

## **Candidate Statement for Bjorn Bjorklund, Sponsorships**

In my youth I spent a good deal of time involved in sports and other non-athletic activities. I experienced firsthand the developmental lessons and friendships of youth activities.

I also spent a considerable amount of time involved in the local St. Cloud city government and various forms of student government. I don't take for granted what it takes to keep an organization moving in a direction that serves the members and overall community.

Lastly, I've spent good portion of my professional career building partnerships, both on the sales and the buying side of relationships. I know that all partnerships involve an exchange of mutual value, but the best partnerships go beyond the pure transactional level and create a sense of shared ownership.

The depth and richness of community that I've experienced over the past 3 years of involvement through my son, Soren, in the EPHA goes beyond any other youth sports organization I've experienced before. Through this community I've seen my son develop some of his closest friendships, along with the skills and physical traits of a budding hockey player. My wife Elena and I have also built some of our closest friendships and love for the game of hockey.

I don't have the hockey skills and experience to help by getting on the ice with our boys, but I do have the experience and passion for building partnerships, along with the desire to invest in this community that I believe will make me a good candidate to steward the sponsorships and fundraising relationships of the EPHA.

Sincerely,

Bjorn Bjorklund