

12th Annual Autism Awareness Night with the Rockford IceHogs - draft!

Jan 26, 2023



On January 21, more than 6,400 fans packed the BMO Center in Rockford to celebrate the 12th Annual Autism Awareness Night with the Rockford IceHogs. This was a SOLD OUT event—the first of the season for the IceHogs—and a portion of the ticket sales went back to supporting The Autism Program at Easterseals.

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For every ticket purchased with a special link, the IceHogs Community Fund gave \$30 (up to 1,000 tickets) to benefit our program, The Autism Program at Easterseals (TAP). TAP provides evidence-based screenings, diagnostics, consultations, parent coaching, trainings including with social skills, information, and resources related to autism spectrum disorder. Individuals and families who take part in our TAP program were given free tickets to the event by our generous business supporters.



Smiling Faces and a Hometown Hero

The special superhero-themed night included many smiling faces, a mystery puck and jersey auction to benefit TAP, an autism fact scavenger hunt for kids of all ages, the stadium decorated with

important facts about autism (including that 1 in 44 individuals will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder), and the honoring of our very own, TAP Program Manager Lori Davie, as the IceHog's Hometown Hero! Attendees were also seen with autism-themed buttons created by our very own students and staffers at [HarrysButtons](#), which provides employment training and opportunities to individuals with autism and other disabilities.

TAP Program Manager Lori Davie said, "This night is such an incredible community effort that is about the children and families we serve. So many people, working together to raise awareness about autism, make this night possible. They are the true heroes and I am so lucky to know them."



The mystery pucks were signed by Blackhawks' and IceHog's players. (A special thanks to Pat Rosenberg from Hyundai on Perryville for purchasing the remaining pucks to make the fundraiser a completely sold out endeavor). A premium raffle, which was launched several days before the game,

sold out in hours! A special thank you to Bucciferro Family McDonald's, Lawncare by Walter, the Rockford IceHogs, and the Chicago Blackhawks for donating incredible auction items.



Special Acknowledgements

In addition to the Rockford IceHogs and everyone named previously, we are grateful to the event's presenting sponsor, LawnCare by Walter, and our media sponsors, WZOK and WIFR, who helped to market the night and the importance of autism awareness.

A huge thank you to Constellation, Forta Health, Autism Home Support Services, Chris Zion, Barbara Zawacki, Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford Administrative Services, and Kelly

Williamson.

Thank you to the volunteers who made decorations, wrapped pucks, stayed at the table during the game to answer questions, and cleaned up. A special thank you to the players' wives and significant others who wrapped and helped sell pucks. This night would not have been possible without you!

- **[LISTEN TO LORI on 96.7 THE EAGLE talking about the event and autism awareness](#)**