



BOSTON **PRIDE HOCKEY**

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

GREG SARGENT, PRESIDENT OF BOSTON PRIDE HOCKEY, INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear BPH friends and supporters,

As it has since 1989, BPH creates an environment where we can celebrate ourselves within the sport of ice hockey. For a few hours every week, and sometimes for an entire weekend, we don the Rainbow Unicorn crest and play hockey.

What's different about BPH compared to any other hockey group? Everyone is welcome and included from the beginning. Everyone is encouraged and supported to be themselves. Want to walk into a locker room and not feel uneasy about being who you are? Come to BPH.

The 2021/2022 year was challenging but successful. We returned to playing after a year off, starting with Spring and Summer pickup hockey. Then we launched the Inclusive Hockey League (IHL) in the Fall of 2021. The IHL's success is evident in the numbers, 55+ players in the Fall season and 65+ players in the Winter season. Tournaments and Friendship Series also returned in full. We sent two teams to the Eastern Canada Cup in Montreal, played Friendship Series in Albany with the Albany Bombers and in NYC with the NYCGHA, sent three teams to the Chelsea Challenge in NY (finishing 2nd in the B Division, 1st in the Upper Recreational Division and 3rd in the Lower Recreational Division) and hosted the first ever Frozen Unicorn Pond Hockey Tournament.

We also continued supporting Team Trans under the BPH umbrella and saw Team Trans run a successful tournament and create city specific groups. In 2022, we even expanded our support of trans hockey by providing three scholarships for Transwave players to play in the Chelsea Challenge.

As you can see from the financials at the end of this report, BPH is financially sound. Donors contributed 40% of our income last year and are vital to our success. Donations allow BPH to subsidize all its programs, to offer no-questions asked financial assistance, and to provide complementary sets of IHL and practice jerseys to everyone. There's nothing that says "you belong" more than being handed your own BPH jerseys at your first skate.

As I take a sabbatical from the board to run for elected office in NH, I am appreciative for BPH and overfilled with a sense of joy and accomplishment. Finding BPH 12 years ago gave me a new family, and the last 6 years leading this organization has been a gift. I love this organization and everyone in it.

Thank you all for your continued support and for keeping BPH great!

Sincerely,



Greg Sargent, President of BPH



A YEAR IN REVIEW

INCLUSIVE HOCKEY LEAGUE

The BPH Inclusive Hockey League (IHL) is the first LGBTQ+ and ally-friendly hockey league in New England. Several years of hard work, strategic planning, and a test run in another league led to a September 2021 launch and the start of a new era for BPH. The IHL is a league where LGBTQ skaters of all levels compete, learn and have fun playing the sport they love with supportive, accepting and like minded people.

Officially debuting in September 2021, the inaugural Fall/Winter and Winter/Spring seasons consisted of four teams competing across 15 weeks of regular season play—with an additional round of games for playoffs and championship. As part of BPH's mission to use the game of hockey to drive positive change and foster more inclusive communities, the IHL is open to everyone and welcomes all skill levels.

"We invite anyone who brings heart, energy, and passion to the IHL. Teamwork, acceptance, and respect are at the core of each of our initiatives, and the IHL is creating a community that celebrates inclusivity, on and off the ice."

- Mark Tikonoff, BPH Vice President & IHL League Commissioner



PLAYER IMPACT + INCLUSIVENESS OVERVIEW

INCLUSIVE HOCKEY LEAGUE

122

**NUMBER OF IHL PLAYERS ACROSS
2021-2022 SEASONS**

"I hadn't played hockey since college when I joined the IHL. The inclusive atmosphere and emphasis on fun helped me fall in love with the game all over again. Not many leagues have a group of players with such diverse backgrounds and varied talent levels, but that is what makes it so special."

- Becky Allis (IHL Player)

\$150

**SUBSIDIZED COST TO
PARTICIPATE IN IHL ACROSS 15
WEEKS OF REGULAR SEASON
PLAY + PLAYOFF ROUNDS**

"The Inclusive Hockey League lives up to its name. I'm so grateful to have been welcomed with open arms, and can easily say skating with BPH has been the most fun I've had in my 25+ years playing the game. It's such a joy to play in a values-first hockey organization."

- Myles Tucker (IHL Player)

16

**NUMBER OF IHL TEAM CAPTAIN
AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

"BPH is a league for everyone, and it's a community that champions everyone's individuality, while playing the game we love. I joined in college, and didn't know anyone, but the BPH family is one of the most welcoming and friendly."

- Nathan Duplessis (IHL Player)

A YEAR IN REVIEW

PICK-UP HOCKEY

The 32nd year of BPH Pickup Hockey was as strong as ever. Summer 2021 Pickup Hockey in Bedford was our “soft reopening” out of a 14 month Covid shutdown and it acclimated everyone to skating in a large group again while complying with our Covid vaccine and booster policy.

By Fall 2021, we were back in the swing of things and Thursday Pickup at Simoni in Cambridge saw plenty of skaters face off for 30+ weeks and continue this multi-decade tradition. We saw lots of new faces and plenty of long time members too, including the alumnus who first booked the Thursday 9 pm time slot in 1990. Practice jerseys were once again handed out at no cost to those who prepay for a season by purchasing a Pickup Pass, which costs 50% less than if you pay the drop in rate. This Summer we expanded our Summer pickup skates to include Thursdays at 9:10 pm in Bedford, MA and Tuesdays at 8 pm in Rockland, MA. We also offered a Summer Pickup Pass for \$200, which allows the holder to skate in all 40 Spring/Summer skates, keeping BPH affordable.

Learn more and sign up for BPH's Pick-up Hockey by visiting our website.



PLAYER IMPACT + INCLUSIVENESS OVERVIEW

PICK-UP HOCKEY

50%

**RATE OF COST REDUCTION BY
INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW PICK-
UP PASS THIS YEAR**

"BPH has been a wonderful, healthy safe space to meet people across the spectrum of our beautiful community and beyond. I have made lasting friendships, shared incredible journeys and created immeasurable memories and laughs over my 27 year affiliation."

- Richard Bonomo (former BPH President)

40

**NUMBER OF PICK-UP SKATES
HELD DURING SUMMER SESSIONS**

"Joining Boston Pride Hockey is one of the best decisions I have ever made. BPH welcomes anyone with a desire to play and have fun. That's what makes this organization so special, and different than any other I have been a part of. Our common passion for the game brings us together on the ice, but BPH makes hockey more than just a game, it is a community."

- Anthony DeJulio (Social Chair)

30

**NUMBER OF PICK-UP SKATES
DURING FALL/WINTER SESSION**

"BPH has been both a safe and competitive space for me as a transgender athlete. I know that when I show up to the rink I can focus on playing the sport I love without having to hide my authentic self."

- Oaklin Keefe (BPH Member)

A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOURNAMENTS AND FRIENDSHIP SERIES

BPH was founded to send an LGBTQ+ ice hockey team to the 1989 Gay Games in Vancouver, and it is our understanding that BPH has sent at least one team to every Gay Games since, including to the Gay Games held in Sydney, AUS, Cologne, GER, Cleveland, OH, and Paris, FR. We not only attend these tournaments, we usually win them bringing home the gold more often than not.

BPH has also for the attended local North America based LGBTQ+ tournaments on a regular basis for the last 6+ years, including

- Chelsea Challenge in NYC
- Eastern Canada Cup in Toronto and Montreal, and
- Market Days Classic in Chicago.

Tournaments and Friendship series made their comeback in 2021 and are back in full in 2022:

TOURNAMENT/SERIES	LOCATION	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	COST PER PLAYER	BPH-FACILITATED HOUSING
FROZEN UNICORN	NEWBURY, NH	JAN 2022	30	\$50	AIRBNB
NYCGHA FRIENDSHIP SERIES	NEW YORK, NY	FEB 2022	15	\$0	NONE
CHELSEA CHALLENGE	NEW YORK, NY	MAY 2022	42	\$175	HOTEL BLOCK
MARKET DAYS CLASSIC	CHICAGO, IL	AUG 2022	14	\$175	AIRBNB
APHA FRIENDSHIP SERIES	BOSTON, MA	SEP 2022	26	\$40	N/A
CANADA CUP	TORONTO, CA	OCT 2022	15	\$160	AIRBNB

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

TOURNAMENTS AND FRIENDSHIP SERIES

HOME TOURNAMENTS

2022 saw BPH host the first ever Frozen Unicorn, a BPH only pond hockey tournament on Chalk Pond in Newbury, NH. We've been hesitant to host a tournament since our last tournament in 2016 proved difficult to organize, but the Frozen Unicorn was a huge success, even though it was cut short by the only Nor'easter of 2022, which brought extreme winds, zero degree temperatures, and 2 feet of snow throughout the entire first day of the tourney.

FRIENDSHIP SERIES

Beginning in 2014, BPH began a weekend friendship series with the Albany Bombers, Albany, NY's LGBTQ+ ice hockey organization, that continues to this day, with each city alternating the hosting duty each year. It has been such a success that in 2019 we added an annual friendship series with the NYGHA, New York City's LGBTQ+ ice hockey organization, that happens each Presidents Day weekend and alternates between Boston and NYC. Currently, we are exploring adding a friendship series with the Montreal Dragons.

ADMINISTRATION

Our tournament and friendship series involvement does not happen by luck or happenstance, it requires significant planning and oversight to provide the BPH experience we all know and love. Because tournaments and series are a central part of BPH, a Chair level position is responsible for day-to-day oversight of tournaments and friendship series. The Chair follows our formal processes for gathering interest, filling teams with appropriate skill level, and coordinating the actual signup, payment of tourney fees, housing, transportation, and social events. The Chair is also responsible for recruiting others to help, as it takes many people to make it all run smooth, and for improving our processes, which have been developed over the last decade.

Contact our current Tournament & Friendship Series Chair, Krystyn Elek at elek@bostonpridehockey.org.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

TEAM TRANS

BPH has sponsored Team Trans (TT) since 2019, providing financial, branding, jersey, administrative, and structural assistance, You may recall that in 2019 BPH and TT held a friendship series in Boston where the first ever all trans ice hockey team, including Jessica Platt and Harrison Browne, played 2 games against BPH teams. Today, TT has 200 trans players!

TT has had an active year in 2021/2022. In November 2021, TT fielded 3 teams (45 trans players in total) in a weekend friendship series against teams from the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA).



A YEAR IN REVIEW

TEAM TRANS

In January 2022, TT entered a team in the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas, and while they did not win a game, their friendships were strengthened and a great time was had by all.

If you watch the face of any trans player as they exit the lockers after skating with TT for the first time, you will see how powerful and awesome TT's existence is. It changes lives. TT player and Board member, Brianne Brinker skated as a TT player for the first time during TT's practice just before the TT/MGHA series. Brianne wrote in the March edition of TT's quarterly newsletter, the Transcript: "Toward the end, and possibly the reason I stayed up for hours that night giddy from the invigorating experience, I heard something I never remembered ever hearing in a locker room. Daniel, the catalyst behind the team trans concept, said on his way out the door, "See you all tomorrow, I love you all."

As if that is not powerful enough, TT's effect reaches well beyond its players. A youth skater playing in the rink next door to the TT/MGHA rink during the series in Madison stopped by the TT check-in desk and spoke with series organizer, Mason LeFebvre. The youth shared how much it meant to them to see all trans teams playing ice hockey. Mason asked the youth if their parents wanted to stop by and get more information. The youth told Mason that their parents did not know they were trans and that they would not be receptive to that fact. But that child now knows they are not alone in the world of ice hockey because there is a family of 200+ trans hockey players called Team Trans.

TT's influence goes beyond the individual as well - it has sparked trans hockey across North America and queer hockey too, including in the Twin cities. Checkout TCQHA.org. Next up for TT:

- October 2022 - Eastern Canada Cup - Toronto
- Fall 2022 - Cruisers Cup Para Ice Hockey Tournament, involving sled hockey - Brampton, Ontario
- Fall 2022 - an All Trans Draft Tournament - Madison, WI

A YEAR IN REVIEW

YOUTH HOCKEY INITIATIVE

BPH has begun a youth hockey initiative to fill a need identified by numerous emails and contacts from parents of LGBT+ youth that play ice hockey and would like a place where they can be themselves and feel a sense of belonging just like adult BPH members.

In 2019 during the BPH/Team Trans Friendship Series, one young hockey player showed up before one of the games to meet Harrison Browne, Jessica Platte, and numerous other Team Trans members. It was an amazing experience for the young person, their parents, and the players. This meeting planted the seed for our youth initiative.

We started small in 2021/2022 with just a few youth skill sessions attended by 10 or so young people of various ages and skill levels. Like many of us when we were kids, these youth skaters play hockey almost constantly in the Winter, so scheduling a day and time that worked for most proved challenging.

But we succeeded and the challenge has been worth it. We have adjusted our policies for our adult skates, which have been 18+ only, to allow for people ages 16 and 17 to skate with us if a parent or guardian attends as well. Since implementing this policy this Spring, two youth have skated with us regularly and experienced the same amazing environment as us older folks.

One parent commented to Greg Sargent, that BPH skates are their child's favorite skate out of all the teams they play on, including a team that played in the state finals. That their child can truly be themselves with BPH and it's been amazing for that parent and child to be a part of BPH.

The youth hockey initiative is on pause for the rest of 2022, but stay tuned in late 2023 as we explore partnering with TD Bank, the Bruins, local parents and local youth ice hockey organizations to create something special.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

OTHER 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented LeagueApps
- Skills sessions
- NWHL/Bruins Skate
- Bruins Events at the Garden
- Grew the relationship with TD Garden Personnel
- Providence Bruins Pride Night and Skate for BPH-RI at the Dunkin Donuts Center
- BPH structural enhancement for sustained success
- Outfitted nearly entire org with tournament jerseys/socks
- Apparel success - beanies - brought in \$750 of profit for BPH; Green helmet custom order placed, BPH helmet stickers for sale.
- Communications - top notch
- Website updates and prospecting for future events improved
- 2nd year in a row with competitive Board elections
- Further developing the next generation of BPH leaders



A YEAR IN REVIEW

FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2021 Financials (ending June 30, 2022)

<i>Fiscal Year 2021 Expenses</i>	Percentage	Amount
Program Expenses	87.5%	\$79,252
Operating Expenses	6.2%	\$5,654
Apparel Sales Expenses	5.9%	\$5,303
Fundraising Expenses	0.4%	\$336
Grand Total	100%	\$90,545

<i>Fiscal Year 2021 Income</i>	Percentage	Amount
Programs Income	50%	\$47,176
Fundraising Income	40%	\$37,532
Apparel Sales Income	11%	\$10,124
Grand Total	100%	\$94,832

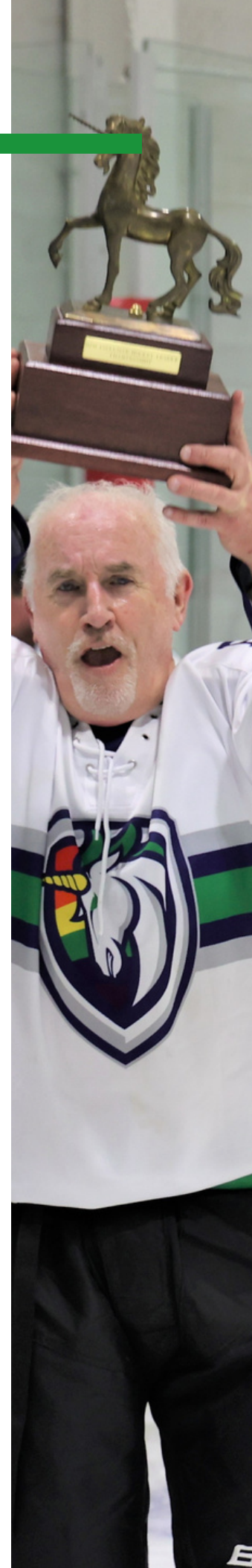
Fiscal Year 2021 Final Balance Sheet Summary

<i>Fiscal Year 2021 Final Balance Sheet</i>	Amount
Fiscal Year Opening Balance (Jul 1)	\$33,817
FYTD Net Income / (Loss)	\$4,287
Fiscal Year Closing Balance (Jun 30)	\$38,103

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget (ending June 30, 2023)

<i>Fiscal Year 2022 Budgeted Expenses</i>	Percentage	Amount
Program Expenses	90.7%	\$116,880
Operating Expenses	4.8%	\$6,147
Apparel Sales Expenses	3.9%	\$5,000
Marketing Expense	0.4%	\$500
Fundraising Expense	0.3%	\$336
Grand Total	100%	\$128,863

<i>Fiscal Year 2022 Budgeted Income</i>	Percentage	Amount
Program Income	68%	\$93,560
Fundraising Income	25%	\$35,000
Apparel Sales Income	7%	\$10,000
Grand Total	100%	\$138,560



A YEAR IN REVIEW

MEMBER TESTIMONIALS

“It's rare that you find a person in your life that will always encourage you to be your best self and uplift you even when you feel you can do better. That kind of person is usually a partner, or maybe a best friend. Being a BPH'er has given me a new perspective on what it means to have a proper support network where everyone is encouraged to be the best they can be, both on and off the ice.”

- Frank Bachmann

“Being a 50+ years old hockey player has certainly provided me a broad spectrum of what hockey can be and thankfully now a view of what it should be. I feel truly that my hockey journey has led me to BPH. The support, love, respect, and mission of hockey is for everyone has connected with me on such a deep and meaningful level. Life can get busy and sometimes you don't realize you have a void in your soul until you find the just right experience and people that complete you.”

- Ken Wertz

“I joined BPH in 1997 and quickly knew it was my place in the community. Since joining I've played hockey around the world including Australia and Germany winning several medals with my teammates at the various Gay Games. Through the connections with players on and off the ice I've made life-long memories and friends. I'm grateful for everything BPH has provided me and my fellow hockey players over the decades BPH has been in existence.”

- Jeff Higgins

"I've been with Boston Pride Hockey since 2019 and can honestly say that I'm a better person because of it. Boston Pride Hockey is full of amazing, compassionate, understanding, and welcoming people. I've made numerous new friendships since I've joined and these have only been strengthened by participating in the many tournaments and friendship series' that Boston Pride Hockey plays in or hosts. These opportunities have allowed me to express my true, authentic self while visiting other cities and spending time with some of the best people I've ever known! My experience with Boston Pride Hockey goes far beyond hockey, and that's the best part about it!"

- Patrick Norton



BOSTON
PRIDE HOCKEY