



September 15, 2018

Bill Greim Presented with CGHL Leadership Award

The Shoreline Sharks are proud to announce that the Connecticut Girls Hockey League (CGHL) presented our own Bill Greim with the Gary LaChance Leadership Award at the annual coaches meeting last week.

His tremendous vision, persistent action, steady leadership, and advancement of the sport of girls hockey at the local and regional levels were demonstrated through his many accomplishments including the formation of the Guilford High School Girls Hockey team, the Shoreline Sharks where he served as President from inception until 2017 and continues to volunteer as a Board Member and Clinic Director for our Learn to Play Clinics and the CGHL.

This prestigious **Gary LaChance Leadership Award is given annually to a CGHL member** (only if there is a meritorious candidate) who is empathetic, intuitive, and shows passion for improving girl's hockey. The criteria align perfectly with Bill's extraordinary vision and accomplishments:

- **1998:** Partnered with a small group of parents to **form, and help coach, the first Guilford High School Girl's Hockey Team**. Over the past 20 years, hundreds of Guilford girl have proudly worn their Indians' jerseys on the ice.
- **2000: Co-founded the Shoreline Sharks**, realizing the need to give girls an opportunity to play ice hockey in a supportive and positive environment. His vision and purpose resulted in the organization's player development model and girls-only focus, which continue to give Sharks a unique learning and competitive opportunity.
- **2005:** Believed in the importance of establishing a Connecticut-based hockey league dedicated to girls, **becoming a founding Board Member of the CGHL**, for which he continues to serve. His critical thinking and commitment to bettering the game have shaped policy and created more opportunities for girls in the state.

Gary La Chance, the Co-Founder of the Shoreline Sharks and CGHL, presented the award to Bill and said, "This recognition is extremely well deserved and long overdue. Bill has demonstrated time and again over many, many years his ability to perceive positive change is needed and selflessly takes action to make it happen. Without folks like Bill Greim, the CGHL would not exist. He's done so much to strengthen our organization and the community."

Bill has a legacy as a coach as well. He tells the story of how while watching his nephew's game, the coach became totally out of control. At that moment, he knew there had to be a better approach. At the invitation of his brother the following year, Bill coached his first season and was given a chance to put his theory into practice. Forty-five years later, he's still on the ice. **Bill fell in love with coaching and continues to treasure the opportunity to make a difference, one player at a time.**

“Given the chance to be a part of the young ladies’ lives that you coach is a unique responsibility and one that should never be taken lightly. We have the opportunity to influence our players in so many ways, and in so many circumstances. Always treat that opportunity with respect it deserves. And, always be the role model by which you want to be remembered.”

Bill Greim

Co-Founder of the Shoreline Sharks & Recipient of the CGHL Gary LaChance Leadership Award

Creating a positive environment is at the core of the Sharks culture and values. **Bill’s belief in development, integrity, effort, fun, and excellence drive our organization today.** Some of our Board Members shared thoughts on what they found inspiring about Bill:

Ed Rodham: Parent, Coach (U14 Black & U16 Black), Board Member

The Shoreline Sharks would not exist without Bill Greim. That is a powerful statement. Bill continues to shape girls hockey in Connecticut through his leadership, moral compass, and unwavering commitment to providing a place for girls of all levels to play hockey. Bill’s selfless dedication to the Sharks and girls hockey provides all of us with a shining example of the best that youth sports represent.

Brent Aiken: Parent, Team Manager (U14 Green), Board Member

Bill’s passion for making a difference drives me to want to do more for our players and families. He encompasses the true meaning of "family first" and works hard to ensure the values with which he started the program remain the foundation today. It’s an honor to work alongside Bill as he provides leadership, integrity, and compassion.

Chris Licari: Parent, Coach (U16/19 Split), Board Member

Bill represents everything good about youth sports. He gives so much more than he expects in return and continues to show me how it really is about the kids.

Pam Miller: Parent, Team Manager (U16/19 Full Season), Board Member

Bill epitomizes the Sharks with his character, development-mindset and player-first approach. His experience and passion gleam on Sundays at the Learn to Play Clinic. Not only does he know everyone’s name, but he also finds a way to light a spark that makes the girls want to try harder and get better. His impact can be seen by the smiles on the participant’s faces.

John Barto: Parent, Coach (U10 Green & U14 Green), Board Member

Bill has been invaluable to the success of girl’s youth hockey in CT. He continues to impact children in an incredibly positive way each time he sets foot on the ice to teach and inspire our Sand Sharks, breeding enthusiasm for the sport. His involvement at the board level of the Sharks is unparalleled as he always provides wisdom, direction and provokes both creative and positive thought. Bill is a leader, a tireless volunteer, and a champion for girl’s youth hockey and his recognition is long overdue.

A heartfelt congratulations to Bill from everyone in the Sharks organization for this impressive award. He is clearly deserving of this recognition, and we thank him for his time, commitment and passion. **Girl's hockey in Connecticut is undoubtedly better because of Bill Greim.**