

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Rickie Moneyhun; I'm a 35 year old from Whitehall, Michigan. I was born with congenital heart defects, scoliosis, and feet and ankle problems. I have had over thirty combined procedures on my heart, back, legs and feet. I was never able to play sports as a normal person because of my condition. I love hockey and have loved it for many years. I joined the Grand Rapids Sled Wings nine seasons ago. I play forward on the team and have loved every minute of it. The Grand Rapids Sled Wings have taught me so much about not only sports but about life. This team has taught me about comradery and teamwork. The Sled Wings have taught me about how to not let my disability and limitations keep me from pursuing my goals in life and how to stay positive and look for the best in everyone and in every situation. The Sled Wings as a team has had to fight through a lot of adversity compared to other Sled Hockey teams that we have faced as opponents before. We are a smaller market than others so having the support of Mary Free Bed Hospital, the Griffins Youth Foundation, as well as the support from you has helped this team in such a tremendous way with funding for road trips, equipment and other costs that a program such as ours comes up against throughout each season. Not to mention all of the miscellaneous items that are such a treat and reward to us like Team Jackets, and things such as that; that help us feel more like an organized and normal program that helps us take our minds off of what we can't do and reminds us that there are so many things like playing Sled Hockey that we can do. Having that feeling of being somewhat normal and equal to others is such a huge mental and emotional boost for people like us and makes us feel whole as athlete's and human beings. So I just wanted to say how much each and every one of us appreciates your support for this team and program. It is both an honor and a privilege to be able to play for the Grand Rapids Sled Wings. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Rickie Monehun #38

