



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 2015-2016 honorees.

2015-2016 Nominees

*Gabe Arteaga*

**Gabriel Arteaga**

Gabriel is our captain. He is a great kid and a great leader. He commands the room, is a good student, a hard worker on the team, and is overall awesome.

*Douglas Boyce*

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Douglas has been injured and out of the line-up since October and he has been attending our games and even some practices. His support of his teammates is much appreciated.

*Matt Burke*

*Leighann Cannon*

**Seamus Cannon**

I would like to nominate Seamus Cannon for the Order of the Elm. Seamus comes to the girls' practices to help every week! He is eager to run stations, move cones, chase pucks, warm up goalies etc. He really exhibits teamwork and positivity to all the girls.

*Seamus Cannon*

*Maeve Cannon*

*Sharon Courtney*

**Sharon Courtney**

I would like to nominate Sharon Courtney who quickly became our official team photographer. Sharon was always taking pictures of our girls and sent us some wonderful pictures! She also put together an amazing video of our 10U girls that is truly one of the best mementos for these young girls and their families.

*Steve Dorich*

*Steve Feehery*

*Grace Garrett*

*Matt Ginger*

*Steve & Pam Groszek*

*Maggie Groszek*

*Ryan Hartz*

*Danny Hartz*

*Nicole Hauser*

*AJ Hernacki*

*Matt Hunt*

*Chris Kooistra*

*Gabby Lapore*

*Cathy Mancine*

*Katie Manning*

*Joelle Maslowski*

*Renee McIntyre*

*Daniel Moro*

*Peter O'Brien*

*Wendy Pacino*

*Puck Off Charity*

*Camryn Shupryt*

*Tim Tuzik*

*Anne Tuzik*

*Edmund Vogrich-*

*Schultz*

*Dave Vogrich*

*Cooper Wainwright*

*Tommy Witt*

### **Steve Dorich**

This is the first year Evan has played for Coach Steve, and is having a great season not necessarily in wins/losses but in his development as a young man. Coach Steve holds the players accountable in a very respectful, motivating way and demands respect for teammates, officials, and opponents. His demeanor on the bench is great, never yelling at the ref's bad calls, and continuous talk to the player to get their "best". Lastly I would like to say the way Coach Steve handled the tragic event in December was so valuable. He talked to the players about it and told them the correct way to honor Mr. Capuano. A huge Life Lesson for the players. That has been my thoughts on Coach Steve teaching life lessons.

### **Steve Feehery**

I would like to nominate Coach Steve Feehery for Order of the Elm. Steve is definitely a guy who loves coaching this great game of hockey. He is in it for all the right reasons. He's always praising every kid on our team for their hard work at practice and during games. He tries to have conversations with each individual kid to make them all feel important to the success of our team. I loved how before one particular game, he wanted all the kids to be coaches, and come up with one thing they were going to do in the game to help the team succeed. One by one, they all participated and came up with great ideas. But most of all, I love Steve's main reason for coaching the St Jude Knights. He wanted to coach with his son, Shane, who also played for the St Jude Knights when he was a kid. To me, that is awesome.

### **Matt Ginger**

Matt has spent only three short years as a player in the St. Jude organization. In the short time his level of play is outstanding. Above that, he currently holds the designation of captain which doesn't fully describe his contribution to this team/organization. He continually looks to help entry level players on and off the ice and is always respectful of officials/opponents. It is this type of player that makes other players strive for their best.

### **Maggie Groszek**

I would like to nominate Maggie Groszek for the Order of the Elm. Maggie got hurt this season and despite her injuries she still attended every practice, home game, away game, and team tournaments. Maggie also attended all younger girls practices and games to help. She "coached" the younger girls and continued to show her support to the club while not being able to play. Maggie is a true team player.

### **Ryan & Danny Hartz**

The two players I would like to nominate are Ryan Hartz (10yrs old) and Danny Hartz (12 yrs old). They are our next door neighbors, and have been with St. Jude for several years. Both boys have always shown initiative to teach, coach, and help my two sons since they could walk. If there is/was a game of street hockey going on in driveway with older kids, they are quick to involve the younger kids from the block. I've witnessed them holding impromptu "hockey camps" outside, in which the younger kids will go to different stations to work on a skill with Danny or Ryan as their teacher. Ryan will sometimes coach while Danny records the drills on his ipad, which the kids love to watch over and over. Their behavior extends beyond hockey, and into just being good kids.. Polite to adults, playful with our 1 yr old daughter, and the kind of "older" kids that I like my boys to be around.

### **Nicole Hauser**

Where do I begin?! Nicole is someone who steps forward and starts helping. She is fully dedicated to her children's activities and doing anything she can to make them the best experience possible for her own children and their teammates. Nicole stepped in to assist with Little Knights and hit the ground running. She made herself known to the families of the program. She learned as much as she could about the St. Jude programs so she could be as helpful as possible for those who needed assistance and direction. She has been an invaluable resource to the program's coaches as well. Nicole not only assists with the Little Knights program, but also manages a squirt team. Nicole is an amazing volunteer, supportive hockey parent and most importantly, a fabulous woman with a great sense of humor. Its great having Nicole as part of our hockey family.

### **AJ Hernacki**

Coach AJ has always showed a passion for St Jude and its players, parents, and coaches. He continues to stress the importance of grades, respects for your teammates, parents, and referees. He is teaching that success looks like giving your all, improving yourself, and enjoying the time you have as a hockey player, as it goes by too quickly. Coach Hernacki makes me proud to say my players are part of St Jude Hockey.

### **Matt Hunt**

Matt Hunt is very deserving of the St. Jude Order of the Elm Coach nomination. His coaching philosophy runs much deeper than simply teaching children the basics of playing the game of hockey. He understands the big picture of working with our youth and works diligently at modeling a strong team concept built around positive sportsmanship and developing community among his players, coaches, and families. His team has participated in family centered activities such as a Chicago Wolves Game event, an outdoor classic family skate, and the "Stick to it" Reading program. Matt's team is very competitive, however winning and losing are not necessarily what matters most on his team. His team follows the rules of the game and demonstrates respect for opponents and officials alike. He encourages his players and families to focus on working hard and improving both on and off the ice. As a result, each player he has coached this year earned the St. Jude Scholar Award. Matt possesses the rare quality of being able to effectively balance being firm, but fair. He is always positive and approachable, teaching

his players to learn from their mistakes and modeling the value of maintaining a growth mindset. Players rarely miss or are late to practices or games, because Matt not only encourages regular participation, but he makes an effort to design enjoyable and child-centered activities that engage his players. Kids want to be on his team! A large number of parents have asked me to nominate Matt for this honor, because how much they respect him and his approach to coaching. Not simply because their children are developing as hockey players, but more importantly as responsible people connected to a strong hockey family. For these reasons, I believe there is no one more deserving to receive the Order of the Elm Coach recognition than Matt Hunt.

### **Chris Kooistra**

Chris's dedication to our St. Jude hockey family is incredible. He is at every practice, at every game, and every tournament cheering on his favorite coach and his extended family – all of the players. He graciously shares his beautiful children with over 60 big sisters. He is continuously heard congratulating the girls after a win and lifting their spirits after a tough play or game. He greets all of the parents with a kind smile and a firm handshake and always joins us for team meals. Thank you, Chris.

### **Gabby Lepore**

I nominate Gabby Lepore for the Order of the Elm Award. She is always positive and is very determined. She is a very humble and selfless hockey player and is always thinking about how she can help the team. I personally love being on the ice with Gabby, and I think that our chemistry and how we work together on the ice has really grown over this season. Gabby demonstrates hard work and always wants to get better. She is a great teammate to have, she helps maintain a happy and motivating atmosphere and she is someone you know you can trust out there on the ice.

### **Cathy Mancine**

Cathy has been a dedicated St. Jude volunteer for several years. This year she was instrumental in getting all of our players outfitted with St. Jude wear. She spent hours behind the scenes communicating with our vendors, picking up and delivering merchandise, and sorting orders. Thank you, Cathy!

### **Joelle Maslowski**

Joelle took on a new role this year spending countless hours behind the scenes working as St. Jude's Coach and Manager Coordinator. She worked closely with the St. Jude board, our hockey directors, and all of our coaches and managers to make sure that everyone had the necessary information for a successful season. Without Joelle's incredible work ethic and sweet nature, we would be lost. Thanks Joelle!

### **Daniel Moro**

We would like to nominate Daniel for the Order of the Elm. Daniel is a very hard worker on & off the ice, is a strong leader & a great listener. As coaches we are extremely proud to have him on our team!

### **Peter O'Brien**

During Peter's son's first season on a House Mite team, Peter happily sat in the stands supporting the team with all the parents. Towards the end of that season, it came to light that Peter could skate and was interested in coaching and that's where the story begins. Since earning his coaching credentials, Peter has steadily been coaching for St. Jude's house program and in the Little Knights program. This year, Peter is the head coach of two house teams, a Mite and PeeWee team. Peter has a very easy-going personality that the kids appreciate. They know he is approachable and will not only work them hard, but let them have fun when it's earned. Peter keeps his calm about him during times of stress and by doing so, leads by example for others. Peter not only coaches the teams, but has also helped with managing teams and doing team scheduling. Peter is a wonderful person and we appreciate all he does in the house program to make it a great experience for our players.

### **Wendy Pacino**

I would like to nominate Wendy Pacino for all of her "skate tying" expertise! Wendy got screened so that she was able to be a locker room mom to our young 10U team. She was there every game and practice and game to tie every girls' skates that wanted and/or needed it. I really appreciate all of her help-especially during tournaments!

### **Puck Off Charity**

The Puck-Off Charity is a registered 501(c)(3) charity that raises money for St. Jude hockey families in need of financial assistance to help offset some of the costs associated with playing hockey. For the last several years, this group has organized a charity hockey game at SIA. They also spend countless hours behind the scenes gathering incredible prizes for the event's raffle: signed jerseys, sticks, and gift baskets. It is a great event that demonstrates the strength of our larger hockey community. Thanks for giving back to our wonderful St. Jude families.

### **Edmund Vogrich-Schultz**

We recently played in a tournament in Ann Arbor Michigan and the 3 opposing teams in the round robin were probably the same as Gold level teams in NIHL. Edmund hung tough while facing 40 - 50 shots a game and he never showed frustration or letting down while continuing to make incredible saves game after game. We played a local silver team in the last game and he was able to help his team to a 2-2 tie. His play has continued to improve throughout the year and while we have had some ups and downs with player injuries and tough opponents, he has always been positive and supportive of all his teammates. I am very proud of Edmund's approach to the game and his supporting his teammates throughout the season.

### **Dave Vogrich**

I would like to nominate Coach Dave Vogrich for all of the patience he has exhibited with our young 10U girls who are mostly first time hockey players. He talked with them and explained how plays worked. He always motivated them and made sure they had fun. He never made everything about winning. Instead, he made it about the girls learning how to play the game and growing as a team together.

### **Cooper Wainwright**

We would like to nominate Cooper for the Order of the Elm. Cooper is a hard worker and a good teammate. Cooper listens well in practice and sticks up for all of the players on the team.

### **Tommy Witt**

Tommy is a first year Squirt but has quietly become a leader on and off the ice. He is a defenseman who doesn't get the accolades of scoring and being the hero but his dedication in practice and performance on the ice does not go unnoticed by his teammates and coaches. He comes to games with a shirt and tie on and his teammates look up to his actions and they have spread in a very positive way. He is a quiet boy but very kind, helpful and exemplifies outstanding sportsmanship. He is the first person to pick up pucks after practice or help a teammate with getting their equipment on. He has been seen and heard providing kind words to a teammate that might have made a mistake or is down for some reason. We as coaches are proud to nominate "T-Witt" as we call him for this award.

### **Matt Burke and Tim Tuzik**

As assistant coaches on our 12U A2 team this season, they went above and beyond to help in all areas and aspects. As I was juggling schedules with all the teams they helped tremendously in running practices and were eager to lead the bench. They only showed positivity to the girls and genuinely wanted to see them succeed. All qualities that all coaches should possess! I admire their leadership qualities and problem-solving skills.

**Maeve Cannon, Grace Garrett, Katie Manning, & Camryn Shupryt:** This season has been disappointing for my son with his broken leg and being unable to play. Not only was it personally frustrating for him, but we felt awful that we left the team short-handed. When the idea came up to add the girls to PW Fowler's roster, they stepped up and were quick to help. These girls represented the true definition of sportsmanship by giving of their own time and energy to assist a St. Jude team in need. They stepped onto PW Fowler's team without hesitation and as if they were there all along ... giving it their all on and off ice, including playful banter with the players and coaches. These girls and all the players on PW Fowler showed that we are truly a St. Jude Hockey Family .... And just like family ... you come forward to help when one of your members is in need. We are grateful for their willingness to participate with our team this season.

### **Leighann Cannon, Steve & Pam Groszek, Renee McIntyre, Anne Tuzik**

I would like to nominate all my girls managers and co-managers for going above and beyond this season to make the girls program such a success. Growing a girls program is long hours and lots of headaches but these extraordinary people make it happen day in and day out.

Thank you to the following people for nominating a fellow Knight!

Anonymous, Michele Boyle, Leighann Cannon, Brendan Cunningham, Paul Enderle, Grace Garrett, Jackie Kooistra, Matt Madrigal, Steve Michalek, Mark Wiseman, Coach Zayer, Team Cahill Coaches, Team Feehery Coaches, Team Fowler Coaches, Team Harkins Coaches