

**For Immediate Release and Publication**  
**November 4, 2007**

**FROM: Dan Dow, President,  
Bemidji Community Arena Board of Directors**

**BEMIDJI YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**BEMIDJI COMMUNITY ARENA CAPITAL FUND DRIVE**

In an effort to assist the Bemidji Youth Hockey Association in the completion of their facility located on the Bemidji High School campus, a local anonymous group has issued a matching contribution challenge:

In a letter issued to Mr. Dow, the contributor's remark about what they like about the project and why they are motivated to make this challenge to Bemidji:

- The donor's recognize and thank the George W Neilson Foundation for their gifts and support of Bemidji Youth Hockey from its origin
- The depth and breadth of a huge number of supporters of the project which includes a significant financial commitment from those who have and have had players participating over the past 10 plus years
- The patience shown by the many volunteers working on the project over more than 10 years
- The significant financial commitments of our great local business community
- The well thought through long term plan in place providing for a future second ice sheet at this location
- The support of State, County, and City government, each making a financial commitment of their own
- The support of the School District in allowing the development of this and the future second ice sheet on the Bemidji High School Campus
- Lastly, the leaders of this group have not looked to the taxpayer alone for funding or any single person or specific group to shoulder the burden, yet have a broad based approach and have reached out to everyone who has an interest in this effort

**A dollar for dollar incentive matching donation up to a total of \$125,000.00 payable as follows:**

**Up to \$50,000.00 prior to the end of 2007**

**Up to \$25,000.00 each year for three additional years**

Dan Dow reports, "This financial commitment has grown out of the October 7, 2007 article published in the Bemidji Pioneer and if we can raise \$125,000.00 to be matched and achieve \$250,000.00, we will have the necessary cash to begin construction in the spring of 2008. Our total project goal is \$1,530,931. With the Neilson Foundation Grant and other financial support to date and this matching grant we will be within \$500,000.00 of our total goal, which means the facility can finally, FULLY, open for public use, after

five seasons of limited use. The City has allowed use of the building for practice alone up to this point, no spectators have been allowed.”

“We are obviously overwhelmed by this significant financial commitment and want to honor the contributors of this gift by getting the matching funds raised as soon as possible.” “We again wish to thank all of our past supporters as well. We are real close and this is a very exciting milestone for the local hockey community.”

To make a gift that will be immediately doubled by this grant, please contact:

Dan Dow, President, Bemidji Community Arena	<b>218-444-3625</b>
Jeff Solheim, Capital Project Chairman	<b>218-766-1022</b>

Or simply send a check to:

Bemidji Youth Hockey Association  
Bemidji Community Arena **COMPLETION** Campaign  
P O Box 1901  
Bemidji MN 56619-1901

**Bemidji Youth Hockey Association is organized as a 501 (c) (3) not for profit corporation and your gift will be fully tax deductible.**