



# Warrior Ice Center

## A project for the Warrior for Life Fund

### Background:

Virginia Beach, VA has the largest concentration of active duty & retired Navy personal, and Naval Special Operators, in the world. The Navy SEAL Hockey Program was developed to support these warriors and their families' better deal with the difficulties associated with deployment, combat, disability and re-acclimation into society. The Warrior for Life Fund in collaboration with the Navy SEAL Foundation fund hockey related programs that provide:

- Mentorship, life guidance and social skill development for children of deployed soldiers
- Activities to help families cope with and stay active during a parent / spouse deployment
- Support for Gold Star families who've lost a loved one in combat
- Post deployment decompression, re-engagement and assimilation
- PTSD, depression and sleep deprivation management
- Sled hockey equipment, coaching and team for disabled veterans
- Transition support for retirees to maintain bond / connection with their service
- Memorial hockey games to honor fallen Navy SEALs and their families

### Current State of Affairs:

All Navy SEAL Hockey Programs are currently housed in a converted grocery store that is a below regulation sized rink (166ft x 60ft w/ 12ft high ceiling) with cramped locker rooms with no showers / toilets and most importantly, no handicap accessible bathroom for our growing disabled hockey population. In addition, this single sheet arena is at maximum capacity and is struggling to accommodate the growing number of service members and their families.



### The Warrior Ice Center:

The Warrior For Life Fund is working with a team of dedicated Virginia Beach hockey supporters to raise funds to build the Warrior Ice Center, a new energy efficient arena complex to house and expand the Navy SEAL Hockey Programs while growing and diversifying the game of hockey in the Virginia Beach area. This group is led by Bob Pizzini, a retired 26yr Naval Special Operator, successful local businessman (iFLY Virginia Beach) and USA Hockey Tier 4, soon to be Tier 5, CEP Coach. The proposed 90,000sf facility would have two NHL regulation ice sheets (200'x85'); one a showcase arena with seating sufficient to accommodate large on and off ice events, host youth, adult and military hockey leagues and tournaments, one Jr. Hockey and two University Club Hockey Teams. The showcase arena will be built to Paralympics Training Center standards to support the growing Virginia Beach Sled Hockey community and attract regional and national adaptive hockey tournaments.



### NHL Engagement

- Explore NHL Green arena build program initiatives and partnerships
- Consider introducing likeminded NHL sponsors to Warrior Ice Center project
- Potential collaborative meeting with Virginia Beach City Managers
- Possible NHL media coverage / involvement in the 1st Annual "Alumni Classic – Face Off for Heroes" hockey game featuring the Boston Bruins & NY Rangers Alumni on October 26, 2019 which will benefit the Warrior for Life Fund