

Alex Archie Foundation

Helping young athletes find their dreams

October 2015



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Dear Friends of the AAF:

We hope you and your families are all well.

Before moving into the events of the past year, we want to extend our apologies to PJ Mara, Alex's close friend at The Hill. In recognizing those who have worn or been selected to wear #16 in last year's newsletter, we neglected to include PJ and that was a terrible mistake. PJ: thank you for wearing #16 as a senior at The Hill, for honoring Alex every year as you do, and for your tremendous support of the AAF.

We again had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to some of Pomperaug High School's student-athletes at the Girls' and Boys' lacrosse banquets last June. These three girls and one boy were selected by their coaching staff and the AAF Board. The \$1,000 scholarship is given to the graduating boy(s) and girl(s) player who best represent Alex's love of lacrosse and academics, his commitment to improve himself and his teammates, and to honor the Creator's game.

The 2015 Girls' scholarship recipients are: **Erika Foschi** (Fordham University), **Delaney Yule** (Merrimack College), and **Caroline Dwyer** (The University of Maryland).



Lisa and Tom with Girls' 2015 Scholarship Recipients.



Josh Pendergast, Family and Lisa and Tom.

The 2015 Boys' Scholarship recipient is: **Josh Pendergast** who is continuing his lacrosse and academic career at Widener University.

We are also very happy to announce that we just recently learned that Deshaunte Longley from Bridgeport's Central High School team is continuing his lacrosse and academic career at Johnson & Wales University in Denver. He was selected by his new coach at Central, Scott Smith, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse founder, Don Wilson and the AAF Board to receive the 1st \$1,000 AAF scholarship. Congratulations to these deserving student-athletes who contribute so much to their teams and communities.

The Foundation made an \$800.00 dollar donation to Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse this summer to help defer the cost of new uniforms for the youth players. As you can see they wear them proudly.



Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Players and their new uniforms

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Alumni celebration game – PHS 2015

The Foundation also makes an annual \$1,000 donation to The Hill School, specifically to the boys' lacrosse team. Ned Ide, Alex's coach and advisor, continues to serve as our liaison to the school and the team. He shared with us that the monies were again used to film the team's most competitive games. The films were used to advance the team, but especially to assist players with the rigorous recruiting process.

The Hill coaches continue the tradition they set after Alex's death of selecting a player to wear #16. This past spring, Chase Midgley, a PG goalie from Ossining High School, was selected. What a pleasure we had corresponding with Chase, and what composure he demonstrated in reaching out to us to tell us a bit about himself, "Sports have opened up so many doors for me, built and created an incredible number of friendships, and most importantly taught me countless life lessons... these life lessons have developed me into the person I am today. I've become more selfless and developed more respect for people than I had before... By no stretch of my imagination did I expect I would have the honor of wearing the #16 jersey. This has honestly been the biggest honor of my lacrosse career because I was recognized not for my play but for how I carry myself on and off the field as a player and a leader. Thank you times a million for letting me carry on Alex's memory, it means the world to me." We are grateful to Ned and the Hill coaching staff for carrying on this tradition and for allowing us the opportunity to briefly get to know these terrific young men. We wish Chase all the best with his career at Middlebury. He is hopeful to continue to wear #16 for his team there.

In June the AAF also donated pizzas and sodas to the Pomperaug Boy's high school team following their end of season player alumni celebration game.



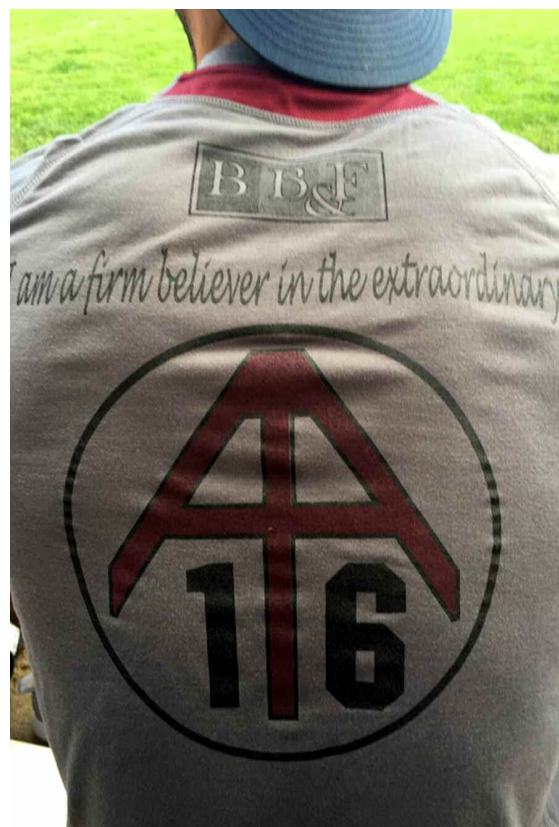
Mike Fleming and Erin Foley at AAF Fundraiser by Pomperaug Girls Lax

This past spring season marked a milestone for the Girls' lacrosse team at Pomperaug and their head coach, Mike Fleming as he announced his retirement at the end of season banquet. Mike has been the founding father of the girls' youth and high school programs in our community. He saw his own three daughters through the programs and coached countless others. He has been a steadfast supporter of the AAF and we will forever remember his warmth and commitment to the Foundation.

Again this spring, the high school girls hosted the youth players for their annual Girls Lax Night and the AAF was designated to receive donations. The girls raised close to \$500. Congratulations to Mike and thank you for this generous support!

The AAF received some new recognition this year that we would like to share. Our youngest son, Henry, who is a senior at ASU and plays lacrosse there, was involved in a men's summer tournament in Lake

Tahoe this past July. Henry, some current teammates and some ASU lax alums formed "Team One-Six" and had a great weekend playing lacrosse and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Players were asked to donate some older equipment to the AAF, which they did generously! The AAF in turn covered the deposit that was needed to hold the team's place in the tournament. We are very grateful to Debbie Braasch's (mother of Brian Braasch – past ASU player/coach) law firm Brown, Bonn & Friedman, LLP for their generous donation of \$1500 to the AAF to cover the cost of the Team 16 uniforms. Thanks to Debbie Braasch for the pictures.



Team One Six

We would also like to again thank our friends at Cheshire Sport for their talent in creating great uniforms at cost!



Due to acquiring this new influx of equipment, in addition to some remaining from the large amount collected by PJ Mara, the foundation was able to make a significant equipment donation to Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership – an academic and lacrosse program at P.S. 149 in Harlem, NY which helps at-risk youth achieve as students, community leaders and athletes (harlemlacrosse.org).



In addition to Harlem Lacrosse, Henry had the opportunity to volunteer for Fields of Growth this summer in Kingston, Jamaica. Volunteers for FoG are also asked to donate some used equipment, so Henry was able to share AAF donated equipment to that great program as well. It is exciting to see the AAF get new exposure in a variety of places (fieldsofgrowthintl.org).

The AAF also donated \$100 to support one of Pomperaug's JV players, Garrett Uliano, whose family home was destroyed by fire this summer.

The foundation again sent a \$100 donation to New Fairfield Youth Lacrosse in memory of our friend John Pendergast.

We are also pleased to inform you that the AAF is now able to receive stock donations through our

Charles Schwab account thanks to the great work of Ann and Dave Archie. Please contact us if you are interested in donating in this way.

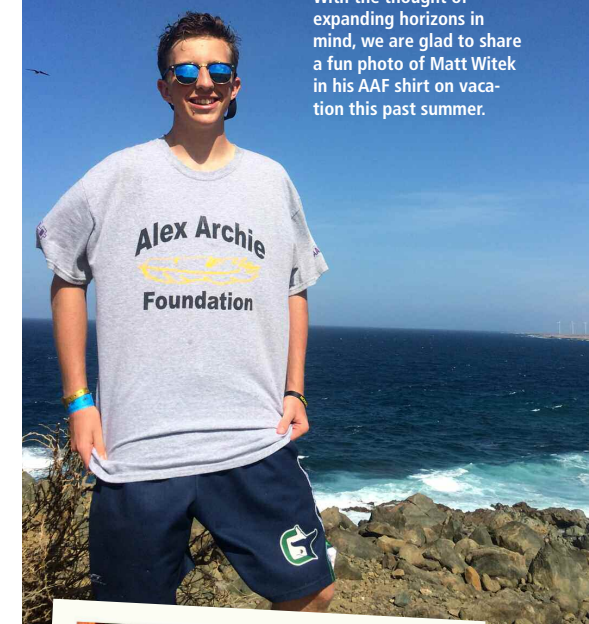
Our continued thanks to Jay Witek for his pro bono accounting work for the Foundation – this is a huge help to us.

The Alex Archie Foundation website is back on line after a mystery disappearance. You can find additional information about the foundation and past newsletter on the site at AlexArchieFoundation.com.

Finally, we are very excited about a possible presentation from the suicide prevention organization, Active Minds (activeminds.org) at Pomperaug High School later this fall. We feel strongly that the AAF should be incorporating suicide prevention into its mission, so we look forward to being able to bring this well respected school-based program to our community. In that spirit, Tom and I participated in our second Out of the Darkness walk on 10/10/15 in Westport, CT (afsp.org).

This newsletter has grown to be the primary fundraising source for the AAF. Thank you to all who continue to support the Foundation and its mission. We appreciate all donations and 100% of donations – financial or equipment go right back to players or programs in need. Donations can be sent to "The Alex Archie Foundation" at the address below and all donations are tax deductible. The AAF is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Please remember to let us know if you are aware of a program or individual who could benefit from the AAF. Tom and I, Sam and Henry and our extended family are so honored by and appreciative of your generosity and kindness. Thank you for remembering Alex and his love of lacrosse, his family and his friends.

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With the thought of expanding horizons in mind, we are glad to share a fun photo of Matt Witek in his AAF shirt on vacation this past summer.



Our niece Jane Campbell who is the Stanford Women's soccer goalie, wearing AAF on her glove, as she is not allowed to wear a wristband during play...



Henry, Alex, Sam Archie & Liz Connolly

Lisa and Tom Archie
Co-Presidents
AAF
P.O. Box 91
Southbury, CT 06488
203-577-9696
alexarchiefoundation.com
EIN: 26-2646922

