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**MINNESOTA SUPER BOWL HOST COMMITTEE AWARDS LEGACY GRANT TO TWIN CITIES NATIVE LACROSSE**  
*The grant will help the program provide Native American youth with transportation, equipment, field time and league fees.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee (MNSBHC) Legacy Fund today awarded Twin Cities Native Lacrosse (TCNL) a \$50,000 grant to help fund the organization’s efforts to provide Native American youth in the Twin Cities with free field time, league registration, lacrosse equipment, and transportation. The grant is part of the 52 Weeks of Giving campaign, a year-long effort to make Super Bowl LII a statewide event by awarding 52 communities with grants that will help improve the health and wellness of young people in Minnesota.

TCNL is a small, non-profit organization founded in 2014 to promote exercise and healthy life ways by engaging Native American youth and families in both traditional Dakota/Ojibwe style-lacrosse and modern-style lacrosse. TCNL instills cultural values and knowledge around the game of lacrosse as well as provides free access to lacrosse equipment, transportation to practices and games, and participation in competitive league play. Highlights for this summer include travel to compete in the 2017 North American Indigenous Games in Toronto, Canada, an Olympics-style competition for Native American/ First Nations youth from the U.S. and Canada.

To commemorate the MNSBHC Legacy Fund grant dedication, Twin Cities Native Lacrosse hosted an event at Corcoran Park today with the members of the first all-female all-Native lacrosse team, where community leaders, families, and youth participated in a traditional lacrosse game.

“We see many instances in our young athletes where the price of participation in sports like lacrosse prevents kids from playing,” said John Hunter, Director and Coach, Twin Cities Native Lacrosse. “Our organization was founded to remove that burden from these young people to help them stay active and learn lifelong lessons about the roots of this sport and Native American culture. This grant will help us continue our efforts to provide children with better access to the sport in our community.”

Twin Cities Native Lacrosse - core coaching approach focuses on Native American value around kinship responsibilities and honoring the game. Participating families are not required to have Native American ancestry to join a team, only a desire to learn lacrosse and values rooted in traditional teachings. The organization accepts any young person who wants to play, prioritizing athletes from underserved families and neighborhoods; it emphasizes the importance of equity in sport by encouraging girls as well as boys of all ages to play lacrosse.

“Twin Cities Native Lacrosse is doing an excellent job working with native youth to increase physical activity and to continue the tradition of this sport that means so much to the history and culture of Minnesota,” said Dana Nelson, Vice President of Legacy and Community Partnerships for the MNSBHC Legacy Fund.

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee is a private, non-profit corporation formed to plan and execute Super Bowl LII. For more information visit [www.mnsuperbowl.com](http://www.mnsuperbowl.com) and follow @mnsuperbowl2018 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), Instagram and Snapchat.

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### **About the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund**

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund is a 501(c)3, community advised fund of the Minnesota Community Foundation. Working in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health’s Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and based on the recommendations of SHIP’s community health boards, the Legacy Fund is providing 52 grants to 52 community projects across our state over the 52 weeks leading up to Super Bowl LII. The work of the Legacy Fund is made possible by Minnesota’s philanthropic community, including foundations, corporations, and individual donors who share our passion for improving the health and wellness of kids from every corner of our state. Its goal is to build awareness of, and invest in solutions for, a healthier generation of Minnesota kids across the state. Through its grant making and awareness initiatives, the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee's Legacy Fund will leverage this single event into a lifetime of good health for the next generation of Minnesotans. For more information on the MNSBHC’s Legacy Fund, including an introductory video, please visit [www.mnsuperbowl.com/legacy](http://www.mnsuperbowl.com/legacy).

### **About Twin Cities Native Lacrosse**

Twin Cities Native Lacrosse is a Native Lacrosse Club in the Twin Cities. They work to advance the culture, knowledge and skills of lacrosse of their people. They engage their elders, leaders, families, and youth for community events, and utilize the cultural teachings, storytelling, and first languages of their tribal communities to engage multiple generations in lacrosse.

They offer youth programming year around. They sponsor a yearly wooden stick tournament, travel to other nations to play traditional-style lacrosse, and offer community play days for all. They believe lacrosse is a way of life and children are the center of this way of life, or sacred circle. Their community play days are open to all families to come and play as a family; brothers, sisters, parents, and at every skill level. For more information about Twin Cities Native Lacrosse, please visit <http://twincitiesnativelacrosse.org/>.