



### ***Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey***

***Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey*** where kids use their ***Heads*** to make right choices, their ***Hearts*** to do right things, their ***Hustle*** to play their hardest, for the game they love, ***Hockey***.

### ***Head-Heart-Hustle-Hockey***

How do you combine your love of in-line hockey with a way to give back to your community? That was the question on the mind of Tommy Barnes as he celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday last summer. “I want all kids to have the chance to play and enjoy hockey as much as I do,” he explained to his dad. His dad, Tom Barnes, agreed, and together they founded the organization known as Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey.

Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey is run by a dedicated staff. Tommy Barnes, the Executive Director, is a Fifth Grader at Lacy Elementary. He is a hard charging on both ends of the hockey rink: a defensive man with a rifle slap shot for the 10U Red Dragons travel team, and a net crashing offensive man for his DreamSports house league team, the 12U Red Wings. Tommy is the driving force behind Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey as he provides direction and acts as the organization’s moral compass. Tommy’s Dad, Tom Barnes, handles the organization’s operations. Tom is a retired Naval Officer who works for the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services as a Medical Disaster Planner. Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey Financial Officer is “Mrs. Kim” Jackson, a Hockey/Goalie Mom extraordinaire, who coaches a 10u team at JellyBeans in Wakefield and is Team Manager for the 8U and 10U Speed teams. Stephanie Gabryszak, also known as the “Queen of DreamSports,” is the Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey Director of Events and Membership Development. Stephanie is a senior at Panther Creek High School who wants to attend East Carolina University next fall. When she’s not ruling the pick-up rink at DreamSports with a velvet-covered Iron Fisk, she is schooling the opposition on her 17U House League Team, the Oilers.

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“It was a special dream of Tommy’s to be able to sponsor a child who wanted to play a season of roller hockey, but not be able to afford the cost of playing or the equipment,” said Tom. “He started out just saving a part of his allowance and the money he made dog sitting. On the weekends he runs a small roadside store where he sells crafts, yard sale type items, and some of the many items I had collected over my years in the Navy that his mom thought might be better suited anywhere but at our house. But even with all of this, he soon realized he wanted to do more.” So Tommy and his dad presented their idea to Steve Werner, CEO of DreamSports Center in Apex, and Andrew Barron, owner of FiveHole Sports in Cary, who agreed to help Tommy realize his vision. They both agreed to help sponsor not one, but four players for the Spring 2009 season at DreamSports Center.

Tom and Tommy contacted Pastor Erin Currin with the New Horizons Fellowship in Apex and have worked with her to provide the scholarships through New Horizons Fellowship’s Christmas Store. The Christmas Store is designed to help families in this area who are in need during the holidays. It provides new toys at Christmas to children in low-income families and engages volunteers in meaningful community service. Tom and Tommy were thrilled to be a part of this most deserving effort to help kids have a wonderful Christmas by participating in the game that they have come to love so much.

Now, Tommy not only wants to make sure these players have all the gear they need to be on the rink, he also wants to get other hockey players involved in the effort. So Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey is partnering with the Triangle Special Hockey Association to sponsor Winter Show Down 2009 on February 28 from 8-10 pm at the DreamSports Center to help raise the needed funds. “We hope to have more than 100 hockey players, ranging in age from 8 to 18 years old, participating in this skills contest,” said Tom. “We’ll have prizes for each skill within each age group and we plan to give all participants a gift bag that will include items donated by our sponsors.” With the funds raised during Winter Show Down 2009, Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-

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Hockey will be expanding Triangle Special Hockey Association's program to bring the enjoyment of ice hockey for developmentally or physically challenged youth and adults to Roller Hockey and DreamSports during the Summer of 2009.

Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for Hockey is still looking for additional sponsors for this event, and will soon be taking registrations. Gifts and contributions can be sent to Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey, 1227 Duplin Road, Raleigh, NC 27607-3718, Attention: Tom and Tommy Barnes, (919) 247-6604, kidsforhockey@gmail.com. Kids-for-Kids, Kids-for-Hockey is a non-profit organization, associated with the Triangle Special Hockey Association and operates under their 501(c) (3) non-profit organization umbrella.

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