



Giving LACROSSE

NEW ENGLAND REGION

FUEL THE GROWTH ★ ENRICH THE EXPERIENCE ★ FIELD THE BEST NATIONAL TEAMS

The TRAVELLING STICKS

BY PAUL OHANIAN

IN 2022, MARTHA BARBERA RECEIVED a USA Lacrosse physical education grant to help introduce lacrosse to her students at Curtis Corner Middle School in Wakefield, Rhode Island. The sticks and balls were a perfect fit for the ‘Outdoor Games’ curriculum that Barbera had designed to keep her students physically active by experiencing new activities.

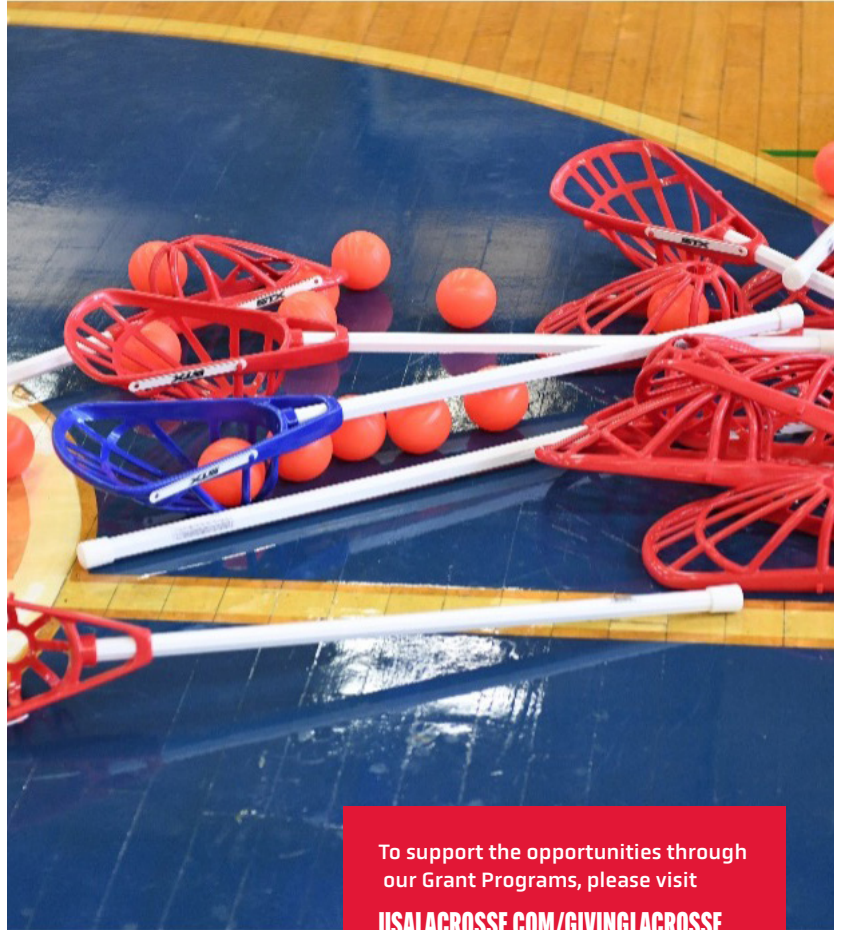
“Our school struggles with funding, so the equipment was so nice to receive and I was able to teach numerous classes a new sport,” Barbera said.

Due to her limited personal background with lacrosse, she utilized a student-leader system to help introduce the skills of the game, leveraging students with prior lacrosse knowledge to guide those who were first-timers.

“It was neat to have the students teaching each other and interacting,” Barbera said. “Those with some lacrosse experience were able to help the ones that were newer to the sport.”

Unfortunately, due to multiple factors, the school district decided to close down Curtis Corner at the end of the 2022-23 school year. After 14 years at the middle school, Barbera has moved to the elementary level this year and is rotating between three local schools within the same district.

She is optimistic about now using the equipment from the USA Lacrosse grant to introduce the sport to her younger students. Have sticks, will travel.



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“The school principals are pretty open to what we want to offer the kids in physical education, so I have fingers crossed that we’ll be able to keep doing lacrosse,” Barbera said. “Some of the kids in middle school last year really took to it. They were really interested in trying it out. We hope that we’ll find the same enthusiasm with the elementary students.”

Barbera is looking at the silver lining in her transition from middle school to elementary.

“In some ways, this might be better because we can now get our students engaged with lacrosse at an even younger age,” she said. “That’s a good thing.”

- ▶ The USA Lacrosse Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves as the philanthropic arm of USA Lacrosse. The Foundation helps drive the three main pillars of the USA Lacrosse mission: 1) Fuel the growth; 2) Enrich the experience; 3) Field the best national teams. Supporting the foundation provides thousands of children across the country the opportunity to experience the gift of lacrosse. To learn more about the USA Lacrosse Foundation, please visit usalacrosse.com/foundation

National Scope, LOCAL IMPACT

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Each year, USA Lacrosse receives hundreds of applications for grants designed to **Fuel the Growth** of the game. Grants are available for equipment, player clinics and financial support. The USA Lacrosse Foundation is committed to raising the dollars needed to fund as many of these grants as possible. Philanthropic support from members, partners, and friends is critical in providing these opportunities for players, coaches, and officials in every region across the country.

The **New England** region includes **Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.** Applications received during the 2023 grant cycle are currently being reviewed with award notifications going out later this year, which means there's still time to invest in the growth of the game in your own backyard!

Here is breakdown of the applications submitted from your region:

17

Total Applications

13

Equipment Grants

1

Player Clinic Grants

3

Financial Grants

\$41,805

Total Retail Revenue

193

Total Girls Impacted

173

Total Boys Impacted



One parent approached me this past season with tears in her eyes, full of gratitude. Her child wanted to try lacrosse but they couldn't afford the equipment. The opportunity afforded to this child because of the full equipment grant awarded to Biddeford Youth Lacrosse made an immediate impact on not only this child and family, but on our community."

HEATHER DAVIS

*Biddeford Youth Lacrosse
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