



FACE OFF

with the  **Ritchie**
HockeyFoundation.org

Talented and driven young athletes should only be limited by the size of their dreams and the depth of their commitment, never by the availability of financial resources.

EMPOWERING KIDS...ON AND OFF THE ICE

December 2020 Issue

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The Jason Ritchie Hockey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. Our tax ID# is 26-4803477



First and foremost, Bob and I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well. There have been so many families who have suffered loss of life, health and/or employment in 2020, and it is our sincere hope that yours was relatively unscathed. Especially during this holiday season, we are praying for all those who have been impacted and look forward to the vaccines and therapeutics that will allow us to get on the road to recovery.

As we look back, we recognize how truly fortunate we were to have hosted our Legends of Sport Weekend events this past January. It saddens us greatly that we won't be able to hold the event in January 2021 because of the pandemic, but we look forward to hosting it again once it's safe to do so, and we'll announce the date as soon as possible.

We so appreciate the generosity of our donors and our incredible celebrity athlete partners who have supported our Foundation throughout the years. In addition to furthering Jason's legacy, you have touched the lives of our scholarship recipients and hundreds of Tampa Bay area youth who have benefitted from our hockey and baseball clinics and mentoring initiatives.

We hope that you'll consider donating to the Foundation to help us continue to empower tomorrow's leaders. As you read our newsletter, we hope you feel a sense of pride about what we've accomplished thanks to your gifts and the kindness of all our donors.

Sincerely,
Donna and Bob Ritchie



HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Giving back to the community is of great importance to the Ritchie Hockey Foundation. Over the last several years we have been proud to sponsor several youth hockey and baseball events throughout Florida:



MAX STERNS

Max Sterns, a 20 year old young man with autism, gets around using his three-wheeled bicycle. In early October, Max locked his bike at a hotel while in Downtown St. Petersburg, where, unfortunately, it was stolen. Max and his family were staying at the hotel to be close to his newborn baby sister who was recuperating from surgery at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. Bay News 9 reported the story in hopes of finding the bike or having it returned. When The Ritchie Hockey Foundation heard about Max's story, they reached out to the family and arranged to replace his bicycle so he could get back to rolling through town.

LEGENDS OF SPORT WEEKEND



2020 RECAP



BASEBALL CLINIC

Our weekend of events started with a baseball clinic, held on Thursday evening at the home of the Division II National Champions, University of Tampa Baseball Field. A host of former big leaguers, in addition to several UT players, shared their knowledge and conducted a variety of drills with hundreds of aspiring sluggers.

CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

As our primary fundraising activity, we hosted our golf tournament at TPC Tampa Bay, a Golf Digest 4.5 star-rated course that has been named one of the top five golf courses in Florida by Florida Golf Magazine. After a 10 am shotgun start, Dave Andreychuk, Barry Larkin, Gary Sheffield and Will Floyd were among the 30+ All Star athletes who enjoyed a beautiful Friday on the links. This event has become more popular each year and we feel blessed that it has resonated so deeply with so many elite athletes and generous donors.

Their generosity and kindness epitomizes the heart of our Foundation and our mission.

YOUTH GOALIE CLINIC

It's the final event of the Legend of Sports Weekend and the activity most closely associated with Jason. On Saturday morning, in conjunction with the "Good As Gould Goalie School" at Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley Chapel, the largest ice facility in the southeast, we hosted a clinic for 30 goaltenders. This was the fourth year in a row that the Foundation has hosted this free event to support young hockey players and give back to Bay area youth.

OUR SCHOLARS

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation serves student athletes like Jason who play their hearts out. These kids develop strength of character, selflessness, and drive through hockey.



CALEB MORENO

- 11 years old
- Loves anything with technology and robotics
- Favorite subjects are math and science
- Caleb's greatest achievement this year was making a goal during his hockey game
- Hockey makes him feel excited and proud



JAYDEN ATCHISON

- 11 years old
- Extremely creative and likes to build things
- Wants to be an architect since he is good at math and science
- Was placed in 3 advanced classes this year
- Great team player and very empathetic



HOPE WALINSKI

- Goalie
- Outside of Winchendon, Hope is on the Boston Jr. Eagles u19 Tier 1 for club hockey
- Hope's favorite subject is Math
- Likes to workout at the gym and spend time outdoors with family and friends
- Hope's mantra – "You are your best motivator."



NOLAN MCDONOUGH

- Forward
- Nolan's favorite subjects are history and science
- After graduation Nolan wants to play junior hockey and attend college
- Nolan chose to play hockey for the passion and also the friendships you make along the way
- Nolan's mantra – "Be tenacious."



JERRY TARKAIANEN

- From Finland living in the USA while his father serves at MacDill AFB
- Play for Plant High School and for the "Jr Bills" U16-A travel team
- Outside of hockey Jerry likes to go to the gym, watch movies and play video games
- Will return to Finland in 2021



ETHAN HOOVER

- 17 years old
- Plays Junior Hockey for the Florida Eels
- After graduation Ethan will be going to school to be a mechanic
- To give back, Ethan volunteers with his sisters hockey team
- Favorite subjects are marine science and history
- Outside of school Ethan likes to fish

HALL OF FAME

2020 - 2021



HOPE WALINSKI

2020 - 2021



NOLAN MCDONOUGH

2019 - 2020



DANNY CAVANAGH

2018 - 2019



KILEY ROBLES

2017 - 2018



CAM GENDRON

2016 - 2017



HAYDEN DALTON

2016 - 2017



JAYDEN YOUNG

2015 - 2016



JOSHUA GEORGE

2014 - 2015



ADAM LETARTE

2013 - 2014



LAUREN KELLY

2012 - 2013



NICK FOLAND

2011 - 2012



FRÉDÉRIC GIROUX

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ We've raised over \$300K in 2020 and over \$1.5M in the 11 years since inception.
- ✓ Our success has allowed us to fund \$500,000 for future scholarships into perpetuity.
- ✓ We have financially assisted twelve student athletes at several preparatory schools. These student ambassadors actively represent the foundation's mission post graduation.
- ✓ We have financially assisted 4 local student athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ We are a key financial partner with the Tampa Bay Lightning Guide the Thunder program. This program assists over fifty at risk 7th and 8th graders in Hillsborough County to gain life skills.
- ✓ Several hundred participate in annual goaltender clinics in Florida and Illinois.
- ✓ Our administrative expenses average less than 10% annually.
- ✓ We're an all volunteer board engaged in helping to change the lives of tomorrow's leaders.
- ✓ We hosted our second Annual Baseball Clinic that brought in at risk youth and allowed them to practice key skills with their favorite baseball legends.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We welcome support from individuals, businesses and other organizations who want to give back by helping us empower young players to achieve their dreams on and off the ice.

Through your donations, we are able to offer free skill clinics and award scholarships to deserving student athletes who demonstrate outstanding strength and character, selflessness and leadership in their schools and communities.

Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.
Please make checks payable to: The Ritchie Hockey Foundation

Direct Mail:

Life is Energy!
-Jason Ritchie

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In 2020, the money raised went towards two scholarships for local students in the Tampa Bay area, which allowed them to not only participate in playing hockey but allowed them to get new equipment.

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation has contributed to:

Guide the Thunder

Rays RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities)

Burg Baseball

Brothers Reaching Out, Inc.

Sheffield Family Foundation travel ball teams, led by 9-time All-Star and World Series Champion Gary Sheffield

We look forward to continuing our support in the local community and can't wait to see what we can do this year!

