

# The Great Pass Program!



## **What is this program all about?**

Imagine paying \$100 for a pair of baseball cleats for your child. They outgrow them within a few months. You then have to throw them away and buy your child a new pair, even though the pair of cleats you have might still be in perfectly good condition. Instead of throwing these cleats away, you could **pass** them on to our program!

The Great Pass Program **takes used sports equipment and passes them on to children who can't afford to buy new equipment** every time they outgrow their old ones. It also helps families who can't afford to purchase the equipment they need for their child to play a sport.

We decided to start this program because we want every child in Haverhill to have the opportunity to participate in playing sports.

## **How can I pass in or receive equipment?**

You can **pass** in your personal, used equipment or take our equipment at the Haverhill Citizen Center during normal business hours. There will also be at least two sports drives held each year (one in the fall, and one in the spring), where you can **pass** your equipment onto us. All equipment that is **passed** in should be in good condition. If you believe you have items that could be used in our program, please contact the Recreation Director, Ben Delaware at (978) 374-2388 x3938 or [bdelaware@cityofhaverhill.com](mailto:bdelaware@cityofhaverhill.com) to schedule a time to drop them off.

## **Where is this equipment stored?**

All of the equipment that we collect can be found at the Haverhill Citizen Center which is located at 10 Welcome Street, Haverhill, MA, 01830.

**Please note the sports equipment that we CANNOT accept:** Swimsuits, leotards, swim goggles, any type of clothing, mouth guards, skis, snowboards or expired football helmets.

## **What Are The Benefits of a Child Involved in Sports?**

There are tons of physical and mental benefits for a child playing sports, yet there aren't a lot of children playing sports. With as many benefits sports have, why do some never play?

### **Benefits of Sports:**

- It relieves stress
- It teaches kids teamwork
- It challenges them and teaches them how to deal with adversity
- It teaches them commitment
- It teaches them discipline and respect
- It can help boost their self-esteem
- It increases bone density and can help prevent arthritis
- it is a proven fact that exercise boost the size of the hippocampus, the area of your brain involved in verbal memory and learning

Only 56.6% of American kids are participating in sports. Why isn't the other 43.4%? Most of the 43.4% aren't participating in sports because of money! Sports have become so expensive that it's preventing tons of kids from playing sports. Only 27.5% of kids from homes with incomes of \$25,000 a year or less are playing sports. 45.5% of kids from homes with \$100,000 a year or greater play sports. Not only do parents have to pay for the expensive registration fees they have to pay for the equipment too. In Haverhill the average registration fee for youth sports is \$125. Then on top of that, parents have to pay for the equipment that their kids are just going to outgrow in a few months!

***These are the reasons we started our program. Our hope is for all the children of Haverhill to utilize and benefit from our program.***

Program started by: Grace Grauwiler, Rowan Kelly & Brianna Piraino 9/30/2019

