



The Huddle

OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE RBA

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

BRADY VANHOVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Duluth basketball scholarship honors player who died tragically

Brady VanHove Memorial Scholarship Fund will help underprivileged kids play basketball for years to come.

Brady VanHove loved the game of basketball until the day he passed away and went home to be with Jesus. He first started playing basketball in the mid-2000s at age 4, when his grandfather, Mike Jahn, encouraged him to join The Salvation Army's Rookie Basketball Association – the preeminent youth basketball league in Duluth, Minn., and nearby communities in Wisconsin.

Brady played for the RBA's former chapter in Northwestern School District in Wisconsin, where he learned to dribble, shoot and pass. He also learned the fundamentals of being a good human, such as teamwork, positivity, and working hard. *"Brady was a point guard – quick, with great ball handling,"* said his mother, Missy Haworth. *"He was a gifted athlete and had a strong faith in Jesus Christ."*

His time in the RBA laid the foundation for 10 more years of basketball success, including playing for the following teams:
 Grades 3–5: Poplar Wolves, Northwestern School District "Hoop League"
 Grades 6–8: Traveling basketball
 Grades 7–8: Northwestern Middle School
 Grades 9–12: Northwestern High School
 Although Brady stood at only 5'10", his talent for the game outweighed his small stature. *"Brady's height didn't keep him from dunking, which earned him the nickname, 'The Jump Master,' from his*

friends," said Brady's father, Ryan Haworth.

Missy and Ryan's favorite memory of Brady occurred when he was playing in a high school basketball game his sophomore year. His team was losing the entire game – until Brady seized an opportunity to steal the victory. *"He shot a three-pointer at the buzzer and his team won by one point,"* Missy said. *"Brady was ecstatic!"*

After high school, Brady continued to play basketball regularly at the local YMCA, the recreation center at the University of Wisconsin at Superior, and in his driveway at home.

Sadly, Brady died at age 21 in an industrial accident. On Sept. 8, 2020, he went home to be with his Lord and Savior. While the loss of Brady will always be deeply painful to Missy, Ryan, and the rest of Brady's family and friends, their memories of him and his love of basketball will live on through a new scholarship fund created in his honor.

This month, Missy and Ryan announced the *Brady VanHove Memorial Scholarship Fund*, benefitting The Salvation Army RBA. The fund will provide a \$1,000 scholarship annually for many years to come. Through this scholarship, countless underprivileged youth in the Duluth area will have the opportunity to play organized basketball far into the future. *"It is our hope that this scholarship will provide the same joy to other youth that Brady experienced playing basketball in the RBA,"* Ryan said.

Founded in 1987, the RBA offers community-focused basketball opportunities for hundreds of children throughout winter, spring and summer. Last year's winter leagues alone included 525 kids guided by 98 volunteer coaches who gave more than 2,000 hours of time. In addition to basketball, the RBA also emphasizes

character-building. Players engage in service projects while learning the character qualities of love, joy and peace

through teamwork, loyalty and hard work. They also learn the value of charity: In last year's winter league, players collected and donated nearly 900 pounds of food for Salvation Army food shelves.

"Through his participation in the RBA, Brady developed basketball skills and also learned teamwork, taking instruction, listening, discipline, and respect," Missy said. *"These life skills benefitted him on and off the court throughout his life."*

RBA Director Kris Mallett is grateful to Brady's family for their gift, and honored that the RBA is part of his legacy. In her words:

"Brady and his parents understood the benefit of playing basketball. Not only did the game provide him joy, it challenged him to grow as a person on and off the court."

We are so grateful to receive the Brady VanHove Memorial Scholarship Fund. It will help local kids to impact others through teamwork and allow them to grow in discipline and respect – all of which are virtues that RBA staff and parents desire in our players.

Just like a stone thrown in a lake makes ripples that can be seen on the other side, this scholarship will have ripple effects in our community for years to come."



MINISTRIES

Sunday

9:15am Prayer
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship
 11:00am Worship & Message
 Weekly & monthly men's,
 women's, & youth groups meet.
 Contact 218-722-7934 for more
 information.

SERVICES

Free lunch program:

Monday-Friday
 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Food shelf hours:

Monday & Thursday
 1:30-4:00 PM

For information on housing
 & emergency assistance,
 medical food shelf,
 or to volunteer call:
 218-722-7934.



INCREDIBLE EXCHANGE



All St. Louis County 7-9th graders are invited to participate in the summer volunteer program, the 4-H Incredible Exchange! Youth volunteers in the program learn valuable job skills and contribute to their community in a meaningful way. Youth also build connections with trained adult mentors who guide them throughout their volunteer experience. After completion of 25-50 hours, participants earn an exchange certificate redeemable for a recreational or cultural activity of their choice. Examples include ski or golf passes, art classes, dance, music, horseback riding, drivers education and more. Ready to join? Visit z.umn.edu/4hie to apply!



*Anthony & Elysia Nordan,
 Captains (Corps Officers)*

JOB OPENINGS

REFEREES

In September RBA will be hiring to fill 3-4 referee positions. High School diploma/GED required, \$18-21/hour. Contact the RBA office, 218-576-6174 for more information.



SA GAMING
GAME NIGHT

NINTENDO SWITCH
 BOARD/CARD GAMES
 XBOX SERIES X

5-8pm, ALL Ages
 @the Duluth Salvation Army
 May 23, July 11,
 August 15, September 26

SMASH BROS
 JUST DANCE
 MARIO CART



THANK YOU RBA SPONSORS



RBA ALUMNI FEATURE

Each year around 500 former RBA players compete at the high school level in various sports. Several of those play basketball at area high schools. Thank you to Ryley & Maggie for sharing a bit of their story and inspiring RBA players by playing hard & having fun!

RYLEY MCKEON—DULUTH DENFELD

When did you first start playing basketball? I started playing in kindergarten.

Why do you play? I play because I get to hangout with my friends and it gives me something to do outside of school. I also enjoy playing basketball.

Have you played other sports? Which ones? I've played football since 3rd grade.

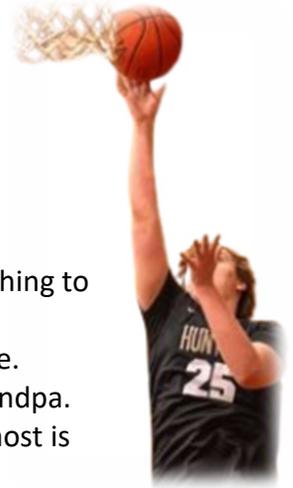
Who inspired you when you were a young player? My mom and my grandpa.

What do you love most about playing basketball? The thing I love the most is the teamwork that comes with the game.

Do you have a memory from Rookie Basketball you can share? My favorite memory is when we were able to play at halftime of a UMD men's basketball game.

What advice would you give to young players? Stay consistent and keep trying your best.

What are your plans after high school? I plan to study business at UMD.



MAGGIE WINESETT—DULUTH EAST

When did you first start playing basketball? I have had a basketball in my hands ever since I could walk, but I first started playing on a team in kindergarten.

Why do you play? At first, basketball was just another sport, but the more I played, the more I fell in love. It became a way to have fun, make friends, and connect with my family. Basketball has continued to grow in my life. It is now a great place to get exercise and is an outlet.

Have you played other sports? Which ones? Growing up, I played just about everything. I eventually narrowed it down to my favorites, basketball and soccer.

Who inspired you when you were a young player? When I was young, I was inspired by my brother, Noah. He was highly committed to basketball, and I looked up to that. We watched the NBA together all the time, our favorite team was the Utah Jazz. My brothers and I constantly played basketball, whether it was mini-basketball, which was probably a little too aggressive, or 2v2 on a full-size hoop.

What do you love most about playing basketball? I love being part of a team and working hard every day. Basketball has given me so many friendships and positive experiences.

Do you have a memory from Rookie Basketball you can share? I remember playing and watching my brother play games in that little carpeted gym, where there's barely enough room for chairs, or playing 3-on-3 tournaments at Lincoln Middle School with my RBA teammates. Both are cherished memories, no matter how many rug burns I got.

What advice would you give to young players? Play hard and have confidence in yourself. Confidence is important; believing in yourself will make you a better player.

What are your plans after high school? Continue playing basketball at Carleton College.



THANK YOU!!!

The following facilities enabled RBA practices & games in 2024-2025 season:
The Encounter Homecroft Elementary Laura MacArthur Elementary
Lakewood Elementary Piedmont Elementary Lincoln Park Middle School
Stowe Elementary Superior Middle School Lowell Elementary

SEND YOUR CHILD TO NORTHWOODS CAMP!

Each year, hundreds of children and families in Minnesota and North Dakota get an experience to remember at The Salvation Army's Northwoods Camp on beautiful Elbow Lake. Days at this faith based overnight camp include time focused on the weekly theme, electives like fishing, archery and canoeing, evening programs, free time activities such as swimming, a two-story waterslide, arts & crafts. All meals and transportation to and from camp from the Duluth Salvation Army are included. **There is NO cost for this camp when you use the code "NORTHWOODS100"**

Camp Dates—Go to <https://shorturl.at/stzFL> to register!

June 16-19 Kids Camp ages 7-12

June 21-26 Teen Camp ages 13-17

June 28-July 5 Music Camp ages 9-17

July 14-18 Sports Camp ages 9-17

July 21-24 Family Camp ages 7-12



RBA BY THE NUMBERS

Here are the programs provided between Summer 2024-Spring 2025.

Summer K-6 grade Clinics

- 55 Kids, 21 girls & 34 boys
- 4 sessions
- 3 youth volunteers giving 101 hours
- Theme: TOGETHER
- Lunch & snack provided

Northwoods Camp

- 16 kids went to The Salvation Army Northwoods camp & enjoyed an overnight summer camp experience

Winter k-8 grade Basketball

- 487 kids, 129 girls, 358 boys
- 102 volunteer coaches invested over 2,290 hours
- 6 divisions playing Nov-mid-March
- Over 20 schools represented
- 226 games, 582 practice were completed
- Players had opportunity to attend practices with Denfeld, East, and UMD teams
- Teams collected over 880 pounds of food for The Salvation Army food shelf during the RBA food drive

Spring K1 Skills & Scrimmage

- 55 kids, 16 girls & 39 boys
- 4 weeks
- 4 volunteer coaches gave 55 hours
- Players developed their skills then scrimmaged at the end of each session

Spring 2-7 grade 3 on 3

- 86 kids, 33 girls, 53 boys
- 6 weeks
- Sessions opened with skills warm up then players were divided into teams for the night & played games

THANK YOU!

We appreciate use of Public Access TV equipment to record & edit RBA winter games. PACT also broadcasts games & you can find the link for each game at bit.ly/RBADULUTH on the RBA website!

35 Full scholarships were given between summer 2024-spring 2025!

Find upcoming program information, weather cancellations and more on Facebook @DuluthSA, Twitter & Instagram @rbaduluth.



THE DULUTH SALVATION ARMY BLACK & WHITE BALL

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY YOU LOVE WHILE
SHARING THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY



May 16, 2025 | Clyde Malting Building | 5 - 8:30 PM

SOCIAL HOUR, DINNER, SILENT AUCTION, PHOTO BOOTH &
BALLROOM DANCE SPONSORED BY SIMPLY BALLROOM
Dress Code: Black and White Business Attire

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT
bit.ly/DuluthSABallTickets

PACT
180 181
Community Media
188 189
Duluth Minnesota

LOCAL CAMP & CLINIC SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

For the basketball beginner, fanatic or anyone in between, we have included the information currently available for the some of the area basketball teams & organizations we partner with in an effort to improve the strength and quality of basketball in Duluth.

The WIN at RBA Summer Clinics is to create an environment that intentionally focuses on developing the WHOLE athlete—BODY—MIND—HEART. The RBA believes basketball offers a platform to develop not only great athletes but also great citizens, boys & girls of moral character who will become the change agents in the Duluth community, & at RBA Summer Clinics we are intentional about leveraging that platform.

Clinics focus on developing fundamentals as well as character qualities of teamwork, respect, integrity, & excellence all through basketball. Players will develop their individual skills through training exercises, contests, & games. Players will also participate in small group activities & discussions after lunch & during snack. Clinics are facilitated by RBA staff. Space is limited.

Summer Clinic dates, 9am-4pm daily, lunch, snack & t-shirt included:

- **K1 grade:** June 12-13 and/or July 7-8; **\$50 each session**
- **2-3 grade:** June 16-18 and/or June 30-July 2; **\$80 each session**
- **4-6 grade:** June 23-26; **\$105 each session**

- **9-17 year old Sports Camp:** July 14-18, **no cost for the week.**

This one week, faith based, sports camp will be offered at The Salvation Army's Northwoods camp. All activities, including free time in the 3 lane pool with 2 story water slide and vortex pool, transportation, and meals are included. RBA staff will also be at Sports Camp.



RBA SUMMER CLINIC SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 June	10	11	12	13
			K-1 grade clinic	
16	17	18	19	20
2-3 grade clinic				
23	24	25	26	27
4-6 grade clinic				
30	1 July	2	3	4
2-3 grade clinic				
7	8	9	10	11
K-1 grade clinic				
14	15	16	17	18
Sports Camp @Northwoods Camp 9-17 yr olds				

Register for Rookie Basketball summer clinics at: bit.ly/RBADULUTH

Date	Host	Grade/Gender	Time	Cost	Contact
June 16-19 July 21-24	UMD Women	3-8 grade girls	9am-4:30pm	\$225 each	Coach Pearson 218-726-6265 Umdbulldogsportcamps.com
June 9-11 6/16-19 7/21-24	UMD Men	K-4 co-ed 3-8 grade boys	9am-12pm 9am-4:30pm	\$100 \$225 each	Coach Wieck 218-726-7270 Umdbulldogsportcamps.com
Various dates & focus	UWS Women	3-8 grade girls	Various	Email for details	Coach Carpenter 715-395-4672 Uwswomensbasketball.com
Various dates & focus	UWS Men	3-12 grade boys	Various	Email for details	Coach Polkowski 715-395-4675 Uwsuperiorbasketball.com
6 weeks in June & July M-TH	East Boys	3-8 grade boys	2 hour blocks see website for exact times	Depending on week	Coach McDonald Dultheastbasketball.com
6 weeks June & July M-TH	East Girls	3-7 grade girls	12:45pm-2:45pm	\$50/week or \$200/all	Coach Windt Richard.windt@isd709.org
6/23-27 7/21-25	Denfeld Boys	2-7 grade 8-12 grade	11am-12:30pm 12:30-2pm	\$75/week	Coach Homere denfeldhoops@gmail.com
June 16-20	Denfeld Girls	4-8 grade girls	9-11am	\$25	Coach Reinertsen erik@thewatersedge.net 218-341-5584





The Salvation Army
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Registration for the 38th season of RBA, 2025-2026 will open online, Tuesday, September 2, 2025
 Go to bit.ly/RBADULUTH for RBA news, game videos, calendar & registration forms.

2024-2025 DALE STOCKE COACH OF THE YEAR—JOHN DOVER

Each season players & parents nominate their coach for the RBA Dale Stoke Coach of the Year award. The Stocke family and Salvation Army staff selected one winner from the nominees. Here is what one parent said about this year’s winter, John Dover: *“This has by far been my son's favorite year. I so appreciate the way Dover encourages kindness, fun, sportsmanship, and all while teaching the rules and skills of the game. The fact that he is a teacher for his day job shines through, his patience and methods of explanation are admirable. I appreciate that there are trophies for being a team player and hustle and how it started as the coaches nominating but now the kids are in charge of each week's nomination.”*



To be removed from this mailing list or if you have questions about The Salvation Army, the RBA, or something in this newsletter contact RBA Director, Kris Mallett at kristin.mallett@usc.salvationarmy.org or 218-576-6174.

INTERESTED IN COACHING 2025-2026?

The RBA relies on 2 volunteers to coach each team. Coaches run weekly practices & coach around 10-one hour games. The coaches meeting is in October. RBA coach training material is adapted from the Minnesota State High School League WHY WE PLAY varsity coach training. Contact the RBA office for more information about becoming a coach such as requirements & resources, including Jr. NBA curriculum & 3DCoaching. Call or text 218-576-6174 for details to join the team of coaches!