



The Ritchie Hockey Foundation — Empowering Student-Athletes On and Off the Ice

By Lisa Miller

Jason Ritchie found solace and purpose on the ice. More than just a sport, hockey taught him invaluable life lessons, especially the importance of teamwork, accountability and dedication. After his untimely passing in 2009, his parents, Donna Ritchie and Bob Ritchie, president and CEO of American Integrity Insurance, decided to keep his memory alive by launching The Ritchie Hockey Foundation, a foundation that uses hockey to help student athletes discover and live up to their potential. “We believe that student athletes should only be limited by the size of their dreams and depth of their commitment, never by the availability of financial resources. Our wish is to empower children both on and off the ice,” says Donna Ritchie.

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation gives a way to a lot of people, so it’s good to give back to people who make a way for a lot of people.

— Shedric “Shed” Long, Seattle Mariners

Jason’s alma mater, The Winchendon School, in Winchendon, Massachusetts, is where the vision started. Through a great partnership with the Winchendon School, The Ritchie Hockey Foundation has been able to provide scholarships to 13 bright individuals. The Jason Ritchie Hockey Ice Arena also resides there and through generous



2020 Annual Legends of Sport Golf Tournament: Left to right, Tony McGee, Jon Ritchie, Destin Hood, Joe Logan, Bob Ritchie, Mason Williams, Gary Sheffield, Barry Larkin, Trey Griffey, and Donna Ritchie



Bruins/ Lightning Alumni Charity Game 2017

donations the Foundation will be able to provide support to students into perpetuity.

Every January, The Ritchie Hockey Foundation hosts a fundraising weekend. Prior to 2018 the weekend featured a golf tournament and free skills clinic for hockey goalies. Since then, the Foundation has expanded to include a free baseball skills clinic as well. Founder Bob Ritchie says “while we are a hockey foundation, we’re really a kids foundation.” The skills clinic is two hours of instruction from a series of celebrity baseball coaches and athletes, including Coach Trevor Anderson, Kyle Schwarber, Barry Larkin, and Gary Sheffield. “We have the opportunity to give back and do something good for good people, that’s what it’s all about,” says Barry Larkin. The baseball clinic works alongside The Sheffield Family Foundation and Burg Baseball, bringing in kids from all over the Tampa Bay Area. The Legends of Sport Golf Tournament, hosted at TPC Tampa Bay in Lutz, Florida, is a great day of fundraising and celebration of these young students.

Many of the Foundation’s corporate sponsors are local to the Tampa Bay area, including Ryze, Caseglide, and Insurance Risk Services, and many of their independent insurance agents join for the fun as well. Bob Ritchie is grateful for all the support these last 13 years and says that “So many of our corporate sponsors are within the Florida insurance industry; without these partnerships, we would not be able to support all of these students and their dreams.” With the help of their sponsors, The Ritchie Hockey Foundation has raised over \$1.7 million since its inception. This star-studded weekend includes several Legends of Sport celebrities such as David Ross,



Ken Hodge Jr., Trey Griffey, Derrick Brookes, Ruslan Fedotenko, Dave Andreychuck and more. They are gracious enough to donate their time and spend the day with the sponsors and scholarship recipients.

Past scholarship recipients return each year to attend the clinics and golf tournament. Adam Letarte, the 2015 Winchendon scholarship recipient says, "I'll dedicate every year to come back and show my support in anyway I can; it's just a super fun time. We all love what they do for the kids."

In the last two years, their focus has turned to what they can do for their local community. The Foundation has been fortunate to be able to meet and provide support for



January 2022 Youth Goalie Clinic

eight young promising athletes and their families. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many families were unsure if they would be able to provide their children access to their passion — being on the ice. For this Foundation it isn't just about hockey. In 2020, they supported a young adult with autism in Saint Petersburg, who unfortunately had his trike stolen off of a bike rack. He used that bike as a means of transportation and that loss meant he could no longer be independent. After speaking with the family, the Foundation was able to find the exact bike and replaced it to get him back to cruising around.

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation is proud to say they have kept in touch with many of their scholarship recipients, watching them graduate from high school and go on to the Marines, the Boston Pride, running a business, and two of them have become pilots. The Ritchie Hockey Foundation

Just knowing I'm part of the Ritchie family now is amazing; they will do anything to help you be successful.

— *Kylie Robles, 2018-2019 Scholarship Recipient*

is looking forward to a bright future for the Foundation and all of their scholarship recipients.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

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Lisa Miller represents and advises property insurance companies representing 25 percent of Florida's 6 million personal and commercial residential policies. She served as lead advisor to Florida's Property and Casualty Insurance Fraud Task Force and serves as regulatory consultant to investors who are entering Florida's insurance market. She has served on numerous panels and commissions including the Governor's Property Insurance Reform Committee, and the Medical Malpractice Professional Claims Liability Reporting System Task Force. She currently serves as the governor's appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and is a board member of the Corrections Foundation. She is also a member of the American Flood Coalition.



Jason Ritchie '05 Hockey Arena at the Winchendon School, Winchendon Massachusetts



January 2020 Youth Baseball Clinic

HALL OF FAME

2021 - 2022



ZOE TOW

2021 - 2022



DEVON GOOSEN

2021 - 2022



LOGAN HORKEY

2021 - 2022



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2021 - 2022



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KATE ROWELL

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2014 - 2015



ADAM LETARTE

2013 - 2014



LAUREN KELLY

2012 - 2013



NICK FOLAND

2011 - 2012



FRÉDÉRIC GIROUX

The Hall of Fame represents all scholarship recipients from The Winchendon School, Vermont Academy, and all over Florida from the Foundation's inception to today.