

Jono "Big Cat" Agurto was proudly nominated to represent Gilmer County in the charity event "*Mardi Gras in the Mountains*" to support Georgia Mountains Hospice. It's an amazing honor for Jono to represent Gilmer County in efforts to raise money for such a great cause. Jono will be competing against Pickens & Cherokee county to raise money for this incredible program. Monies raised will go to Georgia Mountains Hospice where they use the money to make a last wish for patients of all ages in hospice home care.

Just a little about Jono. He was raised in the north and came to his senses and moved south in the late 80's. Jono graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Criminology. He then moved to Atlanta and started working for the Fulton County Police. He eventually transferred to Duluth Police Department and was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division to investigate crimes which included Homicides, Rape, & Child Molestation. Jono was awarded the "Silver Medal for Bravery" from Duluth Police for saving an injured officer during a shootout. Jono then entered the Insurance Industry and is now the Captive Account Executive for Zurich Insurance.

Jono is married to his beautiful Alabama wife, Ashley (aka - Blondie) His family consists of his son, Zack (aka... The Panda) and granddaughter "Prettiest girl in the world" McKenna. He is also the parents to 3 Pittie Fur Babies (Scarlet, Marv and Jax)... "The Trouble-Makers"....

Jono is all about supporting his awesome community. He loves living in Ellijay and wants to uplift and give back to those in need whether they have 2 legs or 4 legs. Jono and his wife are the co-founders of "Ellijay Paws in Need", an all-volunteer program to support dogs at the Gilmer County Animal shelter. In the past dogs were only getting out about once a week and now every dog gets walked every day.

Jono is the creator of Lasagna Cook-Off Challenge at Buckley Vineyards where over \$100,000 has been raised for the animal shelter over the past two years. The money was used to build new play yards for the shelter dogs.

So here are some of the other charities, events and organizations Jono has both supported and raised money for are: (pics Below)

- Volunteers for Meals on Wheels to distribute food during the holiday's
- Chaperoned and hosted several sports outings with Special Need Adults to include attending Hawks, GSU football games, basketball games and Georgia Swarm.
- Raised and donated money & school supplies for three elementary schools in Costa Rica that he came across while on vacation.
- Raised thousands for the Tunnel-To-Towers (T2T.org) at the Buckley Blanc Party.
- Have raised thousands for the NF Charity (Neurofibromatosis) and participated in the Atlanta "Undie Run"... Yes I ran... Yes in my underwear. LOL.

The reason Jono mentions the charities, people and dogs he has supported is to let you know how serious and committed he is to this cause. Please consider donating to this amazing organization. All of the donations are tax deductible.

Additional Fun Facts about Jono

- North America's Best air guitarist.
- World's Best Average Golfer.
- Knows the lyrics to every Lionel Ritchie song ever.
- Best Shaky Leg Dancer in Ellijay.
- Once ate 5 dozen oysters in one sitting.



gofundme

Helping a school in Costa Rica

A screenshot of a GoFundMe page. At the top, there is a search icon, the "gofundme" logo, and navigation icons. Below the header is a photo of a group of children and adults in a classroom setting. At the bottom, the text reads "Helping a school in Costa Rica".