BEHIND THE MISSION: BEYOND THE BOARDS FOUNDATION

A place where all are welcome, a place where you can find a sense of community and belonging– that is the driving force behind Beyond The Boards Foundation. While Shamus and Kim Mease may just be getting started in their non-profit journey, their vision for the future and their passion have already made a lasting difference. Get to know the heart behind this incredible mission; below is a snippet of our Q&A with Beyond The Boards Foundation.

Q. What's the story behind Beyond The Boards Foundation? How did it get its name? What inspired the nonprofit?



Beyond the Boards Foundation really began with our family's love of hockey and our firsthand experience of seeing just how much being part of an ice sport can impact a person's life. Our son began playing hockey when he was nine years old, and over the years we watched it become so much more than a game. Hockey gave him friendships, purpose, confidence, discipline, a place to belong, and eventually opportunities to give back by helping younger players. As his parents, we often say that hockey saved his life, because we saw the difference that having that community and something he truly loved made in the person he became.

That experience planted a seed. We began dreaming about creating an ice facility in North Idaho, but the more we talked about it, the more we realized our dream wasn't really about building an ice rink at all. It was about creating the kinds of opportunities our family had witnessed–

–through hockey and making sure those opportunities weren't limited by someone's age, ability, background, or financial circumstances.

That's where the name Beyond the Boards came from. The boards may surround the ice, but what happens there can reach far beyond them. The lessons learned through sports—perseverance, teamwork, confidence, character, friendship and belonging—follow people into the rest of their lives...Beyond the Boards is still at the beginning of its story, and we have a long road ahead of us. But we believe something doesn't have to exist yet for its purpose to be real. We're taking it one step at a time, building the foundation, gathering people who believe in the vision, and walking by faith toward something we hope will serve North Idaho for generations.

Because ultimately, Beyond the Boards isn't about ice. It's about what can happen in a person's life when they're simply given the opportunity to step onto it. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." – 2 Corinthians 5:7



Q. What does 'a place to belong' mean to you personally?

To me, a place to belong is somewhere you don't have to prove that you deserve to be there. You don't have to be the best athlete, have the most money, look a certain way, learn the same way as everyone else, or have the same abilities. You can simply walk through the doors and know there is a place for you...Personally, I think everyone needs somewhere they can say, "These are my people. I have a place here." I've seen what finding that kind of community through hockey can do in someone's life, and that has stayed with me...

Q. What are the biggest challenges standing between Beyond The Boards Foundation and its vision?

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Q. What can the community/businesses/etc. do right now to support Beyond The Boards Foundation, even if they aren't involved in ice sports themselves?

One of the most important things we want people to understand is that you don't have to love hockey, know how to skate, or even own a pair of skates to be part of Beyond the Boards. At its heart, this isn't simply an ice-sports project. It's a community project. If you believe young people need positive places to grow, families need places to connect, individuals with disabilities deserve opportunities designed with them in mind, financial circumstances shouldn't automatically close doors, and communities become stronger when people have somewhere they belong—then there is a place for you in this mission....one of the greatest ways people can help is simply by sharing our story. Follow us, talk about the vision, share our posts and introduce Beyond the Boards to people who might connect with what we're trying to accomplish. Sometimes the person who shares a post isn't the person who ultimately becomes involved—but they may be the reason our story reaches them...

Q. What does support look like to you beyond just financial support?

Support, to me, is anyone who is willing to help carry the vision forward in whatever way they can....money is only one piece of what Beyond the Boards needs. Right now, some of the most meaningful support can be as simple as someone saying, "I believe in what you're trying to do. How can I help?"...Support can look like sharing our story with someone else. It can be making an introduction to a person or organization we should know...a volunteer giving a few hours of their time, or someone with nonprofit experience helping us avoid a mistake they learned from themselves...Sometimes support is simply encouragement...I also think one of the greatest forms of support is honest input. We don't want to build Beyond the Boards based only on what we think people need. We want to listen. We want families, athletes, individuals with disabilities, coaches, community organizations and others to tell us what's missing, what barriers they've experienced and what would make this facility truly useful to them...If Beyond the Boards becomes everything we hope it can be, there will never be one person who can say, "I built this." Instead, I hope there will be thousands of people who can look at it someday and say: "I helped." And I think there is something incredibly special about that. Because ***a community facility should have a community story behind it.***

This is only a very small portion of our in-depth Q&A with Beyond The Boards Foundation. To read more about this inspirng team be sure to visit the latest issue page at **MadeInTheValleyIdaho.com** and be sure to visit, support, and follow Beyond The Boards Foundation as they continue to grow and lay the cornerstone for community and connection.

You can find, contact, and support Beyond The Boards Foundation on **Facebook** and **Instagram**

BEHIND THE MISSION: Beyond The Boards Foundation Q & A

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That experience planted a seed. We began dreaming about creating an ice facility in North Idaho, but the more we talked about it, the more we realized our dream wasn't really about building an ice rink at all. It was about creating the kinds of opportunities our family had witnessed through hockey—and making sure those opportunities weren't limited by someone's age, ability, background, or financial circumstances.

That's where the name Beyond the Boards came from. The boards may surround the ice, but what happens there can reach far beyond them. The lessons learned through sports—perseverance, teamwork, confidence, character, friendship and belonging—follow people into the rest of their lives.

Our vision has grown to include hockey, figure skating, sled hockey, recreational skating, camps and clinics, educational and life-skills programs, and scholarships for individuals and families who may not otherwise be able to afford to participate. We also envision a facility intentionally designed for people of all abilities, where accessibility isn't treated as an accommodation or an afterthought—it is built into the foundation from the very beginning.

Beyond the Boards is still at the beginning of its story, and we have a long road ahead of us. But we believe something doesn't have to exist yet for its purpose to be real. We're taking it one step at a time, building the foundation, gathering people who believe in the vision, and walking by faith toward something we hope will serve North Idaho for generations.

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"For we walk by faith, not by sight." — 2 Corinthians 5:7

Q. You have a vision for an inclusive community ice complex–What would you love to see happening on and off the ice when that vision becomes reality?

A. When we picture Beyond the Boards becoming a reality, we don't just see three sheets of ice—we see a building full of life. We see a child lacing up skates for the first time, a hockey team practicing together, a figure skater working toward a dream, and a sled hockey player taking the ice knowing the facility was designed with them in mind from the very beginning. We see public skating, youth and adult hockey, figure skating, adaptive programs, camps, clinics, and tournaments all happening under one roof.

But just as important to us is what happens off the ice.

We envision Beyond the Boards as a true community gathering place. We want off-ice training areas where athletes can develop strength and confidence, a quiet sensory-friendly room, and comfortable, inclusive locker rooms that allow athletes of all abilities to prepare for the ice with dignity and independence.

At the heart of the complex, we imagine a warm, North Idaho-inspired lodge-style lobby with wood, stone, a fireplace, and a café—a sort of "community living room." Parents could have a cup of coffee while watching practice, families could gather around a table, teammates could do homework together, and people who aren't participating in an ice sport could still feel completely at home there. We want people to come for the ice but discover a community.

Accessibility also means more to us than designing a building someone can physically enter. Ice sports can be expensive, so scholarships and financial assistance are an important part of our vision. We want a child's first question to be "What would I love to try?" rather than "Can my family afford for me to try it?" Whenever possible, we want to help bridge that gap.

Another part of our long-term vision is to help open the door for junior-level hockey opportunities here in North Idaho. For many young players, graduating from high school can also mean reaching the end of their hockey journey—not because they have lost their passion or potential, but because the next level may require leaving home and taking on expenses their families simply cannot afford. We would love to see Beyond the Boards create opportunities for players to continue developing and competing at a higher level while remaining connected to their families and community. Whether that eventually means supporting or hosting junior hockey, development programs, or partnerships that create a pathway beyond youth hockey, our hope is that a young person never has to walk away from the sport they love simply because the next opportunity is financially or geographically out of reach.

Ultimately, we hope that Beyond the Boards becomes a place where people of different ages, abilities, and circumstances share the same space and simply belong. We'd love to see friendships formed, confidence built, families strengthened, young people mentored, and lives changed in ways we may never fully know.

If someday someone walks through those doors and discovers their place, their people, or something they never knew they were capable of, then Beyond the Boards will be doing exactly what we dreamed it could do.

Q. What does 'a place to belong' mean to you personally?

A. To me, a place to belong is somewhere you don't have to prove that you deserve to be there. You don't have to be the best athlete, have the most money, look a certain way, learn the same way as everyone else, or have the same abilities. You can simply walk through the doors and know there is a place for you.

Belonging means being seen, welcomed and valued for who you are. It's the child who is nervous about stepping onto the ice for the first time and finds someone willing to take their hand. It's the athlete with a disability who doesn't have to wonder whether the building or program can accommodate them because they were considered from the very beginning. It's the family who couldn't normally afford an ice sport receiving a scholarship and getting to watch their child discover something they love. And sometimes it's simply a parent sitting by the fireplace with a cup of coffee, finding friendship with another parent while their kids are on the ice.

Personally, I think everyone needs somewhere they can say, "These are my people. I have a place here." I've seen what finding that kind of community through hockey can do in someone's life, and that has stayed with me.

That's what we want Beyond the Boards to become. Not a place where someone is merely allowed to participate, but a place where they know they were expected, considered and wanted all along.

To me, that's the difference between being included and truly belonging.

Q. Beyond just learning the sport(s), what does the community gain from participating in ice sports?

A. Ice sports teach so much that has very little to do with skating, scoring goals, or winning competitions. They teach perseverance, discipline, teamwork, responsibility and how to keep going when something is difficult. On the ice, you are going to fall—sometimes literally—and you learn to get back up and try again. Those lessons have a way of following you long after you take your skates off.

They also create community in a very unique way. Teammates become friends, coaches become mentors, and parents and families build relationships in the stands, hallways and parking lots. People who may never have crossed paths otherwise find themselves cheering together, volunteering together, traveling together and supporting one another. Over time, a rink can become much more than a place where practices and games happen—it can become a gathering place for an entire community.

For young people especially, ice sports can provide positive role models, structure, accountability and somewhere productive to invest their time and energy. They learn how to work toward goals, handle disappointment, celebrate someone else's success, communicate with others and understand that being part of a team means sometimes putting something bigger than yourself first. Those are skills that carry into school, relationships, careers and adulthood.

We also believe there is tremendous value in bringing different people together through hockey, figure skating, sled hockey, recreational skating and other programs. When children grow up sharing the ice and the building with people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities, inclusion becomes something they experience, not simply something they're taught.

And the impact doesn't stop with the athletes. A thriving ice community creates opportunities for coaches, officials, volunteers, mentors, local businesses and families to become involved. Tournaments and events can bring visitors into the area, while community programs can give people another place to connect and serve.

Ultimately, we aren't only hoping to develop better hockey players or skaters. We hope to help develop confident, resilient, compassionate people—and build a stronger community around them.

That, to us, is where the real value of ice sports begins to reach beyond the boards.

Q. Is there a person, story, or experience that continues to remind you of why your mission is so important?

A. For me, that person will always be our son.

He started playing hockey when he was nine years old and continued through his teenage years, eventually having the opportunity to play junior hockey for a short time. Over those years, I watched hockey become much more than a sport to him. It gave him friendships, structure, confidence, responsibility and a community where he belonged. As he got older, I also watched him begin giving some of that back by helping coach younger players.

I've said many times that hockey saved his life, and I don't say that lightly. I don't mean that hockey made everything easy or that there weren't difficult seasons. I mean that it gave him somewhere to go, something to work toward, people who counted on him and something that became part of who he was during some very important years of his life.

His experience also showed us how quickly opportunities can disappear. His time in junior hockey was cut short during the COVID years, and eventually his competitive playing days came to an end. Watching his journey made us realize how valuable these opportunities are—and how difficult it can be for young athletes to continue when the next step requires leaving home, finding housing, traveling long distances or taking on expenses a family simply can't manage.

When I think about Beyond the Boards, I think about him—but I also think about the child we haven't met yet.

Maybe it's a nine-year-old who hasn't discovered hockey yet. Maybe it's a little girl who dreams of becoming a figure skater. Maybe it's an athlete with a disability who has never been given the opportunity to try sled hockey. Maybe it's a teenager who needs somewhere positive to belong, or a young adult who isn't ready for their time on the ice to end simply because high school did.

We may never know what giving someone access to the ice could change in their life.

Our son's story reminds me why this mission matters because I've already seen what can happen when one child finds their thing. Beyond the Boards is our hope that many more people will have the opportunity to find theirs.

If hockey could make that kind of difference in our son's life, I can't help but wonder how many other lives could be changed if we simply opened the door.

Q. Accessibility is an incredibly important part of your mission– what are some barriers that you think/see are preventing more people from participating–how would you change/fix them?

A. When we talk about accessibility, we mean much more than whether someone can physically enter a building. There are many different barriers that can keep someone from ever having the opportunity to experience an ice sport, and our hope is to address as many of those barriers as we realistically can.

Cost is one of the biggest. Ice sports can become expensive very quickly when you consider registration fees, equipment, ice time, coaching and travel. For some families, those costs mean their child never gets the chance to try. That's why scholarships, reduced-cost programming, equipment assistance and opportunities to simply experience the ice without making a major financial commitment are such important parts of our vision. We don't want someone's financial circumstances to determine whether they get an opportunity to discover something they might love.

There are also physical and program-accessibility barriers. If we have the opportunity to build this facility from the ground up, we want accessibility considered during the design process—not added later because a regulation tells us it has to be there. That means thinking about everything from entrances, hallways, restrooms and locker rooms to getting onto the ice itself. It also means creating space and programming for adaptive sports such as sled hockey and having sensory-friendly areas for individuals who may need somewhere quieter when the environment becomes overwhelming.

Another barrier is simply knowing where you belong. Walking into an ice rink for the first time can be intimidating, especially if you've never skated, don't own equipment, don't understand hockey or skating culture, or don't see anyone who seems like you. We want beginner programs, introductory opportunities and a culture where someone can walk in knowing absolutely nothing and still feel welcomed. You shouldn't have to already be part of the ice community to become part of the ice community.

Geography and opportunity can become barriers too. As athletes grow older and advance, the next level can require extensive travel or even moving away from home. That's one reason we'd eventually love to help expand development and junior-level opportunities locally, giving young athletes additional pathways to continue pursuing the sport without every next step automatically requiring their family to take on significant travel, housing or boarding expenses.

We know we won't be able to remove every barrier for every person. But we can intentionally ask, **"What is keeping this person from participating, and is there something we can do about it?"** Sometimes the answer may be financial assistance. Sometimes it's lending someone equipment, designing a better doorway, offering the right program, providing a quieter space, or simply having someone there who says, *"Come on in. We'll help you figure it out."*

To me, true accessibility means people aren't continually being asked to find a way around barriers that were never designed with them in mind.

Our goal is not to build a facility and then figure out how to make people fit into it. Our goal is to build a place around the belief that they belonged there from the beginning.

Q. What kind of partnerships are you hoping to build through this nonprofit?

A. We hope to build partnerships throughout North Idaho and beyond because we truly believe Beyond the Boards will only become what it is meant to be through community. This isn't something we want to build for the community without them—we want to build it with them.

We would love to partner with local businesses, schools, youth organizations, community groups, healthcare and rehabilitation professionals, disability and adaptive-sports organizations, hockey and figure skating programs, coaches, athletes, nonprofits, churches, service organizations and others who share a desire to create opportunities for people.

Some partnerships may help us provide scholarships or equipment so financial circumstances don't keep someone off the ice. Others could help us develop adaptive and sled hockey programs, sensory-friendly spaces, mentoring, tutoring, life-skills programs, camps and clinics. We also hope to learn directly from individuals with disabilities and the organizations that serve them. If we truly want to create an inclusive facility, the people who understand those barriers firsthand should have a voice in how we design programs and spaces to remove them.

As the project grows, we hope to develop relationships with businesses and professionals who can help with the enormous undertaking of eventually building the facility—from architects, engineers and contractors to sustainability experts and organizations experienced in operating ice facilities. We want to learn from people who have already done this well rather than assuming we have all the answers.

A. We would also love to build relationships within the larger hockey and skating communities, including collegiate, junior, professional and adaptive organizations. Those relationships could someday create clinics, coaching and mentoring opportunities, player development, exhibitions, tournaments and pathways for local athletes to continue growing without automatically having to leave their community.

And, of course, there will be opportunities for sponsorships, donations and grants. Those will be incredibly important, but when we say partnership, we mean much more than writing a check. Someone may have knowledge we need, equipment they can donate, an hour they can volunteer, a connection they can make, or an idea we haven't thought of yet. Sometimes opening the right door can be every bit as valuable as funding.

Ultimately, we're looking for people and organizations willing to say, "How can we help make this possible?"

Beyond the Boards may begin with a small group of people and a very big dream, but our hope is that one day the facility will belong, in a sense, to the entire community because the community helped build it.

Q. What are the biggest challenges standing between Beyond The Boards Foundation and its vision?

A. The biggest challenge is probably the sheer size of the vision. We aren't simply hoping to start a program—we ultimately hope to build and operate a multi-rink, inclusive community ice complex. That means finding the right land, raising significant funding, navigating design and construction, developing sustainable operations, and building programs that can serve the community for generations. We know that doesn't happen overnight.

Right now, however, our challenges are much smaller and more foundational. We're still at the very beginning. We're building our board, working toward our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, developing relationships within the community, learning from people with expertise we don't have, and putting the organizational pieces in place so that Beyond the Boards has a strong foundation before we try to build anything on top of it.

Funding will obviously be one of our largest challenges. A project of this scale will require grants, individual donors, corporate and community sponsors, fundraising, partnerships and eventually sustainable sources of earned revenue. But we also believe support doesn't always have to begin with a large donation. A small contribution, an introduction, professional expertise, donated equipment, volunteer time or simply sharing our story can all help move the mission forward.

Another challenge is making sure we don't lose sight of why we're doing this as the project becomes more complicated. It would be easy for a project this large to become focused on buildings, budgets and square footage. Those things matter, but they're not the mission. The mission is the people who will eventually walk through those doors. We want every decision—from facility design and programming to scholarships and partnerships—to continue reflecting our commitment to accessibility, opportunity and belonging.

We also recognize that we don't know everything, and I actually think acknowledging that is important. We need architects, engineers, ice-facility professionals, coaches, adaptive-sports experts, financial professionals, community leaders, families and future participants around the table. Part of building this responsibly is being willing to listen, learn and surround ourselves with people who know things we don't.

There are moments when I look at everything between where we are today and where we hope to someday be, and it can feel enormous. But then I remind myself that we don't have to build the entire dream today. We just have to take the next right step.

For us, this really is a walk of faith. Our guiding verse is "For we walk by faith, not by sight." – 2 Corinthians 5:7. We don't know exactly how every piece will come together yet. What we do know is why we started, who we hope to serve, and that we're willing to keep taking one step at a time.

The distance between where Beyond the Boards is today and where we dream it will someday be is significant—but that's not a reason not to begin. It's the reason to keep building.

Q. What are the milestones you are hoping to achieve in the next year?

A. Over the next year, our biggest goal is to build a strong foundation for everything that comes afterward. We have a very large long-term vision, but we also understand that something of this magnitude has to be built carefully and responsibly, one step at a time.

Our first major milestone is completing our founding board and moving through the process of obtaining our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. That will open important doors for fundraising, grants, sponsorships and partnerships and allow us to begin growing Beyond the Boards as an established charitable organization.

From there, we want to focus heavily on building relationships throughout the community. We hope to connect with local families, businesses, schools, community organizations, hockey and skating communities, adaptive-sports organizations, potential sponsors, donors and professionals who can help us understand what North Idaho needs from a facility like this. We don't want to develop the entire vision in a vacuum. Listening to the people we hope to serve will be an important part of shaping it.

Another milestone will be beginning to develop a more concrete feasibility and facility plan. Our vision is a three-sheet ice complex, but there are many questions that need thoughtful answers before that can happen: land requirements, construction and operating costs, programming demand, accessibility needs, sustainability, potential locations and long-term financial viability. We hope to begin surrounding ourselves with professionals who can help turn the dream into measurable plans and realistic phases.

We also want to begin establishing our fundraising and grant strategy, growing community awareness, identifying potential founding partners and sponsors, and creating opportunities for people to become involved at every level. We want people to understand that they don't have to make a huge financial contribution to become part of this story. Every donation, volunteer hour, introduction, shared post and connection can help move us forward.

And one milestone that is especially important to us is beginning conversations about the programs we eventually want Beyond the Boards to provide—scholarships, adaptive and sled hockey, youth development, figure skating, recreational skating, junior-level opportunities, mentoring and educational programs. The building may still be years away, but we can begin developing the relationships and framework behind those programs now.

A year from now, success for us wouldn't necessarily mean seeing construction equipment on a piece of land. Success would mean looking back and seeing that Beyond the Boards is no longer simply an idea held by a few people, but a growing community of people who believe in what it could become and are helping us build the path to get there.

We know this dream will take time. Our goal for the next year is simply to be significantly farther down that path than we are today—with a stronger organization, stronger partnerships, greater community involvement and a clearer roadmap for what comes next.

We don't have to accomplish the entire vision in one year. We just want every step we take this year to make the next one possible.

Q. What can the community/businesses/etc. do right now to support Beyond The Boards Foundation, even if they aren't involved in ice sports themselves?

A. One of the most important things we want people to understand is that you don't have to love hockey, know how to skate, or even own a pair of skates to be part of Beyond the Boards.

At its heart, this isn't simply an ice-sports project. It's a community project. If you believe young people need positive places to grow, families need places to connect, individuals with disabilities deserve opportunities designed with them in mind, financial circumstances shouldn't automatically close doors, and communities become stronger when people have somewhere they belong—then there is a place for you in this mission.

Right now, one of the greatest ways people can help is simply by sharing our story. Follow us, talk about the vision, share our posts and introduce Beyond the Boards to people who might connect with what we're trying to accomplish. Sometimes the person who shares a post isn't the person who ultimately becomes involved—but they may be the reason our story reaches them.

Connections are incredibly valuable to us right now. We would love introductions to people with experience in nonprofit development, grant writing, fundraising, architecture, engineering, construction, commercial real estate, finance, accessibility, adaptive sports, sustainability, youth development, education, ice-facility operations and many other areas. We know we don't have all the answers, and we aren't afraid to learn from people who know more than we do.

Businesses can also begin thinking creatively about how they might someday become involved. That could eventually mean sponsorships or financial support, but it could also mean donating professional services, equipment or materials; providing volunteers; mentoring young people; helping with fundraising events; or partnering with us on programs that benefit the community.

And sometimes support is even simpler than that. Ask us how things are going. Encourage us. Give us an idea. Introduce us to someone. Volunteer when an opportunity comes up. Tell another person why you think this could matter to North Idaho.

As Beyond the Boards grows and our nonprofit structure is fully established, there will be more formal opportunities to donate, sponsor programs, support scholarships and become founding partners. But people don't have to wait until there's a building or a fundraising campaign to become part of the story.

We're building the community around Beyond the Boards before we build the building itself.

So even if you've never stepped onto the ice, there's still room for you here. Because ultimately, this isn't about creating something exclusively for people who already love ice sports.

It's about creating opportunities for people who may not even know yet that someday they will.

Q. What does support look like to you beyond just financial support?

A. Support, to me, is anyone who is willing to help carry the vision forward in whatever way they can.

Of course, financial support will eventually be necessary to build something of this magnitude, but money is only one piece of what Beyond the Boards needs. Right now, some of the most meaningful support can be as simple as someone saying, "I believe in what you're trying to do. How can I help?"

Support can look like sharing our story with someone else. It can be making an introduction to a person or organization we should know. It can be a professional offering advice in an area we don't understand yet, a volunteer giving a few hours of their time, or someone with nonprofit experience helping us avoid a mistake they learned from themselves.

It can be an architect helping us think differently about accessibility, an adaptive athlete or family telling us what they actually need from a facility, a coach sharing what young athletes in our area are missing, or a business owner connecting us with someone who may be able to open another door.

Sometimes support is simply encouragement.

This is a very big dream, and we know there will be setbacks, unanswered questions and moments when the distance between where we are and where we hope to be feels overwhelming. Having people around us who remind us why the mission matters, pray for us, ask how things are going, share an idea, or simply tell us to keep going means more than they may realize.

I also think one of the greatest forms of support is honest input. We don't want to build Beyond the Boards based only on what we think people need. We want to listen. We want families, athletes, individuals with disabilities, coaches, community organizations and others to tell us what's missing, what barriers they've experienced and what would make this facility truly useful to them. Being willing to lend your voice to the vision is a form of support too.

A. And then there are the people who may never have their names on a donor wall or receive public recognition but quietly help move something forward—by sharing a post, making a phone call, volunteering at an event, offering advice, praying for the mission or telling one other person about it.

Those things matter. Those people matter.

If Beyond the Boards becomes everything we hope it can be, there will never be one person who can say, "I built this." Instead, I hope there will be thousands of people who can look at it someday and say:

"I helped."

And I think there is something incredibly special about that.

Because a community facility should have a community story behind it.