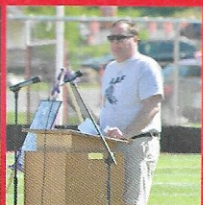


Alex Archie Foundation

Helping young athletes find their dreams and supporting mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Spring 2019



AAF

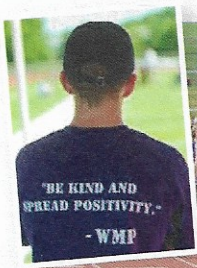
The Alex Archie Foundation
P.O. Box 2436
Providence, RI 02906
alexarchiefoundation.com



Alex Archie Foundation

AAF

As mentioned above, and as many of you know, Wade Prajer (PHS 2015) died by suicide on June 3, 2018. Wade was the beloved son of Renee and Steve Prajer, and brother to Macie (PHS 2011) and Jesse (PHS 2013). Wade and Jesse were teammates of our son Henry and to so many in the Pomperaug lacrosse and football communities. The "Walk for Wade" was spearheaded by two of Wade's close friends, Griffin Namin and Michael Curcio. These young men gathered a team of volunteers and created a day of remembrance for Wade which took place at Pomperaug High School on 7/8/18. Their determination to make this event happen was truly exemplary.



"Over 400 supporters attended the Walk for Wade Event"

their loved ones and friends to honor Wade has been both heartbreaking and inspirational. This kindness and the efforts of Griffin and Michael, multiple volunteers and donors generated over \$25,000.00 for the Foundation. There is no amount of money that the Archie or Prajer families would ever trade for Alex and Wade. We can only hope that in the loss of these two young men, the AAF can lift others up and raise awareness about mental health and the prevalence of suicide among young people in our country.

the help of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and other interventions. Stacy's combined audiences totaled approximately 125 people. We are currently working with Brown's chapter to schedule the event for next fall. We are also very excited to announce that due to Catherine Windover's (PHS '19) determination, the AAF will be sponsoring a speaker at PHS on 5/23/19 along with a newly developing chapter.

The Foundation's involvement with Brown's Global Sport Initiative kicked off with the support of a lacrosse student fellow last summer. Two 6-week summer camps were run by this fellow, Matt McShay and his female counterpart, Hafsa Moinuddin at two community centers in Providence. They worked with kids ages 6-12 who had never been introduced to lacrosse before this.



Wade Prajer - Curry College Men's Lacrosse



"Griffin and Mike at the Walk for Wade."

They asked for underwriting support from the AAF in the form of t-shirts, wristbands, ribbons, banners and insurance. They started a GoFundMe page which ultimately raised far more than the monies needed to cover the expenses for the day. The event drew a crowd of over 400 people to the PHS field. Please go to Waterbury Republican/Gallery: "Walk for Wade" for more pictures of the Walk.

The grace of the Prajer family, to designate the AAF as the charity chosen for

In shifting gears slightly, we are excited to report that the AAF worked again with the Active Minds chapter at Brown University and sponsored the 2nd annual Speakers Bureau presentation on 11/1/18. Stacy Pershall spoke to the Brown community and she was "gifted" on the same day to The Met High School in Providence through Active Minds' "Pay It Forward" program. In her presentation, Stacy spoke about her lifelong struggles with misdiagnoses of depression, anxiety and eating disorders, relationship challenges and bullying in school. She was finally accurately diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and is now able to manage her symptoms with



"Stacy Pershall with Active Minds Board Members Carly Kaplan, Kiernan Bloye with The Met High School Principle Arthur Baraf"



"Hafsa and Matt with future lacrosse champions!"

The Foundation donated 35 sticks to get the program off the ground. We are now working with the Director of the Initiative and her colleagues to further develop the AAF's role in supporting more sport availability for the inner city youth of Providence.



"Don and BYL alumni."

We are so happy to recognize Don Wilson and Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. The AFF and many other BYL supporters were honored at a reception in December, hosted by Don and the BYL community. This relationship with Don and BYL was started by our friend and AAF accountant, Jay Witek (whose pro bono tax work is truly appreciated!). Jay is the past director of Pomperaug Youth Lacrosse and in 2009 he invited Don and his players to Pomperaug for a clinic and BBQ. Jay knew of the AAF and suggested that the Foundation offer transportation to enable the BYL players to come to Southbury. That fun day began what is now a 10-year relationship between BYL and the AAF that has given the Foundation so many positive projects and players to be involved with.

The best part of the evening in Bridgeport was seeing the many BYL alumni who are either now in college or working in their field, some still playing, some not, but all educated young men, living healthy and productive lives! The AAF made a \$1000.00 donation to BYL to honor this important milestone and to support the expansion of BYL into BYLSA (Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Sports Academy) which now includes an "after-school based, year-round program that provides academic intervention, behavioral support, mentoring, leadership training and sports instruction..." (Bear Tracks, BYLSA Quarterly newsletter, Fall 2018).

Our close family friend, Patrick Kahl honored the AAF with a \$1500.00 donation which he raised by running the Milford, CT half marathon in September. Thank you Pat and congratulations to you and sister Allison for a great run!



"Kahl family after a great run."

A new AAF shirt is ready. Please let us know if you would like one. The t-shirt and our newsletter are the only fundraisers for the Foundation, so please make a \$15 donation, wear the shirt and spread the mission of the Alex Archie Foundation.



AAF T-Shirt

Suicide brings indescribable heartache. We encourage you to learn more about mental health initiatives and suicide prevention efforts. Go to the Active Minds (activeminds.org) and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org) websites and get involved if you are so inclined. Please think about starting an Active Minds chapter at your high school or college, or connect with a local program doing similar work.



Active Minds Brown

The AAF will help with any start-up fees you might need. And as always, please let us know of a player, family or lacrosse program that may need some assistance.

Thank you to all of our family, friends and loyal supporters. Thank you to the Prajer family and all who remembered Wade with a gift to the AAF. Finally, thank you for keeping Alex and Wade in your hearts and thoughts.

Dawneytoh-



Sam, Alex, Lisa, Henry and Tom

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Dear Friends of the AAF:

It is with bittersweet feelings that we write this newsletter in hopes of capturing the Foundation's activities in the past year. From the tragic death of our friend Wade Prajer in June, to the joyous celebration of Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse's 10th anniversary, the AAF has been impacted by loss and honored by commitment to programs you all have helped us support over the years.

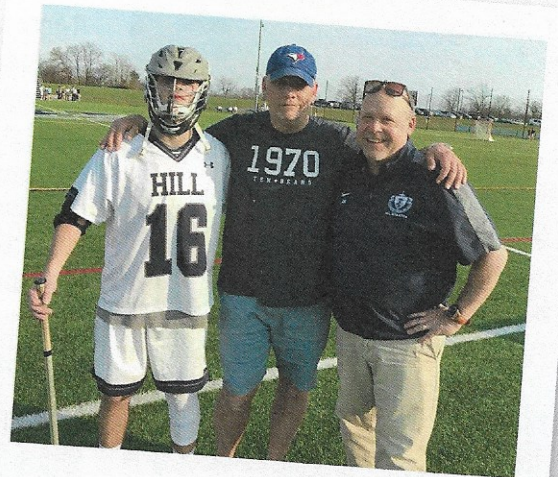
In addition to the Pomperaug scholarships, the Alex Archie Leadership award and the #16 jersey were awarded to Aidan Henry. Congratulations to these student-athletes and best wishes to them as they move forward. We would also like to acknowledge the Pomperaug Lacrosse community and the PHS Athletic Director for the tremendous equipment donation that was given to the AAF this past spring. And to the PHS Girls' team that once again raised money for the AAF during their annual Girls' Lax Night.

The annual \$1000. donation was given to The Hill School Boys' Lacrosse team. As Alex attended The Hill as a PG lacrosse player, we entrust this donation to our friend Ned Ide and the entire coaching staff to use this money in a way that best serves the needs of the team. We were able to meet The Hill's 2017-18 "#16" last spring: Michael Nastasi and his father Mike Nastasi. They coincidentally travelled to Providence for a family graduation and stopped to meet us and make a generous equipment donation. We truly appreciate Michael's enthusiastic and honorable approach to wearing #16 while at The Hill.



Lisa and Tom with 2018 Scholarship and Alex Archie Leadership Award Winners

To begin with, and as the backbone of our mission, the AAF honored two female lacrosse players and one male lacrosse player from Pomperaug High School in June. Silvana Sinopoli (attending Central Connecticut State University), Hayley Yule (Merrimack College), and Jack Rafferty (PG-year, Canterbury School) were selected by their coaches for this scholarship as they are players who embody the characteristics established in 2008 following Alex's death. These include: love of lacrosse, family and friends, athleticism, determination and perseverance.



Ned Ide and the Nastasis

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