



Rice Lake Hockey Members, Alumni, Parents & Friends,

We hope this letter finds you all doing well. Whether it has been many years or just a few days since you last stepped foot in the rink, we hope that the very mention of Rice Lake Hockey brings back fond memories of forging lifelong friendships at the rink, learning valuable life lessons of leadership and teamwork, and a solid work ethic that was instilled during “no puck” practices. Although the wins and losses have been forgotten over the years (mostly..... some of them still sting!), we hope that the overwhelming emotion felt by everyone is how much FUN was had with your hockey family at the rink.

Our letter today is twofold. First, we are fast approaching the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of our hockey association (1970), and we are nearing the 40-year reunion of the 1980 state team, as well as the 10-year reunion of the 2010 state team. It is our hope that we can continue to honor the history of Rice Lake Hockey by including our alumni in our future. Plans are currently underway to recognize them during a varsity hockey game sometime in early 2020. Second, over the last several years we have been working on plans for a much-needed addition. We are hopeful that you can help the next generation of Rice Lake Warriors be afforded the same opportunities you experienced by considering a gift to the rink.

We are proud of our rink that has “good bones”, a lot of character and some of the BEST ice around. Over the last 15 years we have remained DEBT FREE, while continuing to make many maintenance and safety upgrades. We have replaced plexi glass with tempered glass, repainted the building, added on to the Zamboni room, replaced the flooring and added wood siding to the walls, which we have done - little by little - over the years, as we can afford. We have not raised our fees in over 10 years, and we continue to provide over \$250 in loaner equipment (per skater) to our smallest skaters, as well as Goalie equipment to our Goalies. Currently we offer hockey free of charge to our Learn-to-play/Learn-to-skate kids (under 6 years old) and from there our fees range from \$100 at the Mite level to \$300 at the Bantam level. Our hope is that we can continue to remain debt free so we can continue to make hockey affordable for as many kids as possible.

Which brings us to the point of this letter.

- 1) Our first fundraising effort is underway to raise money for our immediate and most pressing needs. \$320,000 to remodel the shower rooms, remodeling of men’s and women’s restrooms to make them ADA compliant, insulate the roof with spray foam, install an e-liner and install a new dehumidification system & heaters. Although the shower room/restroom remodel was already in the works for this summer, if anyone was at the last varsity home game this season and saw the water pouring out of the light fixtures and onto the ice, they know the issues we are facing. Our 30-year-old humidification system is no longer operational and needs to be replaced. Although many (most) rinks have heaters, we have stubbornly prided ourselves on having the coldest rink around. However, it was recently brought to our attention that the addition of heaters not only attracts more fans, but it also dries out the air and is therefore less taxing on the humidification system.
- 2) Our second fundraising effort is to raise \$507,000 for the addition of 2 locker rooms, a ref room & mechanical room on the north side of the building. Additional locker rooms have been on our radar for the last several years. With the increasing popularity of girl’s hockey, we simply do not have the facilities to accommodate girls. Currently, when we have girls needing to change during tournaments or games, they are forced to use the

electrical room. If we have refs that need to change, we are shuffling them between the electrical room and varsity coach's office. Obviously, this is not an ideal situation and it needs to be rectified.

- 3) Our final fundraising effort is to raise \$330,000 for a combination Dry Land/Shooting facility. We have used every available inch of utilized area in the rink. If anyone has been at a hockey game and seen a tennis ball or puck "accidentally" land on the ice, or heard the click-clack click-clack of kids practicing their stick handling in the upstairs viewing area.....well.....it's hard to scold a kid who is just working on his skills! In order to maximize our limited practice time, we are needing to add more usable space to the rink.

Ideally, we would like to keep our Alumni updated on the "goings on" of Rice Lake Hockey, as well as keep tabs on our former alumni; possibly doing a "Where are they now?" monthly highlight. We have compiled a list of alumni on our website [ricelakehockey.com](http://ricelakehockey.com) under the Alumni tab, but if you are aware of someone that is missing please let us know. Also, if any of your contact info has changed please let us know that as well. We have an ALUMNI registration link on the website and we also have a Facebook page (Search Rice Lake Youth Hockey Association). Please stay tuned as we plan for the Anniversary/Reunion in early 2020!

RLHA is an IRS 501(c)3 charity, so your donations are fully tax-deductible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! A receipt will be emailed to you, so please make sure we have your correct contact information. Also, in order to be recognized on our donation wall for the alumni event, please make sure that we receive your donation by September 15, 2019. The donors will be recognized during the alumni event next season.

See the attached Donor Donation Document to find the giving level that's right for you. If you're ready to make a donation, please send in the bottom section of the attached donor document back to the Rice Lake Hockey Association with your corresponding donation.

Sincerely,

**Rice Lake Hockey Board**

Jeff Frischmann (President), Chris Fitzgerald (Vice President), Steve Crotteau, Justin Daniels, Tony Johnson, Steve Scheurer, Zach Storberg, Josh Tomesh & Sean Wager