known for my ability to get up and speak in front of crowds…. hey-all the more reason to eagerly anticipate our guest speaker, Dr. Marla Friedman and the FUNNY MAN himself, Kevin Pollak!! By the time I’m done with my “Thank you’s,” I’ll need a session with Marla … no-**REALLY**… and it’s guaranteed that Kevin will absolutely be the funniest person you will ever hear… tonight!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Oh-and don’t forget our live auction run by Gianni Russo…. I’m sure that will be a great time for all…. or **ELSE**!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

My wife Arlene and I are here as co-hosts of this event and I know that seeing you tonight is gratifying to all of us on so many levels. We’re touched and humbled by your response-from the members of the organizing committee, like (**name the members of the committee you want to acknowledge**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to our other wonderful co-hosts, **(not sure if you want** **to name all of the co-hosts**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to the people right here at the Carlyle who have arranged such a great dinner.

Someone once said that “… Fatherhood has taught me about unconditional love, reinforced the importance of giving back, and instilled in me how to be a better person.” Arlene and I have two fantastic sons, Johnny and Brandon, and both were born with cystinosis. Every day I wake up and count our blessings that we are able to afford treatment for our kids, and they live happy, rich and fulfilling lives, but others are not so lucky, and that’s why we’re here. The contributions that each one of you have made will go a long way to finding treatment and hopefully a cure for this rare but potentially devastating disease. With life there’s hope. With friends there is **POSSIBILITY**. With family, there’s **POWER**. I want to thank my beautiful wife Arlene for being my muse and inspiration every day and to Johnny and Brandon-you make **EVERYTHING** worthwhile. Thank you all! Let’s have some fun!