

Midland Lacrosse Family Members,

'Ohana' is a word that we use with our players to reinforce the concept of family and togetherness on our teams. Being a blend of players from both Dow and Midland High Schools, our family is very unique and special in Midland. I am reaching out to members of our lacrosse family; past, present and future for your help with a challenge that we feel will aid our program's development and relevance state-wide.

Recently, the administration of the boys' lacrosse program was transferred to H.H. Dow High School. As a result, our home venue will change from the Midland Community Stadium to the new multi-purpose turf field being installed at Dow High School. This field will have permanent lacrosse lines and boundaries as well as permanent safety backstops, however, because this project is coming exclusively from private donations, many other amenities like lights, scoreboards, restrooms and locker rooms are still in the fundraising stages. The development committee shared a figure of \$500,000 to install lighting. They have raised just over \$350,000 to date leaving roughly \$150,000 to light the field. Without lights the ability to host Varsity and Junior Varsity games on the same evening as is customary, is not logistically feasible. Further, hosting quality teams from across the state and scheduling officials on different or consecutive days becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible. We have contacted the Officials' Association in anticipation for this Spring season but based on officials' availability and limitations, neither multiple days nor starting earlier in the school day are likely to be viable solutions.

As a member of the Midland Lacrosse Club Board of Directors, I speak for the board in saying we feel compelled to be part of the solution. However, given our stated purpose as a non-profit organization, our focus is K-12 lacrosse outside of the Spring high school season (which is administered by Midland Public Schools). We have been diligently fundraising with the intent of establishing a permanent home location for Midland Lacrosse and have a possible venue in Homer Township. While we have raised a fair amount, we feel a responsibility to use 'club funds' on projects that enhance lacrosse in Midland for ALL players and teams and in doing so, stay consistent with our non-profit charter. Given these challenges, we are forced to find an alternative strategy to support the high school lighting project.

I am also a lacrosse parent and have coached from the youth levels to high school and can tell you there is something different and very special about Midland Lacrosse. The alumni have established a winning tradition that the kids playing today want to enhance. We have some of the most talented kids I've seen play throughout the Midwest. We compete with the best teams in the state and I believe have a chance to make a serious championship bid. I hear the excitement from our youth programs when



we take high school players to help at their practices or have them play at halftime of high school games; they can't wait for their chance to play under the lights. It truly is a lacrosse family.

Our desire is to make a significant contribution in support of the lacrosse field lighting project as a collective donation from all "Midland Lacrosse Families". We are asking player-parents, coaches, alumni, grandparents, and fans of our program to offer their financial support; big or small, to help provide a stage worthy of a championship program! Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Mail checks made out to the 'Midland Area Community Foundation' noting 'MPS Sports Improvement Facility Fund for Youth (SPIFFY) #618' to the Midland Lacrosse Club address at PO Box 2608 Midland, MI 48641-2608 and we will present them collectively as "Midland Lacrosse Families".

If you have already donated and would like to identify your contribution as part of the Midland Lacrosse Families support, please email Coach Stadelmaier at midlandlax1@gmail.com and let him know. (No need to share the donation amount)

On behalf of Midland Lacrosse, thank you for your consideration.

OHANA!

Chad Stearns

Midland Lacrosse Club - Vice President
Junior Varsity Head Coach

