

PRESS RELEASE, Wooster, Ohio  
Community effort to save the Alice Noble Ice Arena

An early December deadline to raise pledges of \$150,000 a year for the next three years in order to keep the Alice Noble Ice Arena open is fast approaching. However, in just over two weeks' time since we started to raise funds, we have been blessed to receive significant individual and corporate pledges, not only from the local community in Wooster and Wayne County, but also from places as far away as the Dakotas, the Ozark Mountains in Missouri, and even from Canada. Lovers of the ice rink have spoken, and members of the larger community around us have added their voices of support. We have developed sponsorship relationships with local businesses to benefit ANIA, and we continue to pursue leads on many others. If the challenge is to rally as a larger community in a short time, we are collectively rising to meet that challenge on an hourly basis, and we can't thank enough those who have supported us already.

In 2002, as a gift from Donald Noble to his wife, Alice, in celebration of their love for ice skating and in remembrance of their first date on January 24, 1934, when Don took Alice ice skating, the Alice Noble Ice Arena was dedicated to the Wooster, Ohio, community. As a facility, ANIA has a tremendous community impact locally and regionally, benefiting thousands of children and adults. Our goal is to not only preserve the ice and the community impact the rink already makes, but to diversify and expand programming at Alice Noble Ice Arena through a long-term business plan. The community impact of ANIA will grow as we add a new chapter to the history of the rink.

Alice Noble Ice Arena serves as a convenient and often-used facility by youth and high school hockey teams from Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and elsewhere seeking a central meeting place for hockey games and tournaments. It also serves as the current home of the Buckeye Adult Figure Skating Competition, attracting skaters from across the country, and the host rink for the Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio's sled hockey tournaments, with athletes participating from all over Ohio. These events bring over 13,000 visitors to Wooster every year, benefiting the business community as a whole, including hotels, restaurants, gas stations, retail outlets.

Alice Noble Ice Arena's diverse and essential local programming includes the Summer Enrichment Program and the WooSkate Club After School Program, which collectively have served over 3,000 children in recent years. Hundreds more participate in Learn-to-Skate and Learn-to-Play Hockey programs every year. The Wooster Figure Skating Club offers coaching at all levels. Two levels of adult hockey leagues use the rink and the number of adult beginners joining both hockey and figure skating is growing every year. Local school groups and church groups frequently use the Arena for outings and events. In a calendar year, attendance for public skates at ANIA is around 10,000 and themed public skating events are especially popular.

All of these activities bring members of our community together in a safe and happy environment. The lifelong benefits of our programming and access to ANIA include physical and emotional well-being. Through ANIA, members of the larger Wooster and Wayne County communities, particularly our children, learn discipline, respect, teamwork, character, and leadership skills. The Alice Noble Ice Arena is open to all individuals and organizations, locally and regionally, and offers great opportunities for team-building and community engagement. The pledges and sponsorships we have received so far, and the larger awareness that's been created on social media and in other places, have done great work to not only uplift our spirits and energize us, but to also make our goal of raising funds to save ANIA a realistic one, no matter the continued urgency.

So many folks have approached us—at our places of work, on social media—about how to get involved, how to make a difference, how to join in supporting the continued and renewed impact ANIA will make in the future. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.savewoostericerink.com/>. Individual pledge forms and corporate sponsorship information can be found there in electronic and printable formats, along with more details about our story, and what folks are saying about us.