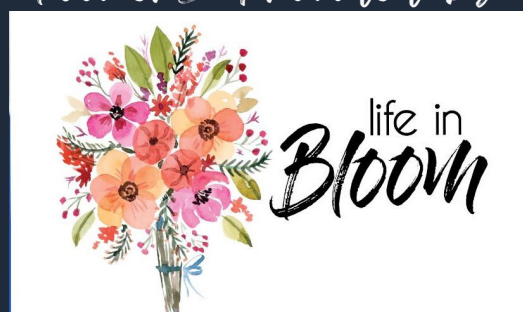




# *2022-23 Billet Appreciation Night*

Honoring the billet families that hosted  
players for the 2022-2023 season

*Flowers Provided by:*



*301 Central Avenue*

# So God made a billet mom

Jean Pace Hovey wrote something inspired by Paul Harvey's: God Made a Farmer.

And on the eight day, God looked down and saw a man-child with a hockey stick in his hand who was too young to be parted from his home, but too talented to stay. God said, "He needs a caretaker." **So God made a billet mom.**

I need someone who will love him and care for him like he is her own, but never forget that he's not because someone at home is going to want him back. **So God made a billet mom.**

I need someone with arms strong enough to lift tons of groceries, cases of Gatorade, and a goalie bag. I need someone who will give a hug when he wants it, walk away when he doesn't, and have the sense to know the difference.

She needs to understand the importance of ice packs in the freezer, heating pads at the ready, and a grilled cheese sandwich at midnight. **So God made a billet mom.**

God needed someone willing to scramble eggs at four a.m. when the bus is leaving at five, sit in a cold rink even when he is scratched, and have the magical ability to find car keys, phone chargers, and athletic cups. She would have to tow the line between nurturing and coddling and know when to say "That wasn't fair," or "Suck it up, buttercup." **So God made a billet mom.**

She needed the ability to convince the crying woman on the other end of the phone that he only has a stomach virus, and he really will be all right. She must never be jealous of that woman, but be thankful for her willingness to share the child she gave birth to. **So God made a billet mom.**

God knew she would have to have a built in lie detector, a nose for a fever, and a heart that would grow with every boy and every season. She must know how to chase away homesickness, self doubt, and puck bunnies. **So God made a billet mom.**

She had to be someone who could make an Alfredo sauce that won't break, remove blood from fabric, and stretch a meal to include the two extra teammates who appear on taco night. She needed to be someone who can accept that the hockey smell is permanent, video games are a fact of life, and that he is going out the door when the season ends. **So God made a billet mom.**

And when it is all said and done, she has to be strong enough to make sure the last memory of her face includes a smile and be human enough to give in to the grief only when she is very, very sure he won't look back.

**So God made a billet mom.**

***If you are interested in becoming a billet family for the 2023-24 season or would like to learn more about it, please contact: Krista Smith at 406.899.3030 or email [krista@rk3team.com](mailto:krista@rk3team.com) or ask any billet family that you see on the ice tonight!***

# Billet life... what's it all about?

## What Is Billeting in Hockey?

Junior hockey players typically have to leave home to play for their hockey teams. Players are typically 16-21 years of age, which means they'll need a place to stay during the hockey season (and typically are unable to rent their own place).

Billet families will take players into their homes to become part of their family during the hockey season. They are host families who provide a home and support to young men as they pursue their hockey career.

## Do Billet Families Get Paid?

Yes, billet families get paid.

They typically receive a stipend of \$300 per month. The fee is paid directly to the billet family. This payment isn't necessarily seen as a way to earn a substantial income, but as a way to help with additional household expenses from the player—like food.

## How Do You Become a Hockey Billet Family?

Becoming a billet family is as simple as reaching out to the team and applying to become a billet. Potential billet families will have to fill out an application and have a background check before being accepted. The home will be checked out by the billet coordinator, to make sure it meets the needs of the player.

Billet families are also required to complete their certification with the national SafeSport program.

## Can a Billet Family Host More Than One Player?

Yes, billet families can host more than one player.

While most billet families will take in one hockey player, teams typically allow up to two players per family. This helps players share transportation and food expenses. Plus, it's a great way for players to provide company for one another. The main requirement is that each player has enough space in their living arrangements at the billet's home. Each player should have their own bed, dresser or closet, and easy access to a restroom.

## How Long Do Players Stay With Billet Families?

Players usually arrive with their billet families in mid- to late August. This date is dependent on the hockey preseason practice schedule.

Host families need to commit to the entire season, from August to the end of the hockey season. Depending on how far the team makes it into the playoff season, most players will leave within a few days of the end of the season, which is generally late March.

The players will go home for a brief break over Christmas, but do not go home for Thanksgiving.

## What Does a Billet Family Provide?

Billet families are required to provide a few different things for their hockey player:

### *Room*

A billet family is required to provide a private bedroom for their player. In the event that a family hosts 2 players, if there is an appropriate space, players may share a room.

Players shouldn't be placed in a room with younger members of the billet family.

Typically, you're required to provide a bed, closet or dresser, and easy access to a restroom.

Billet host families should also provide access to the internet for the player.

### *Meals*

Along with a room to stay in, billet families are also required to provide food for the player.

Billets are required to provide access to 3 basic meals per day to the player (this is generally having options available for breakfast and lunch and a cooked meal for dinner). Snacks are usually also expected.

### *Transportation*

Players are typically expected to provide their own transportation within reason. If a player does not have their own transportation, they will generally be placed in a home where the other player can provide transportation.

# Special Thanks to this year's billet families

The Bertelsen Family

The Boyer Family

The Dick Family

The Dye Family

Zac Hatton

Logan Jacobson

The Quick Family

The Rasmussen Family

The Smith Family

The Stanzak Family

The Steichen Family

The Stevens Family

The Weisenberger Family

and Local families Ahmdal/Mills & Duehlmeier

Also Special Thanks to ALL who make this season possible

Billet Coordinator Patrick Holtzmann

Coach Greg Sears and his Family

Assistant Coach Matt Leaf & Goalie Coach Trevor Mellen

Bus Driver Rex Rigor & Chad & Erik and the MVPT Staff

Team Owners Rob & Kandi Rasmussen

The Ice-Plex Staff & the Off Ice Officials

Great Falls Americans Booster Club

Hockey TV Play-by-play Justin Latham, P.R. Kevin Scott & DJ Kevin Smith

