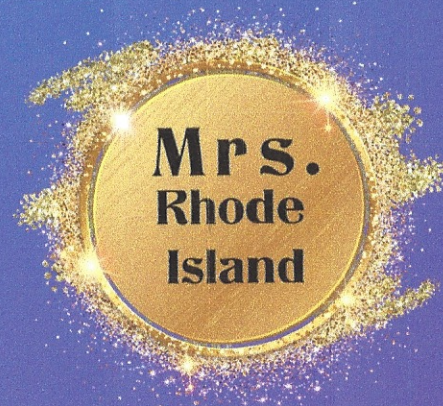


# What is a Role Model ?

*Anna Casador - Saccoccio*





# What does a Role Model Do ?

I never imagined myself as a role model !  
I was always in awe of those who were a role models for me.

But now I get it ! your journey, your passion,  
your ability to help others be resilient,  
living by example, that is what makes a good role model.

Thank you for taking the time to come on a short journey with me.





Sharing my story  
To inspire others

Turning Pain into  
Purpose and  
Possibilities



The logo for the Eric Medeiros Memorial Foundation. It features the name "Eric Medeiros" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. A small orange graphic, resembling a stylized head or a lightbulb, is positioned above the letter 'M'. Below the name, the words "MEMORIAL FOUNDATION" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font. A thick, orange, curved line sweeps from the right side of the text, extending towards the bottom right corner of the white rectangular area.

# **Eric Medeiros**

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

This is where my passion began.  
In memory of my son Eric, who was always by  
my side for all charity and community service  
events and needs.  
Continuing that work has been my therapy and  
opportunity to inspire and encourage others to  
have hope, to never give up !





**FOOD DRIVES  
&  
GETTING KIDS INVOLVED  
IN GIVING BACK**



Supporting Families in need with basic needs like food, clothing, school supplies and more.

Teaching our kids how to help and give back.





Our Annual  
Toys for Tots  
Event !!



# Supporting Animal Rescue



**Frank and I are supporters and Foster Parents for numerous Animal Rescue Organizations here in New England and In the US Virgin Islands**



“Remember that the  
happiest people are not  
those getting more, but  
those giving more.”

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.





Embracing my journey with  
Alopecia Areata  
and showing everyone its OK !!!

Your hair does not define you !

Now I'm proudly a  
Support Group Leader  
for the  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation





Nicole Renzulli  
CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL  
Councilwoman City Wide

April 14, 2021

Dear Selection Committee,

I'm very pleased to recommend Anna Casador-Saccoccio for the Role Model Award from American Women of Service. As a fellow pageant Queen and now City Councilwoman in the town where we both live, I have proudly worked alongside Anna for the past five years. We met when she was crowned Mrs. Knightsville and I'm so proud to have watched her incredible journey to now, where she stands the reigning Mrs. Rhode Island American 2020.

Anna quietly began doing charity work after her son Eric passed away, participating in small local events that gave her purpose and helped heal her hurting heart. Participating in a local charity pageant in 2016 helped open so many doors for Anna to achieve her dream of turning her service into an official Foundation, in honor of her late son. Less than one year later, Anna's continuous effort and kindness, led to the birth of the Eric Medeiros Memorial Foundation, a certified 501c3 non-profit. Two years after that, Anna opened Eric's Way Thrift Spot, carrying new and gently used clothing for kids, men and women. The sales would go directly to her son's Foundation and expanded the ways in which they were contributing to the community, in his name.

When I began pursuing pageantry, I sought a role model who was following a path that I could also see for myself; Anna stood out above the rest. She was involved in so much, but she did it with such grace and balance! Beautiful on the outside, but even more so on the inside, I watched Anna spread her service hours among amazing organizations such as: MAE Organization for the Homeless, Friends of Homeless Animals of RI, Lasagna Love program, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, and the St Mary's ladies Auxiliary. Anna's dedication and passion made her an invaluable addition to these organizations, which led to leadership opportunities at many of them. Anna has personal qualities that make her well-suited to leadership. She's naturally fallen into the role of "point person" that anyone in the community can go to with questions. She's not afraid to take risks and often suggests new directions to explore. She's committed to quality, growth, and progress, and she inspires others to strive for the same. In short, Anna is a person with vision, who others are naturally drawn to.

Anna has my highest recommendation for the Role Model Award. After all, I have personally watched her live her platform, "TURNING PAIN INTO PURPOSE AND POSSIBILITIES," and she was my role model before we even had the pleasure of meeting. Anna has taught me so many important life lessons and I'm so grateful to have found her. Anna's powerful story of self-growth and rebirth through servant leadership in her community, inspires people she doesn't know every single day, and in my humble opinion, THAT is the mark of the ultimate role model. Anna Casador-Saccoccio IS the ultimate role model.

Thank you very much for your time and please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Renzulli*

Nicole Renzulli  
Mrs. United States Italia  
Cranston Citywide Councilwoman

54 Massachusetts Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920  
(401) 824-9015 [nicoleforcranston@gmail.com](mailto:nicoleforcranston@gmail.com)







April 19.2021

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is a personal recommendation for Anna Casador-Saccoccio to be considered for the Role Model Award from American Women of Service. Anna has been an active member of the Cranston community for as long as I can remember, and I have come to know her very well through our mutual involvement in community projects and philanthropic efforts.

I met Anna just after she started the Eric Medeiros Memorial Foundation, a certified 501c3 non-profit, in honor of her son who had passed away one year prior. Anna's love for her son and her love for helping people was immediately obvious to me. Together we partnered with mutual friends and served both the MAE Organization for the Homeless and the St. Mary's Feast Society, regularly. Anna is always on the go: doing something and helping someone. I watched her continue to come into her own, opening Eric's Way Thrift Spot, whose sales benefited her son's Foundation, and getting involved in pageantry. Watching Anna turn her pain into passion... into progress... into purpose... Has always been inspirational.

Something that always stood out to me about Anna is that whatever she is involved with, she always brings others along for the ride. She makes sure that the charities she is dedicated to are well known among her peers and encourages them to give back to the community in a way that motivates them long term. Anna has a wonderful rapport with people of all ages, and especially those who are shy and those who are struggling. She has a special talent for working with people who need more guidance and support than most people are willing to give strangers. Her ability to connect with people and make them feel good about themselves is truly incredible. As a pageant Queen, Anna inspires the young, the old, and anyone in between to give pageantry a try and to use their exterior beauty as a catalyst to shine from within.

Anna would be a tremendous asset to your organization if she were selected as the recipient of the Role Model Award and I recommend her to you without reservation. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Edward Brady*

Owner, Thirsty Beaver  
Cranston Councilman Ward 4

[Brady4Cranston@gmail.com](mailto:Brady4Cranston@gmail.com)



## MRS. AMERICA STATE PAGEANTS

### CONNECTICUT ~ NEW JERSEY ~ RHODE ISLAND

Official Preliminaries to the Mrs. America / Mrs. World Pageants

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PO Box 19053 Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

\*401-943-0001 \* Fax 401-944-9975

To whom it may concern,

I have many important women in my life to whom I look up but the woman I consider to be the most inspiring to me is Anna Casador - Saccoccio. She is a smart and kind woman who will help anyone with any issues.

She is a role model for many different reasons. First, she is the strongest person I know. She has dealt with things I would never be able to conquer in my life. Always there to lend a helping hand or an ear to anyone in need.

Her life is so full of love, and her heart is so big. She is an inspiration to all people, young and old. She has shown me the importance of grace, hard work, and embracing challenges that life presents.

I only hope she has the opportunity to share her inspiration and set an example for all women to follow, because every day she has a kind word to say, and a helping hand to share. I am the Director of many pageants and the most important; Mrs. Rhode Island America has proven Anna's resolve when she was awarded "Mrs. Amity" by her peers!

That is why she is such a great role model.

Sincerely,

Elaine Paolo



To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Anna Casador - Saccoccio and to tell you what a wonderful, generous woman she is. My first experience with Anna was when she called my office to inquire about donating clothes to my organization, Comprehensive Community Action, Inc. (CCAP). CCAP is a private non-profit organization dedicated to providing programs and services to economically disadvantaged individuals and families.

I gave Anna all the information and we made an appointment for her to drop off her donation. My staff typically takes in the donations but after having spoken with Anna on the phone, I wanted to meet her personally. Anna and I immediately connected. She and I spoke in my office for over an hour. Anna told me about the tragic loss of her son. She is quite an inspiration for the way she has dealt with her grief. Where most would retreat, Anna became energized and started a charity in the name of her beloved son Eric Medeiros. She has worked tirelessly, in Eric's name to help others. I actually had a man call into CCAP who has Stage 4 Cancer and was undergoing treatment. The treatment had caused him to lose an enormous amount of weight and his clothes no longer fit him. In addition to that, he needed some medical supplies that were not covered by his insurance. I did not have any funding for that, but knew I could call Anna to see if she could help. By the next day, she had everything on the list and delivered it all to my office! The man was overwhelmed by her generosity as was everyone in my office.

One of my duties is to speak at local schools when they complete fundraisers for CCAP. I tell children about the importance of community service and how as our future leaders, they should continue to step up to the plate and help others. To inspire these children, I often tell them Anna's story because I believe she is a fabulous role model and a person to emulate. CCAP is blessed to have her as a wonderful resource when funding is so tenuous in the current economic climate. CCAP couldn't do what we do without people like Anna always willing to lend a helping hand. I looking forward to working with her for years to come. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 562-8333

Best regards,

Joanne P. Gregory, Vice President, Social Services  
Comprehensive Community Action, Inc.





*"Inspiring others to believe in miracles."*

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To whom it may concern,

There is only 1 word to describe Anna Casador and that is extraordinary. You see Anna is not only beautiful on the outside but she has a heart of gold on the inside making her the most beautiful soul. She is a mother, wife, sister, aunt, grandmother, pageant queen, friend and most importantly she is an angel.

I am a true believer that we are all put on this earth for a reason. Some are lost souls and never conquer what we are set out to do and other's well we figure it out and we get it. Anna is one of those remarkable women that get it.

She has overcome what would ruin most people and she just doesn't get up and brush her self off, she comes back even more positive and inspirational than she started with.

Anna would give anything to help anyone, she is that genuine.

Anna and I met when I was the reigning Mrs. Connecticut America and from the very second I met her I knew she was an angel in disguise. Not only do we have a lot in common with helping those in need, helping out another pageant girl or volunteering our time at charity events; we both have non-profit organizations that are very near and dear to our hearts.

Anna has gone above and beyond for my foundation, Ally G's Everyday Angels. She has driven over 2 hours to make appearances and help out at our events. She has not only volunteered her time but also gives back thru her absolutely delicious homemade secret recipes that her son Eric and her created while owning their custom bakery in St Croix. Together Anna and I are always looking to see where we can make a difference in someone life. Whether it be making them smile, offering a cup of coffee, surprising them with dinner or simply paying a compliment to another woman.

Anna is the most trust worthy, kind hearted, inspirational and simply amazing woman. I am the one honored to call her my friend.

Sincerely,

Allyson Genovese

Founder & President

---

[AGEverdayAngels@aol.com](mailto:AGEverdayAngels@aol.com)

Allyson Genovese, Founder & CEO  
(203) 233-3780



Like us on Facebook!  
Ally G's Everyday Angels  
Foundation



Anna is well known and admired both in her New England community, in St Croix, US Virgin Islands and in the pageant community, earning her many awards and recognition for her contributions and community service.

- **Leadership Roles and Past Awards**

- Best New Restaurant in St Croix, US Virgin Islands
- Board of Directors Secretary St Croix Animal Shelter & Fundraising Committee Director
- Founder & President of Eric Medeiros Memorial Foundation
- Treasurer – 4 yrs., St. Mary's Feast Society Ladies Auxiliary
- 2015 Outstanding Benefactor Award
- Citation from City of Cranston and Mayor Alan Fung
- Citation from RI House of Representatives
- 2017 & 2018 Mrs. Knightsville Rhode Island America
- 2017 & 2018 Amity Award – Mrs. Rhode Island Pageant
- 2018 Spirit Award – Mrs. Rhode Island Pageant
- 2018 Best Interview – Mrs. Rhode Island Pageant
- 2017 Achievement Award – Mrs. Rhode Island Pageant & Ms. New England States Charity Pageant
- 2017 Woman of the Year Award – Ms. New England States
- 2017 American Women of Service Volunteer of the Year
- 2017 President's Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2017 Abigail Kate Ladner Memorial Award
- 2017 National Elite American Woman of Service
- Purple Cat Winery Cupcake Challenge – winner 2 years in a row - 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2 categories, People's Choice Award
- 2018 Fitness Atlantic Fitness Competition – medal winner