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Home of the Spartans

ORONO ARENA IMPROVEMENT campaign

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we need a fundraising campaign?

The Orono Ice Arena was built in 1997 and was paid for almost exclusively by private donations. The rink cost \$3.2 million to build and the community raised \$2.4 million. The fund raising gap of \$800,000 was financed with bank loans. Today, seven years later, there remains \$625,000 that needs to be paid. Approximately \$300,000 of that debt is tied to annual revenue sources, such as the Arena Dasher Board Advertising Program, Spartan Classic Golf Tournament and Fall Face Off event for repayment. The \$325,000 balance cannot be serviced from arena operating income and must be reduced. The debt is expensive to carry and restricts the arena from properly maintaining the facility. Additionally, the locker rooms, players' entrance doors, concession stand and other important projects all require basic improvements. An arena repair and replacement fund should be created to provide annual maintenance to the arena's Zamboni and mechanical systems.

What is the campaign goal?

The goal is \$500,000.

Who owns the Orono Ice Arena?

The Arena is a 501(C) 3, not-for-profit, community owned and operated facility. A 5 member Board of Directors appointed by the Orono Hockey Boosters, Inc, the Orono School District and City of Orono manage the arena. There is one full-time employee.

Who uses the arena?

The arena's main tenants are the Orono School District's boys and girls hockey programs, the Orono Youth Hockey program and Orono Community Education. There are also men's and women's hockey leagues, professional hockey skills development clinics and schools and organizations.

The arena's community room is available for meetings and special events.

Over 1,200 boys and girls use the arena annually. It is an invaluable community

asset that promotes quality family activities and healthy lifestyles.

How was the money raised to build the arena?

In the early 1990's a group of dedicated Orono Hockey parents met with the single dream of building an arena in Orono. The Orono High School boys and girls hockey programs were practicing and playing its home games at the Pond Arena in Mound and the growing youth hockey program was renting ice in six different rinks. Parents were troubled by the availability of ice time and concerned with their young players skating late on school nights and early Sunday mornings. An ambitious and energetic Arena Development Committee, lead by Mark Engbretson and Pat Wolfe, was formed. The Orono Arena opened September 12, 1997 and was the culmination of the tireless effort and perseverance of many determined individuals.

The arena was built almost entirely with money raised from the generosity of the Orono Community. The Orono Arena Development Committee received gifts from civic-minded local families, the Orono hockey community, local businesses, foundations and charitable organizations.

How is the Arena Improvement Campaign organized?

The Orono Arena Improvement Campaign 2004 is lead by members of the Orono Hockey Booster Board and the Arena Board. The campaign is divided into four divisions; Major Gifts, Orono Hockey Association Membership, Orono Alumni and Corporations Foundations and Charitable Organizations. All potential giving sources will receive a campaign solicitation letter and pledge card and a personal call or visit.

How can I help?

The campaign needs your help to be successful. Please show your support of the Orono Ice Arena and its programs by making a tax-deductible contribution. You may gift cash or appreciated stocks or other assets.

Be a "Bleacher Booster" and have a family name plate installed on the bleachers for \$1,500 payable over three years. Leadership Circle gifts will be recognized on the *Orono Arena Contributors Plaque* displayed in the arena lobby.

We also welcome your help on any of our committees.

We are proud of our arena and your help is greatly appreciated!