

[recording starts with a 30 second ad for online casino]

Renee DiNino (iHeart Radio):

For iheartcommunities, it is Birdies for Charity. We are here in the fan zone the Travelers Championship. Our booth is brought to you by Webster Bank, supported by Enterprise, and of course iheartCommunities is a proud sponsor of Birdies for Charity, where charities earn 15% of every dollar that is donated through end of play, thanks to our friends at Webster! This is pretty exciting to have sitting next to us Kathy Flaherty, from the Connecticut Legal Rights Project. Hi Kathy. It's been a while!

Kathy Flaherty (CLRP): Hi Renee it's so good to see you. It has been a while.

Renee: It's great to see you. How are you?

Kathy: I'm doing...okay considering that we are still in a pandemic and uh.. hopefully soon to emerge from it, but we'll see if that happens. It's always great to be in Cromwell for this tournament!

Renee: absolutely. The nice thing about it is we've got our vaccinations and our boosters and we're still following the rules... hopefully people are and staying safe. Thank you for coming out. I know it's a big deal to have you out here. I'm really excited because I know you're very careful

Kathy: I am and I think the fact for better or for worse, the fact that it's raining and keeping attendance down -- for me is good

Renee (laughing) for you

Kathy: not for anyone else. I understand. This is a great tournament. I'm guaranteeing that the weather will be better the rest of the tournament

Renee: because you showed up today. Thank you very much for your sacrifice! Travelerschampionship.com is where you can go to get a list of all the charities that are involved and we've had Kathy on quite a few times, but remind our audience again, because it's been a little while, about the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, who you are and who you serve.

Kathy: sure. Connecticut Legal Rights Project was established in 1990. We are actually the result of a lawsuit that was brought by the then Connecticut Civil Liberties Union (now ACLU-CT) against what was then the Department of Mental Health on behalf of people who are patients at state-operated inpatient psychiatric facilities. So, that lawsuit settled with the establishment of a legal assistance program, which is CLRP. We represent people who not only live in poverty in Connecticut (we are one of the state's legal aid agencies), but we represent a subset of those folks. Our clients need to be eligible for mental health services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Renee: really being their voice

Kathy: elevating their voice. Because I think one thing -- and we've had this conversation before, many times over the years -- everyone has a voice, but some voices just aren't paid attention to and don't get the respect they deserve

Renee: that's a good point

Kathy: often times, when we're in the room, whether that's a virtual room or a physical room, we can elevate our client's voices, and many of them do

tell us it's the first time they've ever been listened to, and that's incredibly gratifying, especially when you can't always get the result that people want, because the law is ... complicated and doesn't always bring what people call "justice." I think when we can let people know that their rights have been respected even if the result isn't exactly what they want, it's a positive development.

Renee: because you took a step forward and let your voice be heard, however it may be.

Kathy: exactly.

Renee: now listen, how important are these funds from Birdies for Charity for you? What do they mean?

Kathy: These Birdies for Charity funds enable us to do some of the stuff we wouldn't otherwise be able to do. They are unrestricted dollars, which is great, and I love the magic of Bonus Bucks!

Renee: laughing

Kathy: Where else can you raise funds without paying a fee and then get -- and then the donor gets an extra 15% match? I love it.

And so, what it does help us do... as everyone has experienced during the pandemic, costs have gone up for things. You make a budget, expecting that things will cost a certain amount of money, and then the costs go up 5%, 8%, 10%, 12% ... and so this bit of money that we get from Birdies for Charity every year helps supplement our budget.

Renee: I am so excited to see you. Thank you for sharing a bit about your organization with us Kathy, you've always been a wonderful guest on our program. Birdies for Charity, you can donate through end of play. You can scroll through, pick the charity of your choice, we hope you'll choose Connecticut Legal Rights Project as well, it's always a pleasure to have you here in our booth!

Kathy: always great to be here.

[closes with a 30 second ad for a new iheart platform]