

FACE OFF

with the



EMPOWERING KIDS...ON AND OFF THE ICE

NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Hall of Fame
- Meet a Scholar
- Locker Room Talk
- How You Can Help

SAVE the DATE

LEGENDS OF SPORT WEEKEND



THURS 1.18.24
YOUTH BASEBALL
CLINIC
START: 6 pm

FRI 1.19.24
CELEBRITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT
10 am SHOTGUN

SAT 1.20.24
YOUTH GOALIE
CLINIC
START: 1 - 4 pm



On behalf of myself and the entire Board, we hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We are looking forward to seeing all of you for the 6th Annual Legends of Sport weekend as we begin the 15th year of a Foundation that puts kids first and empowers them to passionately pursue their goals – on and off the ice, field or court. This Foundation is close to our heart and one that we believe resonates with so many.

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation was established with the aim of promoting the sport of hockey among underprivileged youth and providing them with opportunities they may not otherwise have had. We have seen firsthand the transformative power of youth sports and can attest to the positive impact it can have on a young person's life.

For those that may be new to us, the Ritchie Hockey Foundation is dedicated to honoring the memory of Jason Ritchie, a passionate hockey enthusiast who tragically lost his life too soon. We are committed to ensuring that his love for the game lives on through the lives of young athletes who share his passion and determination.

In just the first half of 2023 we have been able to grant 23 scholarships across Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, Oregon, and more. We would not be able to impact the lives of these wonderful young student athletes halfway across America without your generosity and support. Your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of these aspiring athletes. We hope that you will consider making a donation to enable us to continue providing scholarships for coaching, equipment, league fees and other sports-related expenses, making the dream of playing a sport a reality for children who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

By contributing to the Ritchie Hockey Foundation, you are not only investing in the future of these young athletes but also helping to foster teamwork, discipline, and a strong work ethic among them. These skills learned in sports extend far beyond the ice, field, or court; positively impacting their academic and personal lives.

We are grateful to the many celebrated athletes who have participated in our Legends of Sport Golf Tournament over the years. Many of them will be back on Friday, January 19, 2024. Please consider signing up to be a sponsor and have the opportunity to play with one of these star-studded players.

We will also be hosting two FREE clinics this year to the youth of Tampa Bay. If you have budding hockey goalies, baseball players or even softball players, we would love to have them participate. All information can be found on our website, www.ritchiehockeyfoundation.org. We have sponsorship opportunities for these events, as well.

Even if you're unable to be a sponsor, your donation, large or small, can make a world of difference in the lives of these children. Your support will have a lasting impact on the lives of young hockey enthusiasts and will help us continue Jason's legacy of passion, dedication, and love for the game. We are grateful to all of you and happy to have you as part of the Ritchie Hockey Foundation Family.

See you soon,
The Ritchie Hockey Foundation Board

HALL OF FAME

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.

2023 - 2024



AVA PROVENZO

2023 - 2024



DERECK NAMLICK

2023 - 2024



MCKENNA GERMAIN

2023 - 2024



JAMES BROWN

2023 - 2024



RAYDEN WHALEN

2023 - 2024



RYKER WHALEN

2023 - 2024



CALEB POWERS

2023 - 2024



ANTHONY ALAHUZOS

2023 - 2024



KEVIN RODRIGUEZ

2023 - 2024



MICHAEL BOUTROS

2023 - 2024



MIKAYLA BOUTROS

2023 - 2024



KAIDEN ZAWADZKI

2023 - 2024



DANIELLA FISHER

2023 - 2024



MASON LEGER

2023 - 2024



CAMERON LEGER

2023 - 2024



BEN JARDINE

2023 - 2024



ELEANOR RUHRDANZ

2023 - 2024



JACKIE BOUTROS

2023 - 2024



CARSON PHILLIPS

2023 - 2024



JOHNNIE MILIAN

2023 - 2024



ANTHONY LARSEN

2023 - 2024



SOPHIA "GIANNA" ECKEL

2022 - 2023



JACKIE BOUTROS

2022 - 2023



DEVON GOOSEN

2022 - 2023



BEN ANDERSEN

2022 - 2023



CAYDEN BROYLES

2022 - 2023



JAMES BROWN

2022 - 2023



TUCKER DERKS

2021 - 2022



ZOE TOW

2021 - 2022



DEVON GOOSEN

2021 - 2022



LOGAN HORKEY

2021 - 2022



MILES ROWELL

2021 - 2022



ROBBY ROWELL

2021 - 2022



KATE ROWELL

2020 - 2022



HOPE WALINSKI

2020 - 2022



NOLAN MCDONOUGH

2020 - 2021



ETHAN HOOVER

2020 - 2021



JAYDEN ATCHISON

2020 - 2021



CALEB MORENO

2020 - 2021



JERRY TARKAINEN

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 LATARTE

2013 - 2014



LAUREN KELLY

2012 - 2013



NICK FOLAND

2011 - 2012



FR  D  RIK GIROUX

MEET A SCHOLAR

SOPHIA “GIANNA” ECKEL



Hockey is more than “just” a sport. Hockey is family, it is home, and it is the place to facilitate life-long dreams. Fueled by a love of the game; overcoming the trauma as the survivor of a school shooting in 2019, her healing was assisted by her hockey family. The Director of Hockey for the Littleton Hawks was also a school shooting survivor of Columbine, and he created a safe place for her to become “re-grounded” in the sport she loved.

From there the fires were fueled, and each year she sets and reaches for new heights and goals. Upon arriving in Florida in 2020, she began with an opportunity to play in 2021/2022 as a U14 AA goaltender on an all-girls TB Lady Lightning travel team (at 11 years old) and was abruptly asked to also play for the TB Junior Lightning Co-ed team as well, where she led her team to a U12A State Championship title in 2022.

The 2022/2023 Hockey Season provided her even more opportunity to grow and dream with a season of both co-ed (U12AA TB Junior Lightning) and girls U12AAA travels with the Florida Alliance, which was one of four teams from the USA to compete in the first, Female Division of the Quebec PeeWee Internationals (63 history) in February 2023. Thanks in part to the generosity of the Ritchie Foundation for assisting with her journey for 10 days of competition against female and male teams from all over the world. A highlight game was a 6-0 shutout win against Team England to begin the tournament.

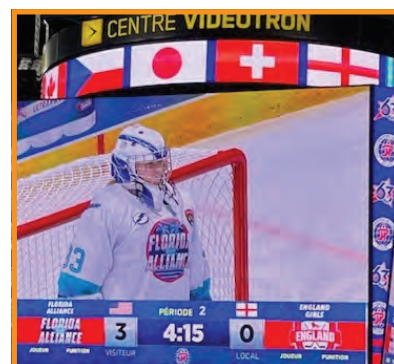
2023 summer was also filled with elite travel, playing for both US and Canadian Elite teams, but most importantly, achieving one of the first goals that she had set last year, to



RHF board member, Kyle Konin, helped design and create Gianna's helmet that she proudly wears in her photos. *Photo from NujaxAirbrush.com*

be selected for the USA Development Team. She indeed did make the team, checked in on July 4th, and spent a week training with coaches and teammates. In the final USA Development team competition, she led her team to a shutout in the first half and assisted in their 3-2 win to end the week. This added to the spark to make the USA Development team again this year.

For 2023/2024 winter seasons, she has had the opportunity to train with top Prep School and Division 1 coaches sparking her goals to play Prep School, Elite, and Division 1 college hockey in the future.



FUTURE GOALS

Hockey Goals: 2023-2024

- To be selected for USA Development (14/15-SP'24)
- To be 2024 U14A TB Junior Lightning State Champions (Currently, 6-0)
- To qualify with her Girl's Tournament Team for U14 AA Nationals in March
- To raise \$1000 for **Goalie Saves** supporting cancer research

Long Term & Career Goals

- To play NCAA Division 1 hockey
- To continue to make the USA Development, future USA U18 and Olympic Teams
- Career Goal: To become a Sports Psychologist
Why Sports Psychology? Her response was:
“to give back and help others with challenges of trauma through sports, and to help athletes turn their life challenges into fuel for achieving goals in both sports and in life.”

LOCKER ROOM TALK

Transitioning from a High School to College Athlete

Mental Health

Going to College is a huge change. College athletics will push you just as hard mentally as it does physically. Seeking out an on campus counselor can help you get ahead of any anxiety you may feel while trying to juggle sports, a new environment, and new classes. Asking for help is a strength not a weakness.

Get involved

Remember you are not your sport.

Find another club or volunteer opportunity to ensure you are always growing and meeting new people.

Find your "Family"

Being away from your family and your hometown friends can be difficult.

Connect with your dormmates, your classmates, your teammates.

Create a "Family" you can count on in your new home.

Social Media

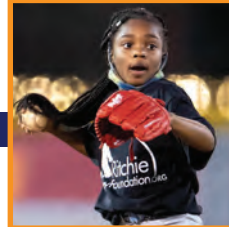
Reminder, what goes on the internet, stays on the internet.

Be mindful about what you post. You are an adult now and you have responsibility to be a role model to the young generation that may be following you.

Sleep

Lack of sleep will hinder your performance academically, physically, and mentally.

Prioritize sleep, it is key to improvement in all areas of your life.



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INSTAGRAM:

[ritchiehockeyfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/ritchiehockeyfoundation)

The Jason Ritchie Hockey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

Our tax ID# is 26-4803477

HOW YOU CAN HELP

One-time Donation: Your one-time contribution, no matter the amount, will be greatly appreciated.

Recurring Donations: Consider setting up a monthly, quarterly, or annual donation to provide sustained support.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Explore partnership opportunities for your business or organization to sponsor the golf tourney, goalie clinic or baseball clinic.

Volunteer: If you have time and expertise to share, consider volunteering with our foundation to mentor and inspire young athletes.

Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.

Please make checks payable to:
The Ritchie Hockey Foundation

Direct Mail:

The Ritchie Hockey Foundation
c/o American Integrity Insurance
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Tampa, FL 33609