

OUR MISSION

The Dominik Hasek Youth Hockey League, Inc. known as Hasek's Heroes provides children from low to moderate income families that reside in the city of Buffalo with the opportunity to learn basic skating & hockey skills &, for those with the aptitude & commitment, the opportunity to participate in a tiered hockey development program that will enable them to participate in competitive high school hockey. Hasek's heroes partners with the public school system & will promote academic achievement as an integral component of athletics. First & foremost, Hasek's Heroes intends to promote a foundation of athletic development & educational support that will enable these children to achieve their future goals.

Our focus may be on teaching children ice hockey, but our goal is to makes a real difference in their lives.

NHL Diversity is a division of the NHL Foundation & a major component of the league's "Hockey is for Everyone" initiative, which provides support & unique programming to not-for-profit youth hockey organizations across North America that are committed to offering economically disadvantaged boys & girls of all ages opportunities to play hockey.

If You Would Like to Make a Donation, Send Your Check or Money Order to:

The Dominik Hasek Youth Hockey League Inc., 2607 Niagara Street Buffalo, New York 14207

For more information on how to volunteer or become a sponsor,

Call Executive Director:
Sean Green 716.875.4820

DOMINIK HASEK



"I am extremely pleased to be able to create the Dominik Hasek Youth Hockey League that will assist young children in the city of buffalo to learn the game of ice hockey. Buffalo has been very good to my family and me, and I want to give something back to the community that will be recognizable for many years to come. The creation of this unique hockey program will give many children an opportunity to participate in a sport that otherwise they probably wouldn't be able to play."

TESTIMONIALS

"This program teaches my three boys discipline & how to be team players." Player Parent

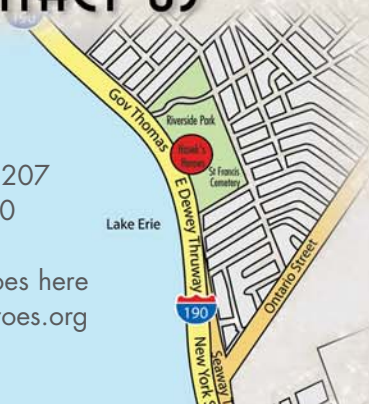
"Hockey is a very costly sport & I count Hasek's Heroes as a blessing for my nine year old son." Player Parent

"Hasek's Heroes provides education & recreation that these children would never have the resources to enjoy."
Youth Services Administrator

"Hasek's Heroes: what a great experience for the players, the parents, & the community." Player Parents

CONTACT US

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OUR HISTORY

It began with a special gift. Shortly before being traded to the Detroit Red Wings in June 2001, two-time Stanley Cup champion, & Olympic Gold Medalist Dominik "The Dominator" Hasek graciously donated the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. This gift would help to underwrite a program that would teach underprivileged inner-city youth how to skate & play hockey. Better known as Hasek's Heroes, The Dominik Hasek Youth Hockey League Inc. was born.

During his nine years as star goalie for the Buffalo Sabres, Dominik saw our inner-city kids & was reminded of his own humble beginnings, as a boy growing up in Czechoslovakia. He knew how the high cost of hockey equipment made the sport prohibitive for many low to moderate income families, but if there was a way that he could make this equipment freely available, then hundreds of kids could have an opportunity to play.

Dominik soon enlisted the help of his friends in the NHL. At Dominik's urging, the National Hockey League Players' Association, donated \$30,000 worth of equipment to the program. Grants were issued from the United Way, the M&T Bank Foundation, the Cameron Baird Foundation, & the John R. Oishei Foundation. Hasek's Heroes then began to receive on-going support from Buffalo Sabres Alumni & NHL DIVERSITY. Now retired from the NHL, & living in his native Czechoslovakia with his family, Dominik continues to be involved in the growth & development of Hasek's Heroes, visiting the club & assisting in the procurement of charitable donations.

During its inception, Hasek's Heroes utilized two ice rinks, but its board of directors found the logistics of a dual-location youth program too expensive & difficult to manage. In December of 2005, the decision was made to take over the operation of Riverside Park's Bud Bakewell Ice Rink, from Erie County. This decision was a win for both the program & the county. Through the dedicated efforts & outstanding leadership of Executive Director Sean Green, Program Director Fred Korey, & others, Hasek's Heroes was able to streamline costs, while extending the rink's season by over two months.

The rink continues to offer regular services, while being home to the Bud Bakewell Hockey Association, the Explorer League, Canisius College's Division 1 Ice Hockey, & City Honors High School's hockey program, as well as such diversity programs as the Buffalo Sled Hockey Group & SABAH (Skating Association for the Blind & Handicapped).

OUR PROGRAM

Hasek's Heroes is a 24 week, after-school-&-weekends-program that teaches basic skating & introductory hockey skills to any interested, eligible child in the city of Buffalo. Children ages 4 to 17 may participate & there is no charge for the program or the use of equipment.

Our expert coaching staff provides a safe & supportive environment where players participate in "small game hockey," which emphasizes teamwork & skill building, over competitive play. Our players build self-confidence & learn to respect themselves & others as they acquire new skills & improve their balance, agility, & coordination. The skills learned at Hasek's Heroes form a strong foundation from which young players, who possess the desire & aptitude, can go on to play competitive hockey at the high school level & beyond.

Our program has four skill levels in which players may participate:

- **Introductory Skating:** Preliminary instruction in basic skating skills required for general recreation & introductory hockey.
- **Introductory Hockey:** Instruction in basic hockey technique, including: full equipment skating, stick handling, team play, & scrimmaging.
- **Hockey Development:** Instruction in basic hockey strategy, including: learning player positions, on-ice positioning, team play, & competitive team play.
- **Competition:** Instruction in advanced hockey strategy, including: developing given player position skills, team play, and competitive game play. At this level, players engage in inter-squad scrimmaging & have the opportunity to travel to Detroit, to participate in the Detroit Hockey Association's annual *Hockey in the Hood* tournament.

Education Comes First

Hasek's Heroes has partnered with Buffalo Public & Charter Schools to ensure that each child enrolled in our program succeeds in school. Our coaches & leaders meet regularly with teachers & school administrators to review the academic progress of each player & to set specific goals for achievement. The enrollment of each child in our program is contingent upon his or her adherence to these goals. Any child, who is not working towards his or her full academic potential, may not participate in our program.



HEROES WANTED



Hasek's Heroes needs your help. Our organization receives an annual stipend from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. This money comes from the interest earned on the original seed money donated by Dominik Hasek, & is paid to Erie County for the rent of our facility, but does not cover the cost of its operation or our program. Many charitable organizations have pitched in to help & have given us on-going support, but it is the continued generosity of people like you who have made Hasek's Heroes what it is today. Share in our success & be a hero by donating your time or money to Hasek's Heroes.

Donations & Sponsorships

- **Individuals:** Your donations are greatly appreciated. Every bit you give to Hasek's Heroes helps us to keep another one of our kids off the streets by giving them a positive & constructive outlet for their energy.
- **New York State Employees:** If you already donate to SEFA (State Employees Federated Appeal) through payroll deductions, contact the SEFA Steering Committee & designate Hasek's Heroes as your charity of choice. You have the power to designate all or a portion of your gift to our organization.
- **Businesses:** Become a corporate sponsor! Call Executive Director Sean Green, at 716.875.4820 & find out how you can improve your company's public image, & increase name recognition, while helping a great cause.
- **Manufacturers & Retailers:** We welcome all donations of hockey equipment & uniforms. If your business manufactures or sells sporting goods, you can make a big difference in the lives of our players by donating equipment.

Volunteers

- **High School Students:** Most area high schools require their seniors to perform several hours of community service as part of their governmental studies courses. Volunteering your time at Hasek's Heroes is a fun way for you to satisfy this requirement.
- **Players & Coaches:** Hasek's Heroes welcomes positive, supportive, & patient individuals to volunteer their time to help with the coaching of our players.
- **Moms & Dads:** You don't have to be a hockey player to be a positive influence in the lives of our players. Hasek's Heroes welcomes caring individuals who would like to help with organizing & transporting our players, as well as helping them with putting on & removing their equipment.