

You can make an immediate difference in the world! Please choose to be part of a great children's cause.

Allow me to take this moment to introduce myself and a great cause! My name is Matthew Baker. As a second grader, my father introduced me to the game of Lacrosse at a young age. I have spent almost every moment since then with a stick in my hand. Whether I'm holding a lacrosse stick in my hand, or pacing the sideline as a coach, the game has meant more to me than I ever anticipated. While I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to participate in this beautiful sport, many are not as lucky as me. It is my hope that by the end of the year, I can donate gently used sticks to this cause.

"Lacrosse the Nations" is an international humanitarian organization (501c3 nonprofit organization) that is committed to using the game of lacrosse to alleviate pressures of extreme poverty. Lacrosse the Nations is made up of various professional lacrosse players, coaches, referees, and other volunteers. One of the easiest ways that we can help out, is by donating gently used lacrosse sticks to the cause. By providing education, mentorship, hope, and opportunity to children living in impoverished communities worldwide, these children have an escape from the hardships that accompany their everyday lives.

I personally have seen the poverty stricken fields of Jamaica, the economic shortcomings of Costa Rica and post genocide-war torn Kosovo. Many children lost their parents, and now have been forced to grow up in a world without their parent's guidance. During my internship in Kosovo, I began to wonder what life would be like for all these children if they were given the opportunity that I received at a young age. It is my goal to provide these children with the same escape that so many of us in the area are blessed with having.

I know that my families' garage has accumulated numerous 'gently used' sticks that sit without being used. One of Lacrosse the Nations projects is their "Re-Lax" program. The "Re-Lax" program accepts gently used sticks from communities in our area and gives them to children from impoverished areas to learn the game. The lessons that are learned in the game of lacrosse will hopefully translate into their lives. Lacrosse can teach simple life skills such as communication and teamwork.

Lacrosse the Nations also accepts donations via PayPal. While online donations are a great way to donate, another option could be to purchase new sticks to donate. The various lacrosse companies make some great beginner sticks that are reasonably priced. Whether it be 10 sticks or 100, we should be giving back by allowing these kids to have the same opportunities. I have attached a variety of links to the bottom of the email so that you can explore the cause more in depth. As I receive feedback from everyone, I will begin to set up donation locations and arrange for pick ups of equipment. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

<http://lacrossethenations.org/>

<http://lacrossethenations.org/mission/>

<http://lacrossethenations.org/relax.pdf>

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