

“Wish upon a Northstar” Winter Classic Fundraiser

This is the sixth year that we will be using our Winter Classic Girls’ Hockey Tournament to help raise funds for a worthy cause, and once again, we are looking for **your help**. It all started in 2004, when our Northstars 16U team attended a hockey tournament outside of Ottawa, ON, the KGHA Competitive Tournament, hosted by the Kanata Girls Hockey Association. It was there that we learned of the plight of one of Kanata’s own players, Emilie Joinette, and decided to dedicate our tournament to raising funds for her and her family. Emilie inspired us to make this an annual event, and the rest, as they say, is history!

- **2005** – We raised over **\$1,700** to help offset expenses for the family of **Emilie Joinette**, a member of the Kanata Rangers (Ontario) hockey organization, who had Cystic Fibrosis, and was at the time waiting for a double lung transplant (which she subsequently received in January, 2006). Sadly, Emilie lost her battle with this disease on December 27, 2009.
- **2006** – For our next effort, we chose to raise funds for the **Gulf Coast Youth Hockey Association** (Biloxi, MS), who, in addition to each of their families’ personal hardships, lost all of their hockey equipment during Hurricane Katrina. We were thrilled to host their hockey director, Stephane Neron, at our tournament, and with the generosity of participating teams, we raised over **\$5,500** in our “*Hockey for Hurricane Relief*” fundraiser.
- **2007** – For our 3rd fundraiser, we decided to dedicate our tournament to raising money for the family of **Justin Lancour**, a teenager from Essex, VT, who suffers from an inoperable brain tumor. Justin’s sister Jenna (a former member of our very own Northstars family), and his dad Pat were a big part of the previous year’s fundraising efforts. Pat and Jenna’s unbelievable generosity in donating items from their own hockey memorabilia for our “Hurricane Relief” fundraiser raffle was very moving, and we decided to help them in their time of need. We were thrilled to present the Lancours with a check for **\$5,200**, and are pleased to announce that Justin is doing very well these days!

- **2008** – This time we chose two recipients for our fundraiser, the **Albany Cougars Special Hockey Club** and **Operation Adopt a Soldier**. The Cougars are a non-profit amateur hockey program for youths and adults with developmental disabilities, while OAS is also a non-profit organization that sends care packages to military personnel overseas and helps their families here at home. We were excited to present a check for **\$3,500** in raffle proceeds to the Cougars and **\$800** in 50/50 proceeds to OAS!
- **2009** – Last year we decided to raise money to help find a cure for **Friedreich's Ataxia**, a rare, debilitating neuro-muscular disease that has stricken **Dylan McDonnell**, son of our own long-time Northstars coach Dave McDonnell. While the disease is incurable, we were thrilled to raise **\$3,250** for Dylan and the **Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance**, a non-profit group established in 1998 to search for a cure for this disease and help its victims.

That brings us to this year's tournament. For Winter Classic XVI, we have decided to raise money for **Abbie Landon** and **Operation Santa Claus**. One of our own Northstars, **Abbie** was diagnosed in 2007 with Glioblastoma, the most common type of malignant brain tumor (cancer) in adults. Despite an average survival rate of one year, Abbie has defied the odds, and through surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, she continues to fight this devastating disease. At present, the tumor's growth has been held in check. **Operation Santa Claus** is a local non-profit run by a small group of citizens that raises funds to provide warm clothing and food to needy children throughout five counties and twenty-six school districts. **Operation Santa Claus** is celebrating its 35th year, and now reaches over 2,500 underprivileged children annually.

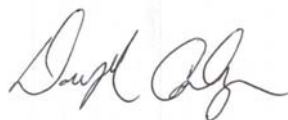
Also, this year we will be providing receptacles at each of our venues to collect non-perishable food items for **WAIT House**, a local non-profit that provides shelter and aftercare support for homeless teens, and also receptacles to collect new and slightly used books for the **Bright Red Bookshelf**, a non-profit that distributes books to underprivileged children through area health care centers, hospitals, and County Head-Start programs.

In addition to our huge tourney raffle and 50/50 drawings, we annually encourage teams to partake in their own fundraising efforts towards this cause, as several teams have done in the past. As always, **100%** of fundraising efforts will go the fundraiser recipients. And, because we feel this is such an important facet of our tournament, we will once again present a commemorative plaque to the team raising the most money (last year's top fundraising team was the **New Canaan Wildcats!**). We also hope some of you will get a chance to meet Abby, as she will be at the tourney throughout the weekend.

Once again, on behalf of the Tournament Committee and the Adirondack Northstars, we thank all of you in advance for helping our tournament make a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

Darryl Coltey



Winter Classic Director