

# Thank You to Hockey Clubs And Families from Far and Wide

*By NoozeBox.com*

The hockey community united from all over to help those displaced by the Peoria tornado.

NoozeBox spoke with Drew Cassidy of Hockey Supports Hockey, and Wendy Wagner, a Peoria Youth Hockey Club Mom. Both of the victims had the utmost to say about the generosity of all the hockey clubs not just in Illinois, but from other states as well.

According to Cassidy, several clubs that were playing in Peoria showed up with donations, gift cards, and relief money. As they approach the \$40,000 mark, it has been unbelievably helpful for the families in need.

“This was particularly moving as it allowed several of the displaced families to personally greet those teams and express their appreciation (& disbelief) at the generosity.”

Wendy Wagner explained just how important those gift cards were to her family as well as others that had been displaced. Wendy has three boys who all play hockey. If it weren't for hockey, the Wagner family would have been at home when the tornado hit, instead the family was at the rink, watching her son's game.

Their house was destroyed, along with 1,082 others. The Wagners are now living in a rental home about ten miles away, but the costs for starting over were huge. The family had nothing for their kitchen - no salt, no pepper, or condiments.

“Well, every day is a new challenge and a new victory, the house was torn down yesterday and that was a little tough, but we have a great support group. We have families far and wide that have come to help us in everyway they could think of so we know we're blessed and we know we're fortunate,” said Wagner.

The Wagners have a 16-year-old who plays Triple A hockey and lives with a host family in San Diego. He has a tournament in Vancouver between Christmas and New Years that the family wasn't going to be able to attend after the tornado hit. They were devastated that they would only see their son for a few days and he would leave Christmas Day for his tournament. A family in Texas started networking and got organizations to get plane tickets for the rest of the family.

According to Wendy, “It's just so unimaginable that people are willing to sacrifice at this time of year. You know, it's a tough time for people to have anything extra laying around and I know they don't have anything extra and that they are making sacrifices.”

This is just one example of how everyone's generosity has helped a family in need. There are many more families like the Wagners and we would like to thank all the people who donated to help these families. Below is a list of some of the clubs that have made a difference for these families.

- Northern Express
- Midwest Blackbirds
- Sabre Hockey Association
- Leafs
- CYA (U16 & U18 Boys)
- Cyclones
- Quad Cities
- Vikings
- Wolfpack
- Northbrook
- Glenview Stars
- Yellow Jackets
- Kings H.S. hockey team
- South Bend Irish
- Northwest Chargers
- Winnetka
- Maulers
- Skokie Flyers
- Jets
- Kenosha Komets
- Chicago Bruins

Some of these clubs had multiple donations from a number of individual teams. For instance, there were 5 separate donations from individual teams within both the Cyclones and Midwest Blackbirds organizations. Others donated only in the organization name even though it came from a number of different teams. And, in a few instances, the donation came from a single family within the organization but in the organization's name.

Additionally, we received a matching \$5K donation from the Northern Illinois Hockey League and a significant donation from AHAI. We also received individual donations from several companies within these communities.