

St. Jude Knights

Order of the Elm

Honorees

Gabe Artega
Rose Artega
Jeff Babik
Atticus Bailey-Stobbs
Michele Boyce
Ethan Bryne
Gary Casper
Rob Cannon
Leighann Cannon
Seamus Cannon
Maeve Cannon
Molly Cannon
Sinead Cannon
Robert DeGard
Connor Foley
Laura Foley
Joe Fowler
Team Fowler
Jamie Galeher
Grace Garrett
Pam Groszek
Brian Jones
Team Jedlowski
Blake Kallberg
Colin Kennedy
Keith Mackey
Cathy Mancine
Tom Mancine
Marty McDonnell
Team McDonnell
Joe Nieciak
Matt Nieciak
Dan O'Boyle
Danny Reardon
Rebecca Roti
Camryn Shupryt
Lisa Shupryt
Andrew Sline
Nick Sline
Joe Walker
Christine Wiseman

Knights are men, women, and children of courage, honor, dignity, courtesy and nobleness. They protect the weak, honor and fight for the righteous, and persevere to the end in any enterprise begun. The St. Jude Knights strive to embody these virtues on and off the ice, and we honor those who consistently demonstrate these qualities by welcoming them to the Order of the ELM. The Order of the Elm recognizes those Knights, whether they are players, coaches, or parents, who embody a willingness to work hard, to play by the rules, to keep a positive attitude, to support teammates, and to show good character on and off the ice. These honorees were chosen by fellow Knights - people who see the great deeds that they do on a daily basis. Congratulations to our Fall 2014-2015 honorees.



Gabe Arteaga and his mom, Rose.

Gabe and his mom, along with Gabe's 2 younger siblings participated in the Lung Force walk on 9/28 in support of his teammate, Maeve Cannon, and her family. They walked 3 miles spending time with and having fun with everyone. Gabe took especially good care of his younger brother during the walk.

Jeff Babik

Jeff was the first person to offer to do the time clock at our home games. He didn't know how to work it at the time but still offered. Great way to set an example of teamwork!

Atticus Bailey-Stobbs

We are nominating Coach Atticus Bailey-Stobbs for the Order of the Elm for numerous reasons. First, he is incredibly dedicated to our team. Coach Atticus puts our team first and sacrifices a great deal of family time to help our players continue to develop. Atticus is very knowledgeable about hockey and conveys his hockey knowledge to our kids. He really motivates and rallies behind our team practices and games. Coach Atticus likes to challenge our kids to get the best effort from them at all times! Coach Atticus praises our players and makes them feel like winners even if the scoreboard states differently. We are very lucky to have Coach Atticus Bailey-Stobbs as one of our coaches! Thanks Atticus!

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Michele Boyce

I have never seen anyone do such an amazing job with the ice schedule. Michele is amazingly helpful, organized and kind. Very few people understand the amount of time and energy (both physical and emotional) that she devotes to our club behind the scenes. She exemplifies positive encouragement.

Ethan Byrne

While on the ice, Ethan is always giving maximum effort. Giving every drill, skill, and activity everything he has. And the best part is, he does it all with a permanent smile on his face—always. Even at an early age, his work ethic shows along with his determination and leadership qualities. If he falls, he gets right back up and tries to do everything better.

Gary Casper

Coach Gary is intense! He is also an incredible hockey coach! Gary is also an incredible mentor, role model, and person to the young athletes he coaches. This is my son's first year playing with Coach Gary and he has motivated him with his energy and taught him the value of hard work, dedication, loyalty and team. Gary cares about the players and gives them 110% of himself on and off the ice.

The Cannon Family

The Cannon siblings came up with the idea to participate in the Lung Force Walk in support of their grandmother who is in hospice care at home after a long battle with cancer. They gathered their family and friends and collected donations for the walk that took place on 9/28 at Hamburger University in Oak Brook. They also welcomed their St. Jude teammates who came out to join them on "Team Nanny's Knights." The Cannon family also showed us how to enjoy each other and stay positive through difficult times. Seamus was also separately nominated for volunteering to work an opponents' team score box during his sister's game when he overheard the other team's manager comment that they could not find a volunteer from their own team.

Leighann Cannon

Leighann is our team manager who, throughout this season, has been a very positive influence on both the kids and parents of our team. This year we did not have the most wins, but we definitely had the most fun. Leighann has faced many challenges during the last few months, from losing a loved one to dealing with some unpleasant opponents. She has always maintained a respectful and professional attitude. She has become a great friend to us all and we consider ourselves very lucky to have met her this year.



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Robert DeGard

Coach Bob always maintains a great attitude on the ice and in the locker room. He never fails to praise his team's effort regardless of the outcome. Mistakes are referred to an "area where we can improve" rather than mistakes. Coach Bob emphasizes learning and improving over winning. He also shows respect to our opponents and the officials.

Connor Foley and his mom, Laura Foley

Connor has proven to be an outstanding teammate. Despite being injured for the first few games of the season, he and his family showed up at every game to lend their encouragement and support to our team, including an 8:00 am game in Winnetka! Connor encouraged his teammates and helped get them ready to play. He also helped the coaches behind the bench gathering equipment, pucks, sticks, and water bottles without ever being asked. Connor's mom, Laura, volunteered to work the penalty box while Connor was injured. They both showed outstanding support for our team. Connor also joined his teammates for the 3-mile Lung Force walk on 9/28 in support of the Cannon family. He walked with his teammates, choosing to spend a gorgeous morning off of hockey with his hockey friends.

Team Fowler

During an early seeding round game, Team Fowler played a game against a much more experienced team that resulted in a rather lopsided result on the scoreboard. But the coaches continued to coach with positive enthusiasm and the players continued to give their best effort. After the game, the coaches told the players that they were proud of them for their awesome effort and work ethic. Since then, the team has continued to get better each and every game. In another game, the manager from the opposing team sent an e-mail to Coach Fowler to acknowledge the team's effort and sportsmanship. She wrote, "Several of our kids were impressed with your St. Jude team. They commented that they were incredibly nice and exhibited really good sportsmanship."

Jamie Galeher

Jamie was kind enough to give a fellow parent's child a ride to a game up in Gurnee so that player did not have to miss the game. Great support!

Grace Garrett

Grace exudes enthusiasm and determination continuously in every game. She never gives up even when the opposing team is attacking her. Her love of the game of hockey shows every time she steps on the ice. Grace is a dedicated team player.



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Joe Fowler

Coach Fowler grew up playing hockey with the St. Jude Knights, so his **ROOTS** were established and continue to grow with the St. Jude Organization. Through his interactions with the players, parents, and referees, Coach Joe plays by the **rules** and is always professional and respectful to everyone. Another admirable characteristic that Joe Fowler exemplifies is his approach to each game. Whenever there is a question or need for clarification, Coach Fowler always maintains his composure and respect while conversing with the **officials**. At the end of each game, regardless of the outcome, Coach Fowler speaks to each **opposing** player and coach exemplifying his character and respect for the game of hockey. It is evident that Coach Joe treats each player with respect and expects the same from his players. Coach Fowler teaches our children to play hard and respect their **teammates**. Joe's players follow his lead on and off the ice. These values truly strengthen the roots of all of the players, and parents appreciate these life lessons being reinforced on Coach Fowler's team. One of the best characters Coach Fowler has is consistency. He has a positive attitude and supports our children 100%. He is very knowledgeable about hockey, but his real expertise is coaching children. He is an educator that knows how to positively teach skills and motivate our young hockey players to be the best they can be! Joe is very **SELF-**less coach which puts his team first before anything else. We appreciate and are very fortunate to have an outstanding coach like Joe Fowler. Thank you Coach Fowler.

Pam Groszek

Pam has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping our club launch its first ever Girls U12 team. She has helped ease the strain of incredibly difficult schedules for several players who are playing on multiple teams by working hard to schedule around conflicts and getting in her car driving players to practice and games when conflicts are unavoidable. She helped organize and lead a girls try hockey for free event that saw over seventy girls come out and give hockey a try. She supported a teammate by walking with her family in a fight cancer walk. And she organized a raffle to raise money to help promote and grow our girls program. She has truly helped make hockey accessible for a great group of girls and has helped lay the foundation of a new program that will create great opportunities for future girl hockey players.

Brian Jones

We are nominating Coach Brian Jones for the Order of the Elm Award for numerous reasons. First, he is incredibly dedicated to our team. Coach Brian puts our team first and sacrifices a great deal of family time to help our players continue to develop. Brian has an excellent sense of humor and this helps our kids to have fun while at practice and during games. He really knows how to motivate our kids to give it their all and feel good about themselves. Brian is very supportive especially when our kids are feeling down, and he really has a great way of making our kids feel like winners always. We are very lucky to have Coach Brian Jones as one of our coaches.



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Team Jedlowski

In an early season tournament, Team Jedlowski played outstanding hockey to earn a spot in the tournament championship game. In that game, they faced a much more experienced team. While Team Jedlowski lost that game on the scoreboard, they proved that they were nonetheless champions. Nobody quit giving maximum effort. Nobody complained. Nobody blamed anyone else for the hard loss. Nobody gave up. Instead, they played like true sportsman and champions. Each and every player kept their spirit up and encouraged each other to keep giving their best efforts. They were textbook examples of how we expect all St. Jude teams to act under any circumstances. Kudos to both the players and Coach Jedlowski who was a great motivator for the boys and kept the boys going by being relentlessly positive throughout the entire game.

Blake Kallberg

Not only is Blake an exceptional Goalie, he is a great example. If a goal gets past him, he doesn't get visibly angry or act out. He skates. He has a ritual that seems to refocus and recenter him so that he can move on to be ready for the next play. Then he's right back in it to win. I have been continuously impressed with his excellent sportsmanship. Great job, Blake.

Colin Kennedy

During fall focus camp, Colin noticed a new player getting frustrated because he was having difficulty with a difficult drill. Colin stepped up to encourage that player to keep trying and to keep a positive attitude by yelling "You can do it!" and "Don't give up!" After the drill, Colin again spoke with the player and gave him a friendly tap on the shin guards. Collin did this on his own without any encouragement from a coach or anyone else just because it was the right thing to do. The other player's parents came up to Coach Madrigal after the session and told him that Colin's actions helped make their son feel welcome and proved what a great organization we have here at St. Jude.

Keith Mackey

Coach Mackey consistently has a positive attitude with all players and parents. He wants the kids to understand the game and love it. Recently, our other St. Jude mite team didn't make it into a tournament. Coach Mackey knew that it was a scrimmage tournament and it was so important for all of the players to have ice time and the experience. He made the decision to join the two teams so that all St. Jude House Mites could play as one team. He said in his e-mail, "I just wouldn't feel right knowing half our players were at home not playing." Our two teams came together and had great weekend!



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Cathy Mancine

This will be our third year playing with Cathy Mancine as our manager, Cathy is a wonderful person who puts the team and the players first. She is very organized and a credit to our organization. More importantly, Cathy encourages the team, the parents, and the coaches to perform service and awareness events. Some of the events Cathy has spearheaded are: Breast Cancer awareness T-shirts, Breast Cancer Awareness games, Autism Awareness helmet stickers and in many other events such as a Comer Children's Hospital Toy drive in which several St. Jude teams participated. Cathy exemplifies the virtues of the Order of the ELM both as a volunteer and a parent.

Tom Mancine

Coach Tom Mancine is an incredible hockey coach! With that said, Tom is even a better mentor, role model and person to the young athletes he coaches. This year will be the third year my son will be playing with Coach Tom. Tom has taught him the value of hard work, dedication, loyalty, and team. Tom cares about the players and gives them 110% of himself on and off the ice. Not only is Tom an assistant coach with Team McDonnell/Casper, he also assists with squirt Degard. Tom is a constant fixture at the ice rinks always sharing a positive word and friendly handshake. Tom truly honors the sport of hockey, the teams, and St. Jude.

Marty McDonnell

Coach Marty McDonnell is an incredible hockey coach! With the said, Marty is an even better mentor, role model and friend to the young athletes that he coaches. Marty has taught his players the value of hard work, dedication, loyalty, and team. Marty cares about the players and gives them 110% of himself on and off the ice. It is our great pleasure to have Marty McDonnell as our coach as he has taught our players that winning is not just a "W" in the standings. It is playing for club, team, and self with honor and respect for the sport.

Team McDonnell

The players on the St. Jude PWAA team are incredible young men and this is a credit to their coaches and parents. Some examples are the following: The team signed and sent Christmas cards to a young girl with Cancer. The team signed and sent a Christmas card to the Chicago SWAT Team Commander who is battling Cancer. The team donated over 35 gifts to Toys for Tots this year as TFT count was down. The team witnessed their teammate taken off of the ice on a stretcher via ambulance and came back from a 2-1 deficit to win 3-2. After the game the team gathered at center ice and chanted the players name, which was infectious to the parents. These are examples of character that are well beyond the average 11-12-13 year olds. This team does this as part of their leadership and the guidance of Coach Gary Casper, Coach Marty McDonnell, Coach Tom Mancine, Team Manager Cathy Mancine, and all of the parents. These players, coaches, and parents are an honor to St. Jude and show incredible character as well as selflessness.



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Matt Neciak

Matt supported his teammate by participating in the Lung Force walk on 9/28 in support of his teammate Maeve Cannon, and her family. He walked 3 miles with his teammates, having fun all long the way.

Joe Neciak

Joe is a great positive force on our team. He is the first person to volunteer to do a scoresheet, run the scoreboard, or lend a helping hand where needed. He is always smiling and full of positive energy. He congratulates the players on a big win and picks them up with words of encouragement after a loss. He makes the rink a great place to be for our players and parents.

Danny Reardon

Danny has played defense for the majority of his hockey life. This year the coaches asked him to step up and help out the team by playing forward. He never said no or I can't or I won't. He's working hard to play well in his new position for the team even though it's a big change for him. Thanks, Dano.

Camryn Shupryt and her mom, Lisa Shupryt

Lisa and Camryn Shupryt joined the Cannon family for the Lung Force walk on 9/28. They walked 3 miles, enjoying their time together while supporting their teammate, Maeve. Camryn and Maeve had a lot of fun during the walk, laughing and dancing most of the way. The Shupryts made this a better day for everyone.

Nick Sline

As a newcomer to St. Jude, Nick has done great job of working hard and reaching out to support his new teammates. After a recent game, Nick noticed that his goalie was discouraged after game, so he called him to let him know that he should keep his head up because he played a great game.

Andrew Sline

Andrew is Team Beer's equipment manager. Andrew attends almost every game and helps our peewee team prepare to take the ice. He is often seen filling water bottles, taping sticks, and even helping with injuries using a bag of medical supplies. He cares about everyone on the team and knows them all by name. Andrew is always giving the kids words of encouragement before AND after the game. He is a great role model to our players. Thanks Andrew.

Christine Wiseman

Christine lends positive, reliable and unending support for not only her team but the St. Jude club and her fellow managers. She is consistently volunteering to help with club functions. She does a great job keeping everyone calm and is a constant and consistent source of support and information.

Joe Walker

Joe is always ready to lend a hand wherever help is needed. He steps up and helps run a scoreboard, score sheet, or penalty box whenever asked. He consistently keeps a positive attitude that is infectious for our team and sets a great example for both players and parents.



Rebecca Roti and Dan O'Boyle

Rebecca and Dan, mite managers, did an incredible job hosting the NIHL mite play in games at SIA. At the event, they also ran a Hockey Fights Hunger food drive where their collections created 1,309 meals for people in need. Thank you for your leadership, Rebecca and Dan.

Team Fowler

Team Fowler really went above and beyond in terms of thanking us and welcoming us to their team when my son had to cover for their goalie who was sick. They were all so very positive and encouraging. It was a great character and confidence building experience for Edmund . Players that had never met us before were extremely friendly and protective of Edmund . Players that had never met us before were extremely friendly and protective of Edmund when he was on the ice. They went out of their way to protect their substitute goalie and make him feel like he really belonged on that team. It was a very positive experience for both of us and it is clear that the leadership skills displayed by their coaches and manager set a very positive tone for the team.

Special Thanks

The Order of the Elm would not be possible without the people who take the time to nominate a fellow Knight:

Leighann Cannon

Matt Madrigal

Kerrie Cleve

Dan McGuire

Michele Danaher

Tom Nyhan

Joe Fowler

Dan O'Boyle

Team Fowler

Andrea Ramoley

Grace Garrett

Rebecca Roti

Pam Groszek

Lisa Shupryt

Brian Jones

Denice & Edmund Vogrich

