



Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation

PO Box 2221, Darien, CT 06820 • 888.265.5859 • www.ohhf.org

A 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to maintaining and improving quality of life by providing financial aid to individuals with spinal cord injuries.



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, AT 7PM
DARIEN ICE RINK, DARIEN, CT**

THE BIG ASSIST

TO BENEFIT THE OBIE HARRINGTON-HOWES FOUNDATION

An exhibition hockey game with
NHL, AHL, current and former
Division I/III college players,
and DYHA alums among others

PRESENTING SPONSORS:





Dear Hockey Fans and Friends of Obie,

I can't thank you all enough for being here tonight to support the critical and caring work of the Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation. The outpouring of cooperation and support for the inaugural BIG ASSIST, particularly in these trying times, amazed me as we watched sponsors quickly line up and early ticket sales come in.

When we first thought about a name for this event we asked ourselves, "What does the Foundation do?" Simply, it helps people who suffer from spinal cord injuries and disease; it assists them. Bingo, there you have it. In my business, ice hockey, an assist is a very important thing. I love assists and, most of the time, a goal is scored because of an assist or two.

THE BIG ASSIST is no different. It would not be taking place this evening if it were not for dozens of people helping one another, in a big way, over the last two months. So many people have been involved that I can't begin to name them all, but a few call outs are a must.

First, please join me in thanking all the players here tonight. This is a special group of guys who have volunteered their time and energy to entertain you. They love the game, and they love seeing you here, too.

In May, Jamie Tropsa and my dad, Pat Shannon, began working on this event. A few meetings later, plans were in place, and the rest is history, which you are about to experience. Stop in at Blueline and when you see Jamie, please extend a big thanks; this would not have happened without him.

The Romanos at the Darien Rink and Dale DeRosa at the snack bar donated the ice time, personnel, and catering services. Bill Ferguson, from Archie Moore's Restaurant in Norwalk provided the beverages for the "Skybox."

The event would not be what it is without the support and active participation of the Foundation's board, and its executive director, all who have worked tirelessly.

To the many sponsors, auction donors and volunteers, what more can I say? THANK YOU.

Before we take the ice, I have to recognize some very saddening news. As I am sure most of you know, last week Laura Jessiman, the mother of my friend and colleague Hughie Jessiman, passed away in an accident while vacationing in Scotland. It hurts thinking about it. I know I am expressing the wishes and prayers of the hockey community, Darien and beyond, as I offer our most sincere sympathies and condolences to the Jessiman family.

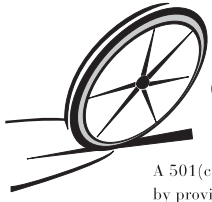
In remembrance, the players tonight will proudly wear a crest on our left shoulders with Mrs. Jessiman's initials.

One last thanks... to Obie. He was my first DYHA coach and helped make hockey fun for me.

Enjoy the game!

Sincerely,

Ryan Shannon, Ottawa Senators



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OBIE HARRINGTON-HOWES FOUNDATION

On July 4, 1997, Obie Harrington-Howes was paralyzed in a swimming accident at Jones Beach, New York. Obie's spinal cord injury prompted an immediate outpouring of concern from many of his fellow Darien, Connecticut residents who had come to know him through his involvement in philanthropic and town athletic organizations. In response to the countless friends who expressed their desire to help, the Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation, a tax-exempt public charity, was formed.

"Someone who has suffered a spinal cord injury faces enormous physical, emotional and financial obstacles," Obie says. "In the years following my injury, the support of the OHH Foundation made all the difference by providing strategic assistance to my family and me. Because of our donors' continued generosity, the Foundation has become a widely recognized source of similar assistance to many others in the region living with spinal cord injuries."

Obie has been an effective force in youth sports programs as a long-time coach and board member of the Darien Youth Hockey and Lacrosse Associations. Prior to his accident, Obie was honored for his outstanding contributions to the community by being one of the carriers of the 1996 Olympic Torch when it came through Darien. He has also served as president of the Darien United Way, as well as a board member of both Prevent Blindness Connecticut, and STAR, Inc. He is currently an active participant in Darien Challenger Little League.

The Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation is dedicated to maintaining and improving quality of life by providing financial assistance grants to individuals with spinal cord injuries. In the ten years it has been in existence it has helped more than 150 adults and children with grants totaling over \$2 million. For more information on the work of the Foundation, visit www.ohhf.org

OHHF would like to recognize the Board and Grants Committee members who volunteer many hours in managing our organization and researching and approving grants.

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PRESENTING SPONSORS:



The Big Assist is the brainchild and gift of Ryan Shannon and his father, Pat, to the Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation. Without their tireless efforts and devotion, The Big Assist would never have happened. OHHF cannot possibly thank the Shannons adequately for the work performed to make The Big Assist a reality – for the Darien community and on behalf of the individuals living with spinal cord injuries and disease who will benefit from 100% of the proceeds from this event.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HELPED ALONG THE WAY:

- **The hockey players** for the generous donation of their time and talent
- **Jamie Tropsa** and the **staff of Blueline Sports** for help with ticket sales and event organization
- **Darien Ice Rink - Kevin Romano, Rita Romano, and Michael Pavia** for the donation of ice time and supporting expenses involved with the game
- **John O'Neill** for assistance with sponsors
- **Dale DeRosa** and **Archie Moore's Bar & Restaurant** for the provision of food and drink
- **Johnny's Barber Shop** and **Barrett Bookstore** as outlets for ticket sales
- **Cox Radio WSTC & WNLK News & Talk Radio** for their promotion
- **Susan McCaslin** of **Design Monsters** for ticket, poster, and program design
- **Valli Baker** for organization of the silent auction
- **Barbara Cook, Deanna Bergin, Lisa Wensberg and Jen Fitzpatrick** for email blast support and posters

The Big Assist would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support of the community in sponsoring this event:

CHAMPION SPONSORS:

Steve Baker Family
Blueline Sports
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Darien Ice Rink
Darien Youth Hockey (DYHA)
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