



## TONY MARTELL SPEAKS

## FROM THE HEART ON THE

## IMPORTANCE SUCCESS OF BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA

## MULTI-PLATINUM SELLING BAND DNCE CLOSES OUT THE NIGHT WITH AMAZING PERFORMANCE

The T.J. Martell Foundation 41<sup>st</sup> New York Honors Gala was Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

New York, New York – (October 19, 2016) – The T.J. Martell Foundation Annual New York Honors Gala was held last night at Guastavino’s on 59<sup>th</sup> Street. The sold-out, highly-anticipated gala is held every year as a fundraiser for the foundation’s important work in cancer research. Last night was attended by stars of music and sports, New York’s most influential industry executives and important leaders in medicine. The event was sponsored by Barclays Center and raised \$1.3 million for leukemia, cancer and AIDs research.



Tony Martell, the founder of the T.J. Martell Foundation spoke passionately from the stage as he officially opened the night. Having devoted his life to finding a cure for cancer, he announced how the foundation played a pivotal role in the recent news that leukemia is no longer the number one killer in childhood diseases. “We have some big news tonight that I am about to tell you,” said Martell, after he welcomed the crowd. Since the 1970s, the T.J. Martell Foundation has provided funding for the research that has directly resulted in this significant medical announcement. In fact, the T.J. Martell Foundation can claim that they were among the first and most consistent supporters of this critical research that will

save millions of children’s lives. Along with the American Cancer Society and others, it was the T.J. Martell Foundation, Tony Martell and the team led by Dr. Jim Holland, who paved the way for children to beat *ALL*, or what is clinically known as *Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*. “It’s mind-boggling,” said Martell as he celebrated the lives of children that will be saved by this discovery and 41 years of never giving up on a promise he made to his son, T.J. in the hospital years ago to do whatever he can to find a cure.

Without funding from the T.J. Martell Foundation, the immunotherapy treatment responsible for such an important announcement could not have been discovered. The treatment, called CAR T-cell therapy is the immunotherapy that rally’s the body’s own defenses to fight the cancer.





Unlike other cancer advances, it has proven already to be stunningly effective in children and most common pediatric cancers. In many trials, many pediatric patients who had repeatedly relapsed saw their leukemia disappear. “We are making huge advances in research and the cure,” Martell added.

The gala was attended by stars of music and sports including actor Vincent Piazza (The Jersey Boys), WBA Middleweight Pro Boxer Danny Jacobs and players from the Brooklyn Nets including Randy Foye, Isaiah Whitehead and Caris LeVert. Honorees Mitchell C. Benson, M.D., Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Urology at Columbia University Medical Center, Russell Wallach, Live Nation President, Media and Sponsorships and Brett Yormark, CEO, Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment spoke about the importance of the T.J.

Martell Foundation’s work as they each accepted awards.



At 8:30 p.m., multi-platinum selling band DNCE closed out the night with a set that literally had the room shaking, guests dancing and an energy that could only be described as electric. The band performed “Pay My Rent,” “DNCE,” “Toothbrush,” “Body Moves” (their new single off of their self-titled debut album to release Nov 18) and “Cake by the Ocean.” They left the stage to the music of Queen’s “We are the Champions” giving one last reminder that the T.J. Martell Foundation is indeed the champion as “Music’s Promise for a Cure.”



Presenters for the evening were Dr. Ronda Bixon, MD, Record Executive Ron LaFitte, Republic Records Group President Charlie Walk, radio personality Craig Carton and Good Day New York’s Roseanna Scotto.

Additional images from the T.J. Martell Foundation 41<sup>st</sup> New York Honors Gala can be found at [www.gettyimages.com](http://www.gettyimages.com).

**PHOTO ID**

**Page One, Top Left:** Tony Martell speaks to the sold-out crowd at the T.J. Martell Foundation New York Honors Gala  
**Page One, Bottom Right:** Multi-Platinum selling band, DNCE performs at the T.J. Martell Foundation New York Honors Gala

**Page Two, Top Left:** Pro Middleweight Boxer Danny Jacobs presents to one of the night’s honorees, Brett Yormark

**Page Two, Mid-Right:** Laura Heatherly, CEO of the T.J. Martell Foundation poses with honoree Russell Wallach

**Page Two, Bottom Left:** Honoree Mitchell C. Benson, M.D.

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